



Zach Patterson

SUGARBEET GROWER, THIRD GENERATION
AMALGAMATED SUGAR COMPANY

Paul, Idaho



Zach is a third-generation sugarbeet grower who grew up on the farm and always knew he wanted to be a farmer.

What does it feel like seeing real sugar on the shelf at the grocery store, knowing that it may have come from your farm?

"It's a great feeling. The best part about it is that it's an American-grown product, and I know that it represents not only my hard work, but the hard work of my community. When I buy locally, I am supporting our local businesses and our local community. When I see my sugar on the shelf, it makes me feel like I'm contributing and makes me proud that our communities are being supported by that sugar."

What is something many people may not realize about farming?

"I think people don't realize just how hard it is, how much stress it is to get a crop out of the ground. We just lost all of our sugarbeets to frost. I know people who have a garden, and they think, 'Oh no, my tomatoes froze!' On the farm, we just lost 500 acres in one night, so we have to go do the same job twice. But then I also wish people knew how rewarding it is, how much fun it is to go out every day and meet a new challenge."



Interesting Fact

When Zach is not farming, he enjoys golfing, playing pickleball, and performing music at a local restaurant. Zach is also President of the Snake River Sugarbeet Growers Association, which represents farmers in Idaho, Oregon, and Washington.

