



In 1960, a group of family farmers were joining together to begin constructing a sugar mill in Belle Glade, Florida. Sugar Cane Growers Cooperative of Florida was chartered and its farmers began planting sugarcane, many for the first time. The Cooperative's first harvest of 22,000 acres resulted in 77,600 tons of raw sugar. Today, the Cooperative is comprised of 46 small-to-medium size sugarcane farmers in South Florida. The grower-owners are the backbone of the Cooperative, providing the cane supply that is the lifeblood of the organization. During the last harvest season, the Cooperative processed 3 million tons of sugarcane grown on 68,000 acres, yielding 374,000 tons of raw sugar and 18 million gallons of blackstrap molasses. The fiber from the sugarcane stalk, called bagasse, is used as the primary source of fuel saving 31 million gallons of fuel oil annually or enough to power 79,000 homes.