



SPOTLIGHT

Growing Beginning Farmers & Ranchers in Wyoming



2022 Tim Bauer

Tim Bauer's summer in Wyoming's rugged ranching country was nothing short of transformative. "I joined the GrowinG Internship Program to gain practical skills as a future ranch owner," he explained. Sponsored by the USDA Beginning Farmers and Ranchers program, the internship provided a deep dive into the realities of modern ranching.

Tim's days were filled with hands-on learning: driving cattle, repairing equipment, and mastering horsemanship. "I learned to handle cattle on horseback, transport them safely, and operate farm equipment like tractors and balers," he shared.

Mentors introduced him to innovative tools like drones for herding, which he described as "a game-changer" for blending tradition and technology.

Challenges abounded, from harsh weather to physical demands, but each obstacle brought growth. "You have to 'embrace the suck,' as they say in the military," Tim quipped, crediting the experience with honing his patience and precision. Under the guidance of seasoned ranch hands, he discovered the importance of teamwork and attention to detail.

Reflecting on the internship, Tim expressed gratitude for the connections he made and the knowledge he gained. "This experience helped me understand agricultural dynamics and build valuable networks," he said. As he looks ahead to starting his own ranch, he's taking with him a renewed respect for ranch hands and their craft.

"This internship gave me more than skills—it gave me resilience and perspective," Tim concluded. He thanked the program sponsors, noting, "It was truly transformative."



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