



SPOTLIGHT

Growing Beginning Farmers & Ranchers in Wyoming



2024 Maggie McStay

Maggie McStay entered the GrowinG Internship Program eager to return to Wyoming and embrace ranch life. “This was an opportunity I couldn’t turn down,” she shared. Over ten weeks, she gained hands-on experience in land management, livestock care, and sustainable practices while building meaningful relationships.

One of Maggie’s most valuable lessons was equipment operation and maintenance. From changing auger oil to leveling ground for water tanks, she learned skills that initially seemed daunting but became second nature. “I never thought I’d enjoy this, but after this internship, I love being in a tractor,” she said. These experiences boosted her confidence in mechanical work and problem-solving.

Sustainable grazing practices were another highlight. Maggie saw the benefits of rotational grazing and electric fencing to prevent overgrazing and support pasture health. “It’s simple, affordable, and adaptable—these fences reduce maintenance and keep the land healthy,” she explained.

Livestock work also challenged Maggie, testing her adaptability and patience. “Rounding up sheep out of a 4,000-acre pasture was daunting, but it taught me resilience,” she reflected. Tasks like docking lambs and managing water tanks exposed her to the unpredictable yet rewarding nature of ranch life.

Networking added depth to her journey. Attending events like the Sheep and Wool Festival connected her with ranchers and mentors. “This was a great way to learn and connect with people who share my passion,” she noted.

Reflecting on her internship, Maggie said, “This has been the best ten weeks of my life. It gave me the confidence to pursue a future in agriculture.”

*Maggie
McStay*

