



## 2022 Elijah Richardson

**E**lijah Richardson joined the GrowinG Internship Program to expand his agricultural knowledge and tackle new challenges. “This was my first internship, and I wasn’t sure what to expect, but I can say I *learned* and did so many things I was not expecting,” he shared. His summer in Wyoming introduced him to sheep ranching, a completely new experience, and provided him with skills that will shape his future in agriculture.

A key takeaway for Elijah was the importance of rangeland and flock management. He learned to rotate grazing areas to prevent overgrazing and reduce parasitism, explaining, “If sheep are left in one area too long, parasites can spread through contaminated grazing areas.” These practices highlighted the balance between livestock health and environmental sustainability.

Lambing offered Elijah hands-on experience in assisting ewes, treating mastitis, and caring for bum lambs. “Knowing and watching your animals is a priority,” he said, emphasizing the value of adaptability and quick problem-solving.

Elijah also developed practical skills in welding, irrigation, and sheepdog handling. Working with George, a skilled sheepdog, was a highlight of his internship. “Without George, I’d be chasing sheep all day!” he said, gaining an appreciation for teamwork in ranching operations.

As the internship concluded, Elijah expressed gratitude to the GrowinG Internship team and his hosts. “With everything I’ve learned, I feel confident in running a successful operation,” he remarked. Inspired by his experience, he plans to incorporate sheep into his family farm and left the host ranch with a small flock to begin his own operation.”



*Elijah Richardson*