

GROWING-WY INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

From Doing the Work to Understanding the Why

By August, many 2026 GrowinG interns had reached a turning point. The work was becoming familiar enough that they could concentrate less on simply completing a job and more on why it was being done that way.

That change showed up in ordinary ranch work. Late-summer weeks included checking livestock, repairing irrigation systems, spraying weeds, fixing fence, putting up hay and keeping water where it was needed. When an irrigation line failed, for example, the lesson was not simply how to put it back together. It meant recognizing the problem, shutting down the water and working through a repair.

Earlier in the season, a job like that might have required step-by-step direction. By August, interns were increasingly able to recognize what needed attention and begin solving problems themselves.

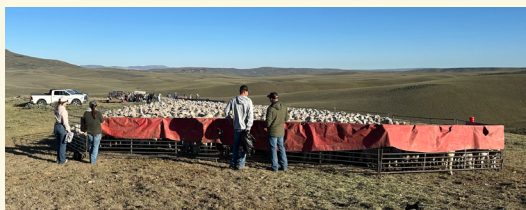
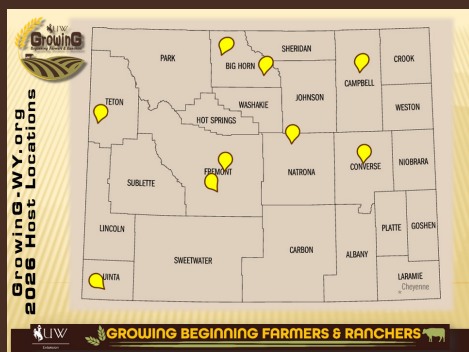
Learning to See More

Livestock work produced the same progression. Interns spent long hours riding through herds, checking animals and helping treat those that needed attention. With repetition came a better eye for the small signs: an animal separating from the herd, carrying its head differently or simply not acting right.

Veterinary work added another layer. During pregnancy checks, one intern learned to recognize what appeared on an

"We enjoy hosting interns and giving them an experience that covers all the necessary chores to run a ranch. We ask their interests and what they want to get out of the experience. Then we make sure we focus more on what they want learn so they get [that] out of their internship"

2026 GrowinG Host



ultrasound and began connecting reproductive information with decisions about herd management. Those are practical skills, but they also illustrate something harder to teach: judgment. Experienced producers notice details that a newcomer may not see. Time, repetition and good mentoring begin to close that gap.

The Land Provided Another Classroom

One intern helped identify grasses and weeds before working on a cattle rotation. Another helped construct a simple one-wire electric fence and saw why a movable boundary can be an effective tool when cattle already understand it. At a University of Wyoming workshop, an intern learned to identify invasive grasses including Ventenata and Medusahead and why early detection matters. These experiences connected forage, water, fencing and livestock movement, not as separate chores, but as parts of a management system.

The People Behind the Learning

That is where GrowinG hosts make the difference. They do more than show an intern how to accomplish a task. They explain why they make a particular choice, when conditions call for something different and what years of experience have taught them to notice. We are grateful

“It also allowed me to broaden my horizons about how different operations run things and how everyone does things a little differently. Realizing this will give me an open mind as I go and work for more people throughout my career in agriculture.”

2026 GrowinG Intern

to the 2026 host farms and ranches for opening their operations, sharing that experience and making room for interns to learn through real agricultural work. By season’s end, the weekly summaries increasingly sounded less like lists of completed jobs and more like reflections on decisions, tradeoffs and management.

As the summer newsletter

observed, some of the most important work may never make the “highlight list.” By the final weeks, the interns were beginning to recognize the importance of that work for themselves.

“This summer I learned so much about so many different things. Also I didn’t fully realize how much goes into everything and how quickly plans may change based on whatever is happening. This summer built my confidence a ton and showed me that I am capable of doing more than I thought I could.”

2026 GrowinG Intern



GIVING DAY | OCTOBER 21–22

The GrowinG Internship brings beginning producers together with Wyoming farm and ranch hosts for hands-on agricultural learning. Hosts provide the experience, mentoring, and room & board, while GrowinG provides paid internship opportunities.

During UW Giving Day, October 21–22, gifts of every size can help make another internship possible. A gift of \$5,000 supports one GrowinG intern for a 10-week, hands-on immersive learning experience on a Wyoming farm or ranch. Giving Day also offers opportunities for gifts to be increased through matches and challenges. Updated information will be posted as Giving Day approaches.

Give or learn more at: GrowinG-WY.org/GivingDay

