



2026 MacKenzie Jones

MacKenzie Jones entered the GrowinG Internship Program wanting practical experience with large animals and a clearer view of veterinary work. “What drew me to apply is that I have gotten more into large animal work since coming to college and I wanted to learn more,” she wrote.

Her summer quickly moved from learning basic ranch routines to taking on livestock-health responsibilities. Jones helped doctor calves and bulls, vaccinate and brand calves, care for bottle calves, and move cattle horseback. Those experiences gave her a better understanding of how animal health, handling and day-to-day management fit together.

The ranch also taught her to adapt. Plans changed with livestock needs, water, weather and pasture work, requiring observation and judgment rather than simply following a routine. “This summer built my confidence a ton and showed me that I am capable of doing more than I thought I could,” she reflected.

That confidence was reinforced by hosts willing to teach. Jones had worried that she might be expected to already know what to do, but instead found people “more than willing to teach me with no hesitation at all.”

The experience strengthened her veterinary ambitions. “Learning so much about cattle will help me be a better veterinarian because I will know more about how they work in real life,” she said. With hands-on skills, new veterinary connections and greater confidence, Jones left the summer better prepared for a future working with large animals.



*MacKenzie
Jones*