



2026 Celise Pacheco

Celise Pacheco entered the GrowinG Internship Program looking for something she had struggled to find elsewhere: a chance to learn livestock production while still being allowed to learn. “I was looking for an opportunity to get hands-on experience with livestock,” she said.

The summer soon broadened her view of ranching. “My biggest takeaway was that ranching involves more than simply taking care of cattle,” Pacheco reflected. She gained experience with grazing management, equipment, water systems, pasture health, invasive species, wildfire preparation and livestock care.

Animal health reinforced the importance of observation and adaptability. Sick calves, injuries and other unexpected problems showed her how quickly conditions can change. “Every day on the ranch was different,” she said. Gradually taking on more responsibility also strengthened her confidence working independently.

Pacheco discovered that ranching depends on people as much as practical skills. Neighbors and producers helped with branding, cattle movement and problem-solving, while the Wyoming Stock Growers Association Convention expanded her network and exposed her to different management philosophies.

Those experiences also taught her to examine why practices are used. “I want to respect tradition while also being willing to evaluate new ideas,” she said.

Pacheco hopes to pursue a livestock career and eventually own or manage a cattle operation. She left GrowinG with practical skills, stronger connections and, in her words, a clearer understanding of “the type of producer I hope to become.”



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