



2026 Kaylee Pearce

Kaylee Pearce entered the GrowinG Internship Program without an agricultural background and with a simple goal: find a place to start. “I wanted to do something where I could get experience working on a ranch, but I didn’t know where to start,” she said.

At her host ranch, irrigation became one of her biggest lessons. River flow, ditch levels, field needs, valves and neighboring users all affected one another. “The largest concept I grasped from this experience was the ability to figure out and work a system,” Pearce reflected. That systems thinking taught her to consider the consequences of each management decision.

She also gained experience with hay, feeding, machinery and low-stress cattle handling. Learning to identify hay and consider its quality and nutritional value connected directly with her career interests. “I hope to go into production livestock nutrition,” she said.

The summer also built independence. “Over the course of this internship I have learned self-sufficiency but also confidence in myself and my abilities,” Pearce wrote. That confidence showed up even off the ranch when a cracked wheel stranded her near Thermopolis; she changed the tire and continued to Cody for a replacement.

Seeing the work and coordination behind a large ranch also helped Pearce decide that a smaller operation may better fit her future. She left with practical skills, clearer professional goals and strong appreciation for her hosts: “I have learned so much and I absolutely love my host and the people I met there.”



*Kaylee
Pearce*