



2025 Leigh Stockton

Leigh Stockton returned to GrowinG with purpose. “Having done it before, I knew the deal... and felt that I could be more capable and helpful to my host,” he said, ready to turn familiarity into mastery.

Weekly reflections trace long days that built judgment as much as stamina. Lesson one was community. “The big one this year was the importance of community... how incredible the agricultural world can be about rallying around those in need and propping each other up.” That recognition turned work into belonging. Lesson two was environment. “The living conditions on my hosts’ ranch—this place is nuts!” he wrote, a nod to the pace and expectations that sharpened his focus.

Lesson three was technical depth. “Roping, riding, doctoring, the whole nine yards were learned out here—those are foundational skills for the profession I want to pursue.” Lesson four tied practice to management. “Uniformity in cattle... standouts are easily spotted and problems are more easily diagnosed.” That lens elevates everyday observation into better decisions.

Mentorship rounded it out—received and to be paid forward. “I really want to make a point of taking younger folks under my wing,” he wrote. Networks followed: “The folks at [the ranch] alone were phenomenal connections.” And the sponsors’ scaffolding worked: “The GrowinG team did their jobs phenomenally.”

His conclusion reads like gratitude and direction: “Both the internship and my host... will be the most impactful decision I ever make... I’m much better equipped to go out and get a job next year.”



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