

Intern statement

Hi ! My name is Emma Jensen and I've been the 2024 Rocking Heart Ranch Intern. I arrived at the ranch at the end of April just after my first year of college and that's when the fun began. From the beginning it's been a busy schedule and labour intensive job but what I've learned has been more than worth it. Upon arriving I was tossed into the life here on the ranch with meeting the herd including geldings, fillies, brood mares, and studs. I've always been around horses but never this many in one place. Some may say why not take it slow getting into a new job but here I found it easier to just be immersed in the change. As my first week went on I met my boys, the geldings that I would have the pleasure of working with all summer as well as the one mare I got to work with for a while. Now this was quite a lot for me as I got to learn all the buttons on each new horse and even what gear they all wore and how to get it to fit them all. It was crazy but amazing all at the same time, but even I didn't know what to expect moving forward. Over the course of the next few weeks I got to see the first babies delivered, even help pull if the moms needed our assistance. We had the first farrier day with 80 head of horses ranging from 1 to 14 in ages, and I continued to work with my boys in keeping them fit and introducing them to new things we'll still learning their tricks. The first month seems crazy but I assure you it was not as we moved later into the summer man did things get exciting. As foal checks came to an end and all the babies had arrived then came ride and relax and moving horses to pasture. Here on the farm they do pasture breeding so I got to sit down with Melody and Doug and go through the process of deciding which stud to breed each mare to. After the decisions were made we got to move every mare to their new pens and then we got to add the stud to each group creating an exciting atmosphere to say the least. Then they were good to go, all out in the pens getting bred for next year! If this wasn't exciting enough then ride a relax began. Now at first I didn't know what to expect but now that my time at the ranch is coming to an end I can confidently say that ride a relax brings great people to the ranch. These people come from all around Alberta and even from outside the province. Getting to help these groups find trails and hear their stories about each of their horses was such an amazing opportunity for me. I even got to ride the ranch horses on these rides giving me opportunity to introduce the boys to trails well enjoying others company. However working on the ranch it's not all big jobs you've also got the little jobs that help it run. This could range from getting ready for clinics or filling hay bags but every little job is important and helpful. Although I've talked all about the work I did and how much of it I did, I've really got to talk about the people that run this ranch. Now from day one Melody and Doug took me in as family which when moving across the province made me feel very safe. They have included me in dinners and kayaking along with little treats and trips here and there to add to the fun. They have made sure that I'm alright and happy in my temporary home and have been nothing but top tier bosses. Having a business this large is hard and they have found a way to make it look effortless. I couldn't have asked for a better home away from home. The lessons they have taught me from breeding, to working with new horses and new people are lessons that you can't normally learn all in one place. Although they still have to be my bosses they have also turned into great friends and being able to have that relationship makes this job so different from anything else out there. It's been a great immersion into the quarter horse world and I wouldn't have wanted it to be anywhere else.