

A-Day of Giving Student Spotlight: Gavin Turner – Supporting Utah Agriculture Through Research

Bronson Teichert

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Animal, Dairy and Veterinary Sciences

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By Bronson Teichert | October 15, 2025

For Gavin Turner, studying [Veterinary Science](#) at Utah State University is a natural extension of his upbringing in Morgan, Utah, where he grew up raising beef cattle and growing crops like potatoes and hay. His background sparked a lifelong interest in animal health and agriculture—an interest that now drives his goal of becoming a large-animal veterinarian serving rural Utah communities.

“I’ve always had an interest in agriculture and animals,” Gavin said. “I want to work with large animals like cows and horses so I can stay involved in agriculture and help those around me with their animals. My goal is to stay here in Utah and serve rural areas that don’t always have access to veterinarians.”

At Utah State, Gavin worked as an undergraduate researcher with animal science professor Kara Thornton-Kurth studying how anabolic implants affect the rumen microbiome in cattle. The project involves collecting rumen fluid and analyzing microbes and metabolites to understand how implants change nutrient absorption and feed efficiency.

“This research helps farmers and ranchers understand how to improve cattle health and performance—getting animals to a healthy harvest weight more efficiently,” Gavin said. “Scholarships make it possible for me to be part of research that supports Utah’s agriculture and the producers who feed us all.”

Hands-on research has deepened Gavin’s understanding of animal science and strengthened his veterinary school application. “There aren’t many places where you get this kind of hands-on experience,” he said. “Being able to work with cattle and learn directly from research has been an awesome opportunity. It’s fun, it’s practical, and it really helps you grow.”

Outside the lab, Gavin is an active member of the QANR Student Council, where he helps plan activities and events that build community within the college. He also enjoys student life across campus—attending football, basketball, and volleyball games, playing intramural sports, and spending time outdoors in the mountains surrounding Logan.

“I love student life at Utah State,” Gavin said. “There’s always something to do, and the people and landscape make it such a great place to be.”

Gavin’s commitment to agriculture, research, and community embodies the mission of the Quinney College of Agriculture and Natural Resources—to support the people, land, and industries that sustain Utah.

During A-Day of Giving, your gift helps undergraduate researchers like Gavin gain hands-on experience that strengthens Utah agriculture and supports the next generation of animal science professionals.

CONTACTS

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