

A City Girl's Experience learning the basics of lambing from a master!

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Keeping watch during lambing season was unlike any experience I have ever had. Being a city girl from Seattle in the United States, I never pictured myself in wellies and waterproofs, monitoring pregnant ewes for signs of birth, but there I was...

Entrusted by the farmers who had spent the previous week teaching me basic husbandry, management, and process of bringing lambs into the world, I was left nervous, eager, and sometimes alone. I spotted a water bag! Granddad had come up from the house to help direct, but he had full confidence in my ability. He was impressed watching this measly American city girl wrangle the ewe into a head gate.

He encouraged me to check the lamb's presentation. I felt the head and a limb, but a front limb was back. He was right there seated in a chair, calmly handing me string to wrap around the presented leg, and explaining the technique to grab the other limb. Trying my best to understand his words through his thick West of Ireland accent and my loud beating heart, I was able to successfully get it corrected.



This moment of support, trust and confidence in an event so new to me, was exactly what a young veterinary student needs. It's not just the experience of carrying out normal tasks, but the experience of trying new things, approaching them with confidence, and believing in your ability to get the job done.

Allowing veterinary students onto your farms not only teaches us the basics, but gives us these opportunities to find something in ourselves.

