

## Case study

# One-to-one mentoring for a new entrant to farming

Support provided by FAS: Funding for a new entrant to receive mentoring support



### Name & business: **Carol Glennie, Whitemyre Farm**

Carol always knew that she was happiest when working with animals on a farm. After spending many years in various industries, she began helping on her Grandad's farm and eventually, she took over Whitemyre Farm. However, although Carol had learnt all the theory, she needed practical help when it came to lambing and sought the help of her neighbour, to be her mentor through FAS.

Here, Carol explains how the hands-on advice she received through the FAS mentoring program was invaluable in complementing her theoretical knowledge and increasing her confidence.

### **How did you get started in farming?**

My Grandad came from a long family history of farming, as he grew older and sadly more unwell, I increasingly helped out on the farm where I could alongside my own full-time job.

I had never planned to do farming, had instead worked in almost every other industry but inside knew I was always happiest when working with animals on the farm.

When Grandad found out he was terminal, he asked if I'd like to take over the farm after his passing and I knew it was where I belonged. Since Grandad's passing, I have been running Whitemyre Farm.

### **Why did you apply for mentoring support?**

My Grandfather was an amazing farmer, well respected and often at the top of sales reports.

However, he could be rather old-fashioned and didn't much agree with women in agriculture. As such, he would allow me to help on the farm, but wasn't too keen on teaching me the finer details.

Upon his passing, I felt rather overwhelmed by the amount of things I really knew nothing about. I needed someone with patience and experience to educate me.

**"I honestly don't think I'd be where I am now without my mentor's support."**

### **How did you find the process of applying for mentoring?**

The application process was incredibly easy, all online and completed within minutes.



### **How did you find your mentor?**

He was my neighbour! He had already been supporting me when he could, and it was my farm advisor who recommended asking if he'd be willing to officially be part of the mentoring scheme.

**“I knew all the theory, but nothing compares to hands on experience.”**

### **What did your mentor help you with?**

Just about everything, he really was so supportive and helpful, but most particularly – lambing skills.

He taught me what I should be feeling for when undertaking lambing, what signs to look for in a sheep to indicate she needs help lambing or to give her more time. In addition he also provided welfare knowledge, such as how to check the body condition of a ewe and adjust nutrition.

He also taught me practical skills, such as the best way to gather sheep for injections or dosing, along with how to do injections accurately and hygienically.

**“I cannot recommend FAS and its support services enough... it will make all the difference to you and your farm.”**

### **How did you and your mentor structure your mentoring sessions?**

We'd time it for when sheep needed to be brought in for medicines, health checks and during lambing time on either of our farms.

### **Would you recommend mentoring to other farmers?**

Massively. I honestly don't think I'd be where I am now without my mentor's support.

Of course, I knew all the theory, I'd taken online learning courses and read up as much as I could, but nothing compares to hands on experience.

Theory doesn't prepare you for that gimmer that's suddenly lambing triplets at 6am, but having a mentor patiently explain what you need to do in the moment and be able to show you in person – that's invaluable.

**“I feel considerably more confident in my abilities”**

### **What benefits do you anticipate for your business as a result of mentoring?**

I hope that my skills and knowledge have significantly improved and as I approach my second lambing – I feel considerably more confident in my abilities, and more reassured in knowing how to care for my flock.

### **Would you recommend FAS support services to other farmers?**

I cannot recommend FAS and its support services enough. I have learnt so much and all I can really say is a massive thank you to FAS. If you're still considering if you should apply – just do it, it will make all the difference to you and your farm.

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