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LOCAL

Volunteers help bring lambs to life

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Almost 200 lambs were born during February at the Hampshire College Farm Center under the watchful eyes of 60 volunteer workers, according to the program's director.

Roberta Myers, director of the Farm Center, said the center is not a "real" farm in the strictest sense, but rather an educational institution.

"Our product isn't lambs, or money, or crops really, it's education," she said. "If I were running this farm strictly for profit, it would be done very differently. I probably wouldn't be so hospitable to volunteers. . . But since this is an educational institution, we feel we have a duty of education people."

Myers said the center program "is not always open to anyone, unless we have something that needs a lot of people."

The primary times when volunteers are needed, she said, are in February during the height of the Lambwatch program. During Lambwatch, volunteers help monitor pregnant ewes.

Volunteers are also needed when the sheep are being sorted, she said.

Myers said people are motivated to volunteer for the Center "from whatever comes from inside them."

"It's an opportunity that's available and people put into it what they want to, and they get out of it something that's of interest," she said. "And it's fun, if you do something that's really mental, it's really fun to do something that's physical."

People interested in volunteering to work for the Farm Center should write a letter, including a method of contact and an area of interest, to Roberta Myers at the Hampshire College Farm Center. All inquiries will be placed on a list for notification when volunteer positions arise.