

The Babies are Coming

We've had a bunch of new births on our farm this late winter although it feels like spring the last several weeks. It all started with some baby lambs that came along in early January. Two months later my six older ewes have given me nine surviving lambs. Along with all these baby lambs, our eighth granddaughter was born in February. Then a couple days ago as we moved into the month of March my young nanny goat gave birth to a set of twins. It was her first kidding, and the baby female is very tiny about half the size of her male brother. To top it off early this morning our youngest daughter and her husband welcomed their fourth child and our sixth grandson into the world. We had been blessed to have his three older siblings with us for three of the previous five nights. You see there were some false alarms, so we got to have some extra sleepovers. It's what keeps us young, I suppose. The great thing is that all of the moms and little ones are doing wonderfully. Now I'm excited about the upcoming births of my beef cows that should kick in over the next few weeks as well. We were joking that our son-in-law now has three sons to help run their arborist business someday. There won't be a tree left standing east of the Mississippi.

Speaking of these baby lambs, it is so fun to watch them racing around in a pack of nine dancing and prancing all over the pasture. Even some of last year's ewe lambs join in with the newborns running and jumping. We can look right out the windows of the house and watch them anytime we want. They are so entertaining. Sometimes they jump right up in the air about three feet off the ground. They can even jump off of all four legs at once. It is quite a thing to behold. Our grandkids were over yesterday for a birthday party, and they were out mingling with the sheep. When one of the grandkids got a little too close to the baby lambs one of the mommas turned and gave her a little head butt to let her know that she better keep her distance. It kind of startled my granddaughter and she quickly moved away.

It is so amazing the instincts that God has placed inside all moms. God has put inside a mom some wonderful instincts of protection and also of comfort. When our new granddaughter was crying yesterday and I couldn't seem to help, our daughter who wasn't even her mother took the baby in her arms and just started dipping and gently walking around almost like she was doing a silent dance. Instantly, the baby just calmed right down. Dads have some of those instincts too, but I think our greatest instincts come in teaching the little ones when they get a little older how to be tough. A good balance of a mom's tenderness and dad's strength help a child develop with a good sense of who God has created them to be. It's when things get out of balance that confusion sets in. Psalm 104:24 reads, *What a wildly, wonderful world, God! You made it all, with Wisdom at your side, made earth overflow with your wonderful creations.*