Plumpton College at Netherfield
Centre for Sustainable Food & Farming
Course Information

Course Name: Introduction to Vegetable & Fruit Production & Marketing	**Tutor: Sarah Blackford**
Venue: Ivyland Farm Netherfield Nr. Battle East Sussex , TN33 9QB	**1 day course** **Start Time:** 9 am **Finish time:** 5pm

Designed for: Any one who is interested in growing and marketing their own vegetables and fruit. Includes a visit to a commercial organic nursery.

Aims of the course: To introduce participants to the main points that need to be considered when growing fruit and vegetables for local sales.

Typical number of delegates: 6 -10	**Course runs approximately once a year**

Course Timetable

Marketing - Covering farm gate sales, wholesale markets and auctions, box schemes, farmers markets, mail order and further processing to make 'value added products'.

Legal requirements - Covering Public Liability insurance, weights and measures, labelling, Trading Standards and EHO requirements and legal requirements to market produce as organic.

Cropping - Looking for that 'niche' market crop that is compatible with your resources.
Investment in space and equipment – protected cropping, raised beds - the right site and position.

The secret of successful cropping
Rotations – hand out
Successful composting – hand out
Propagation – hand out
Pest, disease and weed control – hand out
Soil borne diseases that can affect human health – hand out

Making a profit - Working example of how to produce a gross margin for your cropping plan.
Example of a cropping plan that will utilise your glasshouse/polythene tunnel/raised beds for 12 months of the year. Where to get the information for your price predictions.

Field visit - Visit to a commercial organic horticultural nursery.

What you need to bring: Hot & cold drinks are provided, but you will need to bring a packed lunch. In the morning the course is classroom based. During the afternoon the course will be held on the farm. Please bring appropriate clothing and footwear for both venues.

As an ongoing precautionary measure, please ensure that items of clothing and footwear used previously on another farm, have been thoroughly cleaned.

Course Outcome: College Certificate (on request)

For dates and further course information please contact Plumpton College at Netherfield

To book this course, for further information, or in case of an emergency on the day of the course please contact:

Plumpton College at Netherfield
Netherfield Place Farm, Netherfield, Nr. Battle. East Sussex TN33 9PY
Telephone: 01424 775615 e-mail **info@netherfieldcentre.co.uk**