



Plumpton College

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

**Course Name:** Starting a Sheep Flock,  
 Handling & Care

**Tutor:** Simon J. Bishop

**Venue:** Ivyland Farm  
 Netherfield  
 Nr. Battle  
 East Sussex  
 TN33 9QB

**1 day course**

**Start Time:** 10 am

**Finish time:**  
 Approx. 4pm depending on questions and end of course discussions.

**Designed for:** Any one who is interested in starting their own sheep flock. No previous experience needed. Covers equipment, housing, and keeping flock records. Includes a visit to sheep on the farm & general health queries.

**Aims of the course:** To introduce participants to the main points that need to be considered when keeping sheep.

**Typical number of delegates:** 6 -10

**Course runs approximately twice a year**

**Course Timetable**

**10.00 am – 10.30 am** Course administration/ tea or coffee/introductions

**10.30am – 12.30pm:** Lecture  
 Holding Number and Flock Registration  
 The Shepherd's Year  
 Equipment and Housing  
 Feeding and Breeding  
 Grazing and Winter Forage  
 Outlets for Store / Finished Lambs  
 Record Keeping

**12.30pm – 1.30pm:** **Lunch**

**1.30pm – 3.30pm:** Visit to sheep flock.  
 Introduction to handling sheep and checking for signs of health, eg fly strike and what to do. Feet trimming.

**3.30 pm – 4.00 pm** Summary /Questions and Answers  
 Tea / Coffee and Course Evaluations

**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)

**Follow on course suggestions:** Lamb Butchery, Sausage Making, Selection of Finished Lambs, Stock Fencing, Direct Meat Marketing. Practical Sheep 'Pre-Tup' Health check Course, Lambing Forage analysis & Winter Rationing, 3-day Shearing Course

**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  
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