

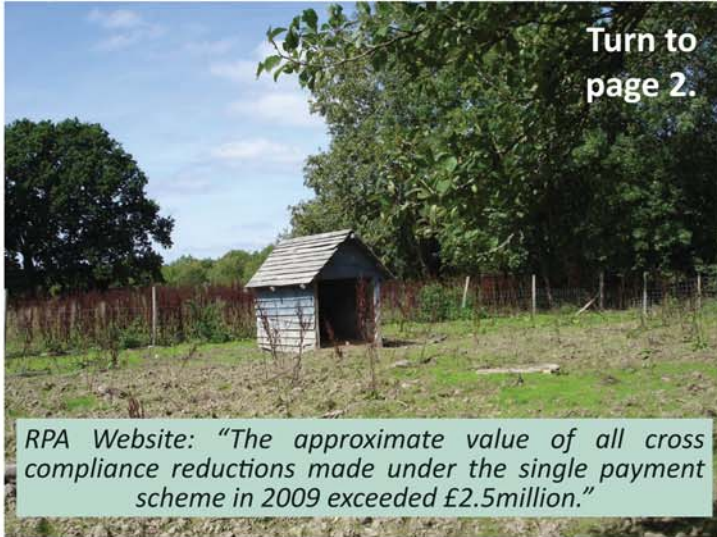


**Plumpton College**

Centres at Plumpton, Netherfield, Flimwell and Robertsbridge and Stanmer Park, Brighton

## More farmers are facing reduced Single Farm Payments

Failing to have a completed Soil Protection Review Booklet ready for inspection will result in an automatic 5% reduction in your payment.



Turn to page 2.

*RPA Website: "The approximate value of all cross compliance reductions made under the single payment scheme in 2009 exceeded £2.5million."*



Involve your farm with the local community page 3.

### Plumpton College is now managing the Woodland Enterprise Centre at Flimwell.



Building on the successful range of courses already delivered at Flimwell, there is potential for developing further forestry, woodland, wood use courses and forestry research. The enterprise will be known as Plumpton College at Flimwell. See page 2. In addition to training, there are workshop/office units for lease.



Forestry Page 2

Diversification Page 2

Grants Pages 2 & 3

Young Learners Page 3

Training Dates Page 3

An alternative to the "Ready Meal" Page 4

Local Produce Wanted Page 4

Serve Sussex Produce Page 4

## Plumpton College at Flimwell

### Selecting and Milling Timber 9<sup>th</sup> December 2010

Learn how to select and prepare timber to sell or use yourself. Learn the value and uses of different trees, how to select the best trees for different products and how to mill, store, market and sell the timber. The course will interest those managing trees and woodlands and anyone using timber for construction, furniture and other projects.

### Oak Timber Framing 11<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> April 2011

This is a practical hands on course with participants working together to construct and erect an oak frame with a roof. You will learn the skills to enable



you to plan, manage and build your own frame. An excellent course for anyone with a framing project in mind.

### HSE First Aid at Work 5<sup>th</sup> May 2011

The course delivers the HSE one-day Emergency First Aid at Work course with a certificate valid for three years.

### Venue for hire

Planning a celebration, wedding or simply a big family get together?

The Woodland Enterprise Centre's innovative and beautiful main hall in a woodland setting, with ample parking is available to hire.



For further information on events, hire information or woodland and wood craft courses please telephone Plumpton College on 01273 892052 or visit [www.woodnet.org.uk/](http://www.woodnet.org.uk/)



### Cross Compliance Failures

Easy to address changes to your farming practices could ensure you are not one of the hundreds of farmers facing reduced Single Farm Payments. Failing to have your completed your Soil Protection Review booklet available for inspection is an automatic 5% reduction of your cheque. Plumpton College at Netherfield is hosting a series of half day courses with hints and tips to save you money and ways to avoid being penalised. Email [sarah.blackford@plumpton.ac.uk](mailto:sarah.blackford@plumpton.ac.uk) for more details.

### Concerned about the rural economy?

Be involved with Plumpton College at Netherfield by joining our Curriculum



Advisory Panel (CAP). The CAP meet three times a year to discuss the way forward with training which will help topical issues for land based businesses as well as maintaining the support our regular training programme provides. The next CAP meeting is 19<sup>th</sup> January 2011, if you would like to join us please email [sarah.blackford@plumpton.ac.uk](mailto:sarah.blackford@plumpton.ac.uk).

### Could you reduce your use of fertilizer?

With the increase in the cost of artificial fertilizer farmers are looking at alternatives. Lesley Byford-Bates of Redlays Farm, an artisan dairy with 60 head of cattle at Westfield, says: "We stopped using commercial fertilizer, about 4 years ago. The manure is composted from our cows for a minimum of 18 months. Once it has reached the crumbly black odourless stage we then spread it on our land. The pasture looks marvellous." Redlays Farm is currently on the market as a going concern. If you would like to learn more about reducing your fertilizer costs Plumpton College at Netherfield is hosting a series of courses with money saving ideas and essential advice.



### Money down the drain!

If you are considering starting a business from your kitchen there are rules and regulations to be met. Make sure you get off on the right foot and don't waste time and money. Come on "An income from your kitchen" course at Plumpton College at Netherfield and learn the do's, don'ts and pitfalls; making sure you get it right from the start will go a long way to putting money in your pocket rather than down the drain!



### Grants for training.

The current RDPE (Rural Development Programme England ) funding scheme will end in July 2011. For the past 3 years a grant subsidy has been available with up to 70% reduction in training fees for courses, providing you spend more than 50% of your time in agriculture, forestry or production horticulture. Once the scheme ends, it is highly unlikely given the current climate such assistance will be available again particularly at the up to 70% saving.



## Plumpton College at Netherfield, Ivyland Farm

About 20 years ago Plumpton College set up Ivyland Farm near Battle, to provide training in the east of the county and in particular to younger learners. Learners at Ivyland Farm start as early as 13 with the **School Release Programme**, where students come to the centre one or two days a week working towards vocational qualifications which support them in their core GCSE subjects. The **Environmental and Land Based Studies Diploma** is for 14+ with a GCSE equivalent qualification which will open up pathways to employment or higher education. **Rural Start for 16+** is especially for school leavers who require additional study for them to access mainstream college or progress to employment. **Rural Pathways** again for 16+ but aimed at those with better academic skills. The **Introduction to Land and Environment Agriculture**

and **Level 2 Diploma in Agriculture** are each one year programmes with differing entry requirements, providing an introduction to agriculture, conservation, estate skills and land based machinery. The **Apprenticeships** programme is for students who combine learning with at least three days a week employment with a suitable work provider. Finally, we are able to work individually with a school and provide a bespoke course for their learners alone. Over 130 students are being tutored at Ivyland Farm. Ivyland Farm also provides learning for a group of disabled adults who assist in growing vegetables and plants. They make jams and chutneys, some have taken their skills home and are now creating their own vegetable gardens. For more information please contact Debbie Hopkins, Head of Centre, Plumpton College at Netherfield telephone 01424 838873.



### Farmers - involve your community, share your knowledge.

Upper Wilting Farm at Crowhurst in East Sussex has established a thriving community agriculture group. More and more consumers have realized the health and ecological benefits of consuming produce originating from their doorstep. Lack of time, space and knowledge are often the causes of reticence in growing your own; one way forward is to join or help create a community growing group. Are you a farmer with space, a little bit of time and your knowledge to spare for such a venture? Upper Wilting Farm discovered an untapped resource virtually in their backyard. The Crowhurst Community Agriculture Group is made up with village residents from a variety of backgrounds. Could forming a group in your area help your farm? contact Plumpton College at Netherfield on 01424 775615



### Courses from Plumpton College at Netherfield Centre for Sustainable Food and Farming 2011

Hands on Butchery Courses:

Learn to butcher a pork carcass 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> January

Sausage making 20<sup>th</sup> January

Learn to butcher a venison carcass 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> January

CEIH food safety and hygiene level 3 lifetime certificate 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> January

Production and marketing of fruit and vegetables

27<sup>th</sup> January

Fruit tree pruning and orchard management 28<sup>th</sup> January

Deer fencing 4<sup>th</sup> February

Food Smoking 10<sup>th</sup> February

Organic production of fruit and vegetables 24<sup>th</sup> February

Establish a new field hedge 25<sup>th</sup> February

Livestock transport certificate, short journeys 18<sup>th</sup> February

Poultry series: Rearing, processing and practical slaughter, licence from Humane Slaughter Association. Date tbc.

**Gift vouchers available, they make perfect Christmas presents. Please ask for details.**

### The Weald Forest Ridge Initiative (WFR)

WFR is also offering subsidised training for courses to enhance and maintain the patchwork landscape of the High Weald. Up to 50% reduction in course fees are available if you live, work or have a definitive connection within the given geographical area. These courses cover, livestock, butchery, rural skills and historical building techniques. For more information about either of these subsidies please contact Plumpton College at Netherfield 01424 775615.



## An alternative to the 'Ready Meal'

Many farmers have returned to practices of the past whereby they grow, mill and produce their own feed. Additionally informal co-operatives are being formed to pool resources and have a "swop" system with excesses of forage and cereals.

Some of the many advantages to the home "pick and mix":

- Know what you are feeding your animals
- Rations are formulated to meet your requirements
- Full utilisation of all of your cereals, peas, beans and legumes
- Protect yourself against the volatility of the livestock feed market
- Absolute traceability
- Reduction in feed miles and carbon footprint.



### Time to think globally.

Did you know that Wales export beef and lamb world wide. In 2008 exports of Welsh Lamb and Welsh Beef were valued at £73 million, now the value of exports has almost doubled to £140 million, with Welsh Lamb alone accounting for £109 million of that total. For more information about export visit [www.businesslink.gov.uk](http://www.businesslink.gov.uk)

### Are you a food provider in Sussex?

About 5 years ago the Sussex Breakfast



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must be locally sourced and produced, both ethically and sustainably. Sussex Breakfast is now to become Serving Sussex Produce, with all food outlets in Sussex having the opportunity to join. The benefits are a presence on the Visit Sussex website, additional press coverage, help with sourcing produce and training in making the best use of it, all of which will lead to more customers. For information please contact Rebecca Butler, Plumpton College at Netherfield 01424 775615



### Local Producers Wanted

Supermarkets are aware the consumer requires more local produce on their shelves. It maybe worth contacting the large food retailers in your area to discuss an outlet for your product. For help contact Hilary Knight of A Taste of Sussex on 01444 482207.



## A fresh approach to growth!

Apprenticeships help businesses grow while helping people grow.



From January 2011 apprenticeship courses are available in: Agriculture ● Butchery ● Land Based Engineering ● Trees and Timber ● Horticulture ● Animal Care ● Equine ● Environmental Conservation

Full funding is available to eligible learners aged 16-18 and partial funding for eligible learners aged 19+.  
Flexible training packages geared towards improving business performance.

**For details please telephone 01273 892030 or email [wbl@plumpton.ac.uk](mailto:wbl@plumpton.ac.uk)**

## How To Contact Plumpton College

Main College: Plumpton College, Ditchling Road, Plumpton, BN7 3AE. Telephone 01273 892052.

Email: [helen.marshall@plumpton.ac.uk](mailto:helen.marshall@plumpton.ac.uk) or visit [www.plumpton.ac.uk](http://www.plumpton.ac.uk)

Sussex Rural Business Centre Plumpton College: Head of Business Training - Don Cranfield. Telephone 01273 892031

Email: [don.cranfield@plumpton.ac.uk](mailto:don.cranfield@plumpton.ac.uk) or visit [www.plumpton.ac.uk](http://www.plumpton.ac.uk)

Plumpton College at Netherfield Centre for Sustainable Food and Farming: Netherfield Place Farm, Netherfield, Battle, TN33 9PY

Telephone 01424 775615. Email: [info@thenetherfieldcentre.co.uk](mailto:info@thenetherfieldcentre.co.uk) or visit [www.thenetherfieldcentre.co.uk](http://www.thenetherfieldcentre.co.uk)

Plumpton College at Netherfield, Ivyland Farm, Netherfield, Battle, East Sussex TN33 9QB Telephone 01424 838873

Email: [debbie.hopkins@plumpton.ac.uk](mailto:debbie.hopkins@plumpton.ac.uk)

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