

Legal requirements

- All holdings with livestock require a DEFRA issues CPH (County Parish Holding) number, and a UK number.
- Your UK flock number has to be printed on all tags for stock born on your holding.
- Apply to your local Animal Health Office if your property does not already have a Holding Number.
- An Animal Movement Licence (AML form) needs to accompany sheep when being moved. This is issued from the point of departure and a copy sent to the Animal Reporting and Movement Service (ARAMS) within three days.
- If you plan to move animals more than 65km you must pass a test in order to obtain Transporter Authorisation.
- All livestock keepers must keep a record of all animal movements. Your local Trading Standards office can provide a movement book, but this record may be kept electronically or in any form so long as it is accurate and up to date.
- A medicine record must also be kept, recording full details of drugs and treatments administered and listing the batch number of drugs and withdrawal periods. Your local veterinary surgeon can advise.
- Full details of all legal obligations can be found on the DEFRA website, or from your local APHA (Animal and Plant Health Agency) office.

Getting to Showing

For many breeders, showing becomes a logical step along the sheep keeping route. The breed is easily trained to walk quietly by halter, and young handlers especially benefit from the docile nature and attractive appearance of the breed.....



The Southdown Sheep Society

Registered Office:
Meens Farm, Capps Lane, All Saints,
Halesworth, Suffolk, IP19 0PD.
www.southdownsheepsociety.co.uk
e-mail: secretary@southdownsheepsociety.co.uk
telephone: 01986 782251

The Southdown Sheep Society website is an ideal place to find further information: it includes breeders' advertisements, details and results of shows and sales, regional news, up-to-date information of what is on, nationally and around the regions.

The Southdown Sheep Society Secretary welcomes your enquiries – when the Office is unmanned please leave a message and your call will be returned promptly.



Further Information

The Southdown Sheep – by Valerie Porter
Starting with Sheep – by Mary Castell
Shepherd's Calendar – by Val Stephenson
(available from RBST)
The Veterinary Book for Sheep Farmers – by David C. Henderson
Defra website: www.defra.gov.uk
Defra helpline 03459 335577 (Monday-Friday 0830-1700h)

This leaflet is intended to be a brief guide only and provides a useful starting point – it is not an exhaustive guide to sheep-keeping.

Starting with Southdown Sheep



The Southdown sheep

The Southdown is one of the oldest breeds of sheep in Britain, taking its name from the region which is now the South Downs National Park. The history of the breed goes back over 500 years, and in the 18th century, at the time of the famous John Ellman of Glynde, at least 200,000 ewes were kept on the South Downs of Sussex. Southdown rams were sold to improve flocks all over Great Britain and beyond, and it was through the use of Southdown rams that breeds such as the Suffolk, Hampshire Down and Dorset Down were created.

Today, Southdown flocks can be found in all regions of Great Britain.



The Southdown Sheep

The Southdown is a sturdy, solid sheep with a “leg at each corner”. It is a docile, attractive and friendly breed with a relatively small frame which makes it easier to handle and an excellent choice for beginners. It is equally content to be part of a small flock of a few animals in an orchard, as in a large commercial flock. It is hardy and can thrive in most conditions. Whether you wish to produce your own flavoursome lamb, reduce your time spent mowing grass, spin your own fleeces or simply wish to gaze upon attractive animals, then the Southdown has something to offer you.



Commercially, South-down rams are in demand at home and abroad to use as terminal sires, to produce fast maturing, well fleshed butchers' lambs. The carcass has excellent conformation, and a memorable flavour. The smaller flock owner is usually more than happy to produce home grown lamb from surplus stock. Smaller abattoirs still exist which are prepared to kill and cut up small numbers of animals for private producers.



Choosing Southdown Sheep

Southdown flocks can be found all over Great Britain. The Southdown Sheep Society can help put you in touch with local breeders. Many shows have Southdown classes where the best examples of the breed are exhibited.

Take time to visit flocks and talk to the breeders who will be more than happy to discuss your requirements with you and answer any questions. There are regional Southdown Breeders' Groups in most parts of the country, set up and run by local breeders to meet local needs.

The groups provide an ideal opportunity to



get together and exchange ideas; members visit flocks, arrange visits to local butchers, and run workshops ranging from lambing days to preparation for shows.

The Southdown Sheep Society Premier Sales take place annually in Worcester and Melton Mowbray and Ardingly, Sussex. Further details can be obtained from the Southdown Sheep Society Website and The Office.



Getting started

The list of necessary tasks on the sheep calendar appears endless at first: worming, foot trimming, vaccinating, fly treatment, shearing....Talk to the breeder supplying your sheep, they will be pleased

to outline the routine tasks within their own flock. Local sheep farmers can be a good source of help and advice. Many breeders are happy to welcome beginners at lambing time, to watch and learn what

it is all about. Some agricultural colleges organise lambing courses for beginners too. Talk too to your local veterinary surgeon who can devise for you an individual flock health plan.



Getting in to Showing

For many breeders, showing becomes a logical step along the sheep keeping route. Some regional Southdown groups organise workshops for those new to trimming and showing, so talk to your regional co-ordinator.

