

## La Bergerie Nationale de Rambouillet



The Bergerie Nationale was created as an institution by Louis XVI to become a model farm for the development of innovation and acquired its worldwide renown thanks to its exceptional flock of Merino sheep imported from Spain at the express demand of the sovereign in 1786. In the 19th century, this flock came to play an important role in the improvement of sheep wool in many European countries and in the southern hemisphere through the export of its rams as sires. Today, the Bergerie Nationale is a State domain, located 50km southwest of Paris and occupying 250 hectares of the 1 100 hectare estate. For over two centuries, the Bergerie has carried out its mission of experimentation and now is committed to demonstrating the virtues of multifunctional agriculture within the framework of sustainable development.

However, the Bergerie is far more than a great farm at the gates of Paris, since 1994, it has been a resource centre for sustainable agriculture and territorial development dedicated to training and project accompaniment.

The flock of Merino sheep maintained under controlled line breeding since its arrival in 1786 is a scientific wonder. These animals are the direct descendents of the sires sent out around the world to create new breeds and bear witness to the interest of genetics and biodiversity conservation.