

Part One – What’s Involved with Homestead Living

1 Life on the Green Learning Homestead

This is our story—the yarn part of this book. It’s how we went from just getting by into full-fledged homestead living and how our heritage and backgrounds made it all happen. Everything else that follows is how it actually gets done.

2 Homestead Living

When emerging from just reading about homesteading, you’ll see the way it really is. You’ll understand how every homesteader is married to the land and all that comes with it. And you’ll start to daydream about your own possibilities.

3 Soil – Heart and Soul of the Homestead

After taking care of humans, soil is the highest priority. Everything living thing on the homestead depends on the quality of the soil. It’s time to get busy. Know what’s going on under your feet, build your compost, and prepare to grow your own food.

4 Getting Started with Growing

With soil development underway, learn all you can about growing. It’s more than just throwing seeds in the ground and expecting wonderful results. This takes you from beginner to everything else you’ll likely incorporate within your gardens.

5 From Seeds to Veggies

Ok, here you go. You’ve got good seeds in hand and you’re ready to start. These are step-by-step procedures on how to develop healthy seedlings. There’s lots of ways this can come to fruition—many you’ll probably use and some maybe not.

6 Growing Year Round

With the first good growing season behind you, the great lament will be what about the rest of the year. With some advance preparation and garden planning, you can keep fresh veggies coming in right through winter. It’s actually quite easy.

7 Harvesting, Preserving, and Storage

Alright, you’re bringing in the harvest. Now you’ve got to do something with it. This gets into handling all those veggies. But there’s lots more that can be harvested from the homestead. Here you’ll find out what to do with everything else that’s available.

8 Living Things on the Homestead

Surprise! You’re not alone on your homestead. You are now part of an ecosystem that includes everything you brought aboard plus all that was here long before you arrived. Learn how to live with your new companions because you’ve got company.

9 Managing the Homestead

On every homestead, things need to get done. This is where using a systems approach turns complex into simple. You'll manage everything from water to wood to insects to equipment. These are the every-day nuts and bolts of a homestead.

Part Two – How to Get It Done

10 Irrigation

There are several ways to approach getting water to your veggies. Some are quite wasteful and some are incredibly simple. You'll also be introduced to olla irrigation which has proven to be excellent with how to design, plan, and install this system.

11 Harvesting Free Water

Free water is that which passes through your homestead—horizontally with creeks and streams and vertically with rain. This is how to harvest free water from the sky with a water tote system that pulls together several concepts that work quite well.

12 Building Out the Homestead

The first and most obvious point to potential homesteads is that everything needed will not be there. Stuff has to be built. This is how to turn daydreams into reality with step-by-step procedures for those parts of your homestead you'll be using every day.

13 Fences

There are pretty fences and there's homestead fences—those that actually work. This is how to go from concept to completion with step-by-step procedures to help remove the mystery of fences and avoid mistakes.

Part Three – Open Access Material

14 Tools

Some tools are great and some terrible. Nevertheless, you will need tools. Shown and described here are the tools that make homestead work possible. There's everything from those you already know about to those you might never suspect.

15 Resources

It starts with a library, but there are so many possibilities that hoping to find the right books, websites, and material can be a colossal waste of time. These three areas are categorized and detailed to help you find what you need—quickly and easily—when you need it.

Then there's all of those things we built to make our homestead work. You'll find basic details so you can adapt these projects for your own needs. Finally, homesteads are never finished. New projects are always looming in daydreams.