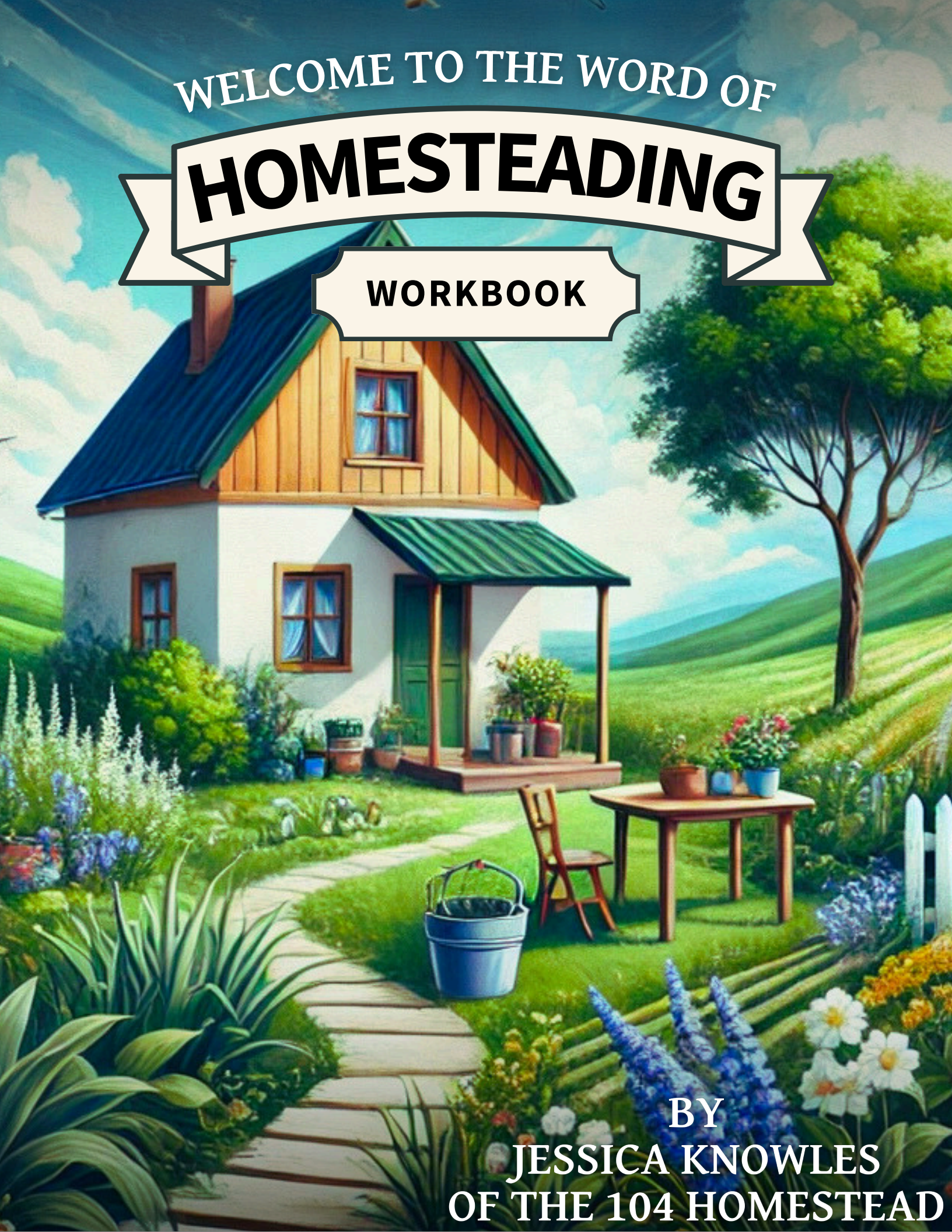


WELCOME TO THE WORD OF

HOMESTEADING

WORKBOOK



BY
JESSICA KNOWLES
OF THE 104 HOMESTEAD

Welcome



This workbook was created to support and inspire you as you embark on your homesteading journey. It's my gift to you as a subscriber of *The Homestead Helper*, the targeted weekly newsletter from The 104 Homestead.

Feel free to print this book for your personal use. However, I kindly ask that you don't copy or share it with others. If you know someone who would enjoy *Welcome to the World of Homesteading*, invite them to subscribe to *The Homestead Helper*—they'll receive their own copy in their welcome email.

Thank you for being part of this homesteading community. Happy homesteading!

*Warmly,
Jessica Knowles*

This workbook includes interactive, PDF-fillable worksheets so you can type directly into the file if you prefer a digital experience. If you'd rather print and write by hand, you'll find printer-friendly versions of all worksheets at the end of the workbook.

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Introduction

When I first started homesteading, I wanted to do everything right away. I envisioned myself tending a thriving garden, raising animals, making all my food from scratch, and living completely off the land—immediately. But instead of feeling accomplished, I quickly became overwhelmed. There was just so much to learn, so many skills to master, and seemingly not enough hours in the day. I'd try to tackle too much at once, and it left me feeling burned out and questioning whether homesteading was even possible for me.

That's why I created this workbook. I wanted to offer a practical, step-by-step guide to help you avoid the overwhelm I experienced. **Homesteading is a journey, not a race**, and breaking it into smaller, seasonal goals makes it manageable, enjoyable, and sustainable.

Who This Workbook Is For

This workbook is for anyone who is new to homesteading and eager to get started, whether you have acres of land or a small apartment balcony. It's for those who dream of growing their own food, raising animals, learning self-sufficiency skills, or just living a simpler, more intentional life.

Whether you're a curious beginner, an urban homesteader, or simply looking to live a little closer to nature, this workbook will help you set goals that fit your life and turn them into achievable steps.

How to Use This Workbook

The workbook is divided into seasonal sections, with homesteading goals tailored to each time of year. **By focusing on just a few goals per season, you'll avoid feeling overwhelmed and give yourself the time to truly enjoy each new experience.**

Each section includes tips, ideas, and resources to guide you, as well as worksheets to help you plan and track your progress. *Use the printable worksheets to set your personal*

goals, reflect on your achievements, and make adjustments as you grow. Remember, your homesteading journey is unique—don't hesitate to swap out or tweak the goals to fit your circumstances.

To make this workbook as versatile as possible, each worksheet is included twice: once in its full-color form within the relevant chapters, and again as a black-and-white, printer-friendly version at the end. Whether you prefer to work digitally or on paper, there's an option for you! The PDF-fillable fields allow you to type your goals, reflections, and notes directly into the file and save your progress.

*"Do what you can, with what you have, where you are."
– Theodore Roosevelt*

This quote captures the essence of this workbook. Homesteading isn't about perfection; it's about starting small, learning as you go, and appreciating the progress you make along the way.

Let's dive in and get started on your homesteading journey. You've got this! And don't forget to use the worksheets to track your goals and celebrate your progress!

Getting Started with Homesteading

Welcome to the world of homesteading! Today's technological age puts an endless supply of knowledge at our fingertips. **While that can be a blessing, it can also feel incredibly overwhelming.** Have you ever Googled something—like how to start a new diet—only to find yourself buried under pages of conflicting advice? You end up more confused than when you started and ready to give up before you've even begun.

That's exactly how I felt when I decided I wanted to live a simpler, more intentional life. My dream was to teach my kids the value of caring for themselves and the world around them while creating a sustainable lifestyle for our family. But living on less than $\frac{1}{4}$ acre in town, just a short walk from the village center, made homesteading feel daunting.

I started small: a 10x10 garden plot, an apple tree that stubbornly refused to produce more than a handful of cherry-sized apples, and seven chickens. I learned to make a few cleaning products and line-dried my clothes during the warmer months. But I knew I wanted so much more—and I knew I needed to take baby steps to avoid becoming overwhelmed.

Homesteading can feel intimidating, especially when you're just starting out and surrounded by an endless stream of advice, opinions, and "perfect" success stories online. But let me tell you, those baby steps are where the magic happens. **Starting small doesn't mean you're thinking too small—it means you're building a strong foundation for success.**

That's when I decided to break my big goal of becoming a self-sufficient homesteader into small, seasonal goals. I realized that if I focused on what mattered most each season and tackled realistic, achievable tasks, I could make steady progress without feeling burned out.

Each season, I thought about what was both important and practical to accomplish at that time of year. I made sure not to overload any single season with too many goals. **After all, homesteading is supposed to enrich your life, not overwhelm it!**

Spring

- Plan a good spot for a garden or start edible containers.
- Decide if livestock is a good option for my space and lifestyle.
- Start drying clothes on a clothesline.
- Learn how to support bees and butterflies.

Summer

- Build a compost bin.
- Plant some edible crops.
- Make a few personal care items.
- Learn how to eat seasonally.

Autumn

- Learn how to forage for wild edibles.
- Save seeds from my garden.
- Replace a few store-bought foods with homemade ones.
- Learn how to use a water bath canner.

Winter

- Create an indoor herb garden.
- Learn to make greener cleaning products.
- Make simple home remedies.
- Simplify my life by reducing unnecessary clutter.

These goals were a great way to get my feet wet. If your goals don't match mine, that's okay! Homesteading is personal, and your goals should reflect what's most important to you. Swap out these examples for goals that excite you and fit your unique circumstances.

This workbook will guide you through setting and achieving seasonal goals to build your homesteading lifestyle in manageable steps. Whether you're growing food, reducing waste, or creating sustainable habits, these tools will help you along the way. Let's dive in and get started with **Spring Goals!**



Spring on the Homestead

Spring is a season of fresh starts and endless possibilities, making it the perfect time to dive into your homesteading journey. As the days grow longer and the weather warms, nature begins to wake up, bringing with it a sense of renewal and opportunity. For homesteaders, spring is a time to lay the foundation for the year ahead—whether that’s preparing your garden, taking on new projects, or learning new skills.

The beauty of spring is in its abundance of activity. From nurturing young plants to setting goals for the months ahead, there’s a certain energy that inspires productivity and growth. But spring is also a time to observe the small changes in the world around you, from the first buds on the trees to the busy work of pollinators.

In this section, we’ll explore simple steps to help you make the most of spring on your homestead. Whether it’s planning your garden, creating sustainable habits, or finding ways to help the local ecosystem thrive, these activities will set you up for a successful and rewarding year.

Plan a Good Spot for a Garden or Edible Containers

Gardening is at the heart of homesteading. It's more than just growing your own food—it's about learning to value and appreciate it. When you nurture plants from tiny seedlings to a bountiful harvest, you gain a deeper understanding of the effort and beauty behind the foods we eat. Watching a garden flourish under your care is one of the most rewarding experiences on a homestead, bringing a sense of connection to nature and a deeper appreciation for the work that goes into providing nourishment.

The great thing about gardening is that it's possible no matter your situation. If you have a small yard or one filled with shade, you can still grow edibles. Consider planting fruiting shrubs as ornamental landscaping or tucking herbs into flower beds. Think about where you might be able to slip in a few edible plants—perhaps a container or two on your patio or balcony? Vertical gardening is another excellent option for maximizing small spaces; trellises and hanging planters can add both functionality and charm to your homestead.

Even a handful of homegrown herbs or vegetables is a step closer to your homesteading goals. A few pots of basil, lettuce, or cherry tomatoes can transform your meals and boost your confidence as a gardener. Each small success builds momentum, teaching you new skills and inspiring you to expand your garden over time. Remember, every small step toward growing your own food increases your self-reliance and helps you take one more step toward your dreams.

Need More Help?

Click the links below for tips on planning a garden and exploring creative container options.

[How to Start a Garden in Your Yard, No Matter the Space or Soil](#)

[How To Make Galvanized Planters: A Simple 3-Step Guide](#)

[Container Gardening with Fun Planters to Suit Your Style](#)

[A Guide to Growing Food Indoors for Harvests Year-Round](#)

[Shaded Vegetable Gardens: Top Crops for Low Light Conditions](#)

Decide if Livestock is a Good Option for You

Livestock can be a rewarding addition to your homestead, but it's not the right fit for everyone. That doesn't mean you should dismiss it outright—your property size or lifestyle might not be as limiting as you think! Even small or urban homesteads can support certain types of livestock, like rabbits or quail.

Rabbits are versatile animals that can provide meat, manure for your garden, and even fiber if you choose the right breeds. Quail are another fantastic option for smaller spaces, offering both eggs and meat with minimal space requirements. For slightly larger spaces, poultry like chickens or ducks can be an ideal choice for busy homesteaders. They're relatively low maintenance and provide a steady supply of eggs and, if you choose, meat. For those with larger properties, goats or cows might be worth considering. These animals can supply your family with fresh milk, but they come with increased responsibilities.

Before deciding, take the time to evaluate all the pros and cons of raising livestock. Consider your daily habits, the amount of time you can realistically dedicate, and your long-term goals. Livestock is a full-time commitment, no matter the size of the animal. For example, a dairy goat in milk needs daily care, and chickens will still require fresh water even when winter temperatures drop below freezing.

While homestead livestock can be incredibly rewarding, they're also a serious responsibility. Weigh your options carefully to ensure it's the right choice for you.

Need More Help?

Click the links below for tips and resources to help you decide if livestock is right for your homestead.

[Why You Should Consider Quail Farming on Your Homestead](#)

[How To Care For Laying Hens: A Beginner's Guide to Everything](#)

[4 Reasons to Consider Getting a Rabbit for Your Homestead](#)

[Raising Goats on the Homestead – Assessing Expenses](#)

[Goat Dreams, Goat Realities](#)

Start Drying Your Clothes Outside on a Clothesline

Drying your clothes on a clothesline isn't just about saving money—it's about preserving your clothes and embracing a more sustainable lifestyle. On average, line drying can save you **\$25 a month** on your electricity bill, and for larger families, the savings could be even greater. Over time, these small changes can make a big difference in your household budget.

Setting up a clothesline is easier and more affordable than you might think. A basic free standing clothesline can be built for about **\$40**, while a tree or wall-mounted line can cost as little as **\$10** if you already have a good spot available. Plus, the savings begin with your very first load of laundry.

Dryers can be surprisingly tough on clothing. All that lint you pull from the filter is actually fibers being stripped from your clothes with every cycle. Over time, this wears down the fabric and causes fading, like the weird blue haze you may notice inside your dryer drum—it's the dye leaching from your jeans. Line drying, on the other hand, helps your clothes last longer, saving you even more money by reducing the need for replacements.

While line drying is most popular in spring, summer, and autumn, it's also possible—and surprisingly effective—in winter. The idea of trudging through snow to hang wet clothes might not sound appealing, but winter conditions can work in your favor. Sublimation (where ice turns directly into vapor) and the sun reflecting off the snow can help your clothes dry faster and even brighten whites naturally.

With a few simple tips and some patience, line drying your laundry can become a rewarding part of your homestead routine, no matter the season.

Need More Help?

Click the links below for more tips and resources to help you master line drying.

[Clothesline Efficiency: How to Dry Your Clothes Outside Like a Pro](#)

[The Secret of Line Drying Clothes in Winter \(even in Maine!\)](#)

Grow to Help the Bees & Butterflies

Do you enjoy harvesting fresh produce from your garden or admiring the vibrant colors of your flower beds? If so, you have pollinators to thank. Bees and butterflies play a critical role in pollinating over **75% of flowering plants** and nearly **75% of the crops** we grow. Unfortunately, the decline in pollinator populations is a growing concern—not just for us but for wildlife, too. When bees and butterflies are unable to pollinate, wild animals lose access to essential food sources like nuts, seeds, and berries.

Helping pollinators starts with making simple but impactful changes on your homestead. The **number one way to support bees and butterflies** is to stop using pesticides. These chemicals harm not only pests but also the beneficial insects that keep our ecosystems healthy. Luckily, there are many safer alternatives for pest control that are better for the environment.

Another impactful way to help pollinators is to plant a **pollinator garden**. These gardens are designed to provide a variety of flower shapes, colors, and bloom times throughout the year. By offering diverse food sources, you ensure that pollinators have access to nutrients, even during times when wild food is scarce.

Pollinator gardens don't have to be elaborate—a few well-chosen plants can make a big difference. Whether it's a corner of your yard, a balcony container, or even a strip of roadside flowers, every effort counts.

By making these changes, you'll not only support the bees and butterflies but also strengthen your own garden's productivity and beauty.

Need More Help?

Click the links below for tips and ideas to create a pollinator-friendly homestead.

[How to Plant a Meadow of Bee-Friendly Flowers](#)

[Starting a Monarch Butterfly Garden](#)

[Creating an Eco-Friendly Yard & Garden](#)

Other Spring Homesteading Activities to Consider

Spring is a season of renewal, making it the perfect time to explore new homesteading skills and projects. Beyond the goals we've discussed, there are plenty of other homestead-y activities to dive into that will enrich your lifestyle and help you make the most of this productive season.

If you live in a region where it's possible, **tapping trees for syrup** is a rewarding spring tradition. Maple trees are the most popular choice, but did you know you can also tap birch and walnut trees? While you wait for the sap to drip, you can prepare your garden by cleaning up beds, starting seeds indoors, or sharpening tools to ensure a smooth growing season.

Spring is also a great time to focus on DIY projects that reduce reliance on store-bought items. For example, you can craft your own trellises using tree branches or scrap wood. This not only saves money but also adds rustic charm to your garden. Similarly, plant markers can be made from items you already have around the house, like smooth rocks, canning jar lids, or pieces of cut-up plastic containers.

If you're looking for inspiration, here are a few more homesteading ideas to explore this spring:

- **Start Seeds Indoors:** Use egg cartons, yogurt containers, or other recyclables to create seed-starting trays.
- **Build a Compost Bin:** Set up a simple bin to start turning kitchen scraps and yard waste into nutrient-rich compost.
- **Make Homemade Cleaning Supplies:** Spring cleaning is the perfect opportunity to learn how to create natural, non-toxic cleaners.
- **Create Birdhouses or Bee Hotels:** Attract wildlife and pollinators to your homestead by building cozy homes for them.
- **Set Up a Rainwater Collection System:** Prepare for summer by collecting rainwater for your garden.
- **Learn Basic Foraging:** Identify wild edibles like dandelion greens, ramps, or violets to add a bit of foraged food to your meals.

- **Experiment with Fermentation:** Try fermenting vegetables, making kombucha, or starting sourdough for delicious homemade treats.

Spring offers endless opportunities to learn and grow as a homesteader. Whether you're crafting, planting, or experimenting with new skills, this is the season to set the tone for the rest of the year.

Using Your Spring Worksheets

To help you make the most of this season, the following worksheets are designed to guide your planning, track your progress, and inspire reflection. Each section will walk you through setting realistic goals, overcoming obstacles, and celebrating your accomplishments. Take your time and enjoy the process—every small step counts toward your larger homesteading journey.

If you prefer to work with printed worksheets, a printer-friendly version of each page is included at the end of this workbook. Print them out, grab a pen, and make these pages your own!

Let's get started and make this spring your most productive and fulfilling season yet.

Spring Worksheets: *Plan, Track, and Reflect*



Use these worksheets to set your goals, reflect on your progress,
and get inspired this spring!

Prioritize Your Goals

Spring can be a busy season! Use this section to focus on what matters most by prioritizing your goals and identifying areas where you can simplify or delay.

What are my top 3 priorities for this spring?

Think about what will have the biggest impact on your homestead this season.

1.
2.
3.

What can I set aside for later?

List any tasks or projects that can wait until summer or beyond.

-
-
-



*Prioritize what matters most this season—
progress over perfection!*



Where should I focus my time and energy?

Task or Project <i>Plant a pollinator garden.</i>	Why It's Important <i>To help bees and butterflies thrive.</i>

What small wins can I accomplish quickly?

Write down small, achievable tasks that will help you feel productive and motivated.

-
-
-

Barriers & Solutions

What could get in my way? Think about potential challenges and brainstorm ways to overcome them.

Potential Obstacle	How it Could Affect My Goal	My Plan to Overcome This

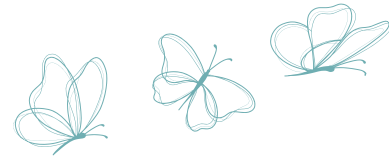
Resource & Inspiration

List books, websites, or tools that have inspired you this season

- *Resource Title; Why it's useful; What's one tip from this resource I can implement now?*

-
-
-
-
-

Sketch & Vision Board



Draw your garden layout or paste photos to create a vision for your homestead this spring.

Tip: Print this page and use magazines or Pinterest for inspiration!

Spring Gratitude & Reflection

Take a moment to reflect on this season and celebrate your progress, gratitude, and lessons learned.

What am I grateful for this spring?

One thing I'm proud of this season:

Lessons I've Learned:

-
-
-

What's next?





Summer on the Homestead

Summer is a season of growth and abundance, offering the perfect opportunity to see the fruits of your homesteading efforts come to life. With long days and warm weather, this is the time to nurture your garden, tackle outdoor projects, and savor the rewards of the hard work you put in during spring. For homesteaders, summer is a season to fully immerse in the rhythm of the land.

The beauty of summer lies in its vibrancy. Gardens are in full bloom, buzzing with life, and providing fresh produce to enjoy and preserve. It's also a time for hands-on learning—whether you're building a compost bin, experimenting with seasonal recipes, or exploring ways to conserve resources during the heat of the season.

In this section, we'll dive into practical steps to help you embrace the season's bounty. From caring for your garden to creating sustainable systems, summer is a time to expand your skills and enjoy the fulfillment that comes with homesteading. Let's make this season a productive and rewarding one!

Transform Waste into Garden Gold

Why toss food scraps in the garbage when they can help you grow more food? That's where composting comes in—a sustainable and practical way to transform waste into a rich, nutrient-filled resource for your garden. By combining food scraps and other “greens” (materials rich in nitrogen) with “browns” (materials high in carbon), you can create beautifully finished compost that enriches your soil and supports healthier plants.

Compost bins can be as simple or elaborate as you like. They can take the form of large outdoor structures made from pallets, small tumblers purchased from a store, or even DIY setups using items you already have at home, like trash bins or old crates. Whether you have a sprawling yard or a compact urban space, there's a composting method to suit your homestead.

For successful composting, remember the golden rule: balance your greens and browns. Greens like fruit and vegetable scraps, coffee grounds, and fresh grass clippings provide nitrogen. Browns like dried leaves, shredded paper, and sawdust add carbon. Together, they work to break down materials into rich compost.

Here's a handy list of compostable items:

Composting Greens

- Fruit and vegetable scraps
- Coffee grounds
- Fresh grass clippings
- Fresh weeds
- Rotted manures
- Spent (finished) plants

Composting Browns

- Dried leaves
- Hay and straw
- Sawdust (not pressure treated)
- Shredded paper products
- Nutshells
- Dryer lint

These items should not be composted:

- Fats, grease, oils, and lard: Attracts pests and slows decomposition.
- Carnivore manures/feces (like cat and dog): Contains harmful pathogens.
- Diseased plants: May spread disease to the soil.
- Chemically treated plants or lawn clippings: Introduces toxins to the compost.
- Dairy products and eggs (egg shells are okay): Attracts pests and may cause odors.
- Magazines: Glossy coatings and ink contain chemicals that may harm soil.

Composting is more than just reducing waste; it's about rethinking how you use resources. By turning materials that would otherwise end up in a landfill into something beneficial for your garden, you're making a positive impact on your homestead and the environment. It's a small step with big rewards, helping you grow thriving plants while fostering a mindset of sustainability.

Need More Help?

*Click the links below for tips and ideas to start composting
and improve your soil health.*

[Composting for Beginners: The Ultimate Starter Guide](#)

[Let Your Chickens Do Your Composting](#)

[Why You Should Be Composting with Worms {Vermicomposting}](#)

[A Guide to Homemade Leaf Mold: Nature's Free Compost](#)

[Should You Pee On Your Compost? Urine in the Garden: Beneficial or Not](#)

Cultivate Homegrown Goodness

Planting edibles is one of the most rewarding ways to begin your homesteading journey. Whether you're tending to a full garden plot or sneaking vegetables into your landscaping, growing your own food connects you to the land in a deeply fulfilling way. The key to success is to start small—choose a manageable space or a few containers to get going. You can always expand as you gain confidence, but starting too big can lead to overwhelm and frustration. Remember, a small, thriving garden is better than a large, neglected one.

Don't let a lack of space or ideal conditions keep you from gardening. Many new homesteaders think they can't grow food because they don't have a sprawling yard, but nothing could be further from the truth. With the right methods, you can grow in almost any situation—small spaces, shaded areas, even poor soil. Container gardening, vertical gardening, and raised beds are excellent options for those with limited space. Even unconventional spaces, like a balcony or a narrow side yard, can become productive with a little creativity and planning.

Think about starting with quick and easy crops, like lettuce, radishes, or herbs, which can thrive in a variety of conditions and offer fast results. These crops are perfect for boosting your confidence as a new gardener. For those with limited time, consider perennial edibles, like berry bushes or asparagus, which require less maintenance after they're established. From herbs on a sunny windowsill to tomatoes on your patio, there are endless possibilities for bringing fresh, homegrown edibles into your life. Gardening is about working with what you have and making the most of it, no matter your circumstances. It's not just about feeding yourself; it's about cultivating resilience, learning new skills, and enjoying the "fruits" (and vegetables) of your labor.

Need More Help?

*Click the links below for tips and ideas to grow edibles,
no matter your space or conditions.*

[The 15 Easiest Vegetables for Lazy Gardeners to Grow](#)

[How Many Seedlings You Need for a Prosperous Garden](#)

[How to Choose the Ideal Location for Your Herbal Spiral Garden](#)

[20 Gardening Hacks That Will Save You Time and Effort](#)

Make a Few Personal Care Items

While store-bought personal care products are often inexpensive, there's a hidden cost to consider: your health. Many commercial items contain questionable ingredients that can be harmful to your body and the environment. On the other hand, natural, health-conscious alternatives are a better choice but often come with a higher price tag. That's where making your own personal care products comes in—it's an affordable, empowering solution that lets you take control of what you're putting on your skin and hair.

The beauty of DIY personal care is its simplicity. Many products require just a handful of natural ingredients and only take a few minutes to make. For example, you can create a nourishing body scrub with sugar, coconut oil, and essential oils, or whip up a gentle facial toner using apple cider vinegar and water. Lip balms, deodorants, and even shampoo bars are easier to make than you might think, and you can customize them to suit your preferences or skin sensitivities.

In addition to saving money, making your own personal care items allows you to reduce waste and live more sustainably. Homemade products often use reusable containers, cutting down on single-use plastics. Plus, creating these items can be a fun and rewarding activity, especially if you involve friends or family. It's not just about the end product—it's about building skills, experimenting with natural ingredients, and feeling confident in what you're using.

If you're new to DIY personal care, start small. Pick one or two items to try, like a simple lip balm or hand salve. Once you see how easy and effective they are, you'll be inspired to expand your repertoire. By making your own personal care products, you're not only saving money but also fostering a healthier, more self-reliant lifestyle.

Need More Help?

Click the links below for recipes and tips to start making your own personal care products at home.

[How to Make Natural Deodorant Fast and Easy](#)

[Soothing & Healing Hand Cream for Farmers/Gardeners](#)

[Melt and Pour Soap: Getting Started with Soap Making](#)

Embrace Seasonal Eating

Eating seasonally is one of the simplest ways to enjoy fresher, more nutrient-rich food. When fruits and vegetables are freshly harvested, they contain their highest levels of nutrients, which begin to deplete the longer they sit uneaten. Out-of-season produce, often treated with preservatives to maintain its appearance, may look fresh, but its nutritional content has already declined.

Your wallet will also thank you for eating seasonally. In-season produce is often more abundant, which makes it less expensive. Buying local, seasonal food takes it a step further—supporting nearby farmers while reducing the carbon footprint of long-distance shipping. If the food is coming straight from your own garden, you’ve hit the jackpot: the freshest, most nutrient-packed option available.

Eating seasonally doesn’t have to be complicated. Farmers’ markets are a fantastic resource for local, seasonal foods and allow you to connect with the people who grow your food. Another option is to join a CSA (Community Supported Agriculture). When you participate in a CSA, you purchase a share of a local farm’s harvest, receiving boxes of fresh, seasonal produce throughout the growing season. It’s a great way to try new foods and discover what’s in season without the need for your own garden.

By eating seasonally, you’re nourishing your body, supporting local farmers, and making a more sustainable choice for the planet. Plus, it’s a delicious way to explore the variety and flavor of foods at their peak.

Need More Help?

Click the links below for tips on eating seasonally and storing your fresh, local produce.

[What You Need to Know About Farm Fresh Eggs](#)

[Your Guide to Storing Fresh Produce Through Winter](#)

[How to Store Herbs for Culinary & Medicinal Purposes](#)

Other Summer Homesteading Activities to Consider

Summer is a season of growth and abundance, making it an ideal time to expand your homesteading skills and savor the rewards of the year so far. Beyond the goals we've covered, summer offers plenty of opportunities to take on fun, productive activities that enrich your lifestyle and make the most of the long, sunny days.

One classic summer activity is **berry picking**. Whether you grow your own or visit a nearby "pick your own" patch, harvesting berries like strawberries, blueberries, or raspberries is both rewarding and delicious. Once home, you can enjoy them fresh, bake them into pies or pancakes, or preserve them as jams and jellies for the off-season. Summer is also a great time to **preserve the harvest**. Try canning, freezing, or dehydrating your produce to stock your pantry for the months ahead.

DIY projects shine in the summer, too. Consider **building garden supports** like trellises or tomato cages to keep your crops thriving. You could also set up a **rainwater collection system** to make the most of summer storms and reduce your water bill. For animal care, summer is the perfect time to construct or upgrade shelters, like chicken coops or shade structures, to protect your animals from the heat.

If you're looking to connect with nature, try **foraging for wild edibles** or **fishing for a fresh summer meal**. Wild berries, mushrooms, or greens can add a unique touch to your cooking, while fishing offers both relaxation and a sustainable way to source protein. Summer evenings are also perfect for exploring **outdoor cooking**, like making homemade pizzas in a wood-fired oven or cooking with a solar cooker.

For inspiration, here are more homesteading ideas to try this summer:

- **Dry Herbs:** Preserve herbs like basil, thyme, or oregano for homemade spice blends.
- **Ferment Seasonal Vegetables:** Make pickles, sauerkraut, or fermented hot sauce to enjoy later.
- **Save Seeds:** Start collecting seeds from early summer crops to use next year.
- **Create a Pollinator Habitat:** Add summer-blooming flowers to support bees and butterflies.
- **Install Outdoor Composting Systems:** Set up a compost tumbler or pile to handle summer yard waste.

Summer is a time to celebrate abundance, learn new skills, and enjoy the warmth of the season. Whether you're harvesting, preserving, or building, there's no shortage of ways to grow as a homesteader during these vibrant months.

Using Your Summer Worksheets

To help you make the most of this season, the following worksheets are designed to guide your planning, track your progress, and inspire reflection. Each section will help you set meaningful goals, overcome challenges, and celebrate your successes. Take your time to enjoy the process—every small step brings you closer to your homesteading dreams.

If you prefer to work with printed worksheets, a printer-friendly version of each page is included at the end of this workbook. Print them out, grab a pen, and make them your own!

Let's get started and make this summer your most productive and rewarding season yet.

Summer Worksheets:

Plan, Track, and Reflect



Use these worksheets to set your goals, reflect on your progress, and get inspired this summer!

Prioritize Your Goals

Summer is a season of abundance, but it can also feel overwhelming with so much happening at once! Use this section to focus on what matters most by prioritizing your goals and identifying tasks that can wait until later.

What are my top 3 priorities for this summer?

Think about what will have the biggest impact on your homestead this season.

1.
2.
3.

What can I set aside for later?

List any tasks or projects that can wait until autumn or beyond.

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*Embrace the season's abundance—
small steps create lasting growth.*



Where should I focus my time and energy?

Task or Project <i>Preserve summer fruits + veggies.</i>	Why It's Important <i>To stock the pantry and reduce food waste.</i>

What small wins can I accomplish quickly?

Write down small, achievable tasks that will help you feel productive and motivated.

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Barriers & Solutions

What could get in my way? Think about potential challenges and brainstorm ways to overcome them.

Potential Obstacle	How it Could Affect My Goal	My Plan to Overcome This

Resource & Inspiration

List books, websites, or tools that have inspired you this season

- *Resource Title; Why it's useful; What's one tip from this resource I can implement now?*
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Sketch & Vision Board



Draw your outdoor projects, sketch your garden in full bloom, or paste photos to create a vision for your thriving homestead this summer.

Tip: Print this page and use magazines or Pinterest for inspiration!

Summer Gratitude & Reflection

Take a moment to reflect on this season and celebrate your progress, gratitude, and lessons learned.

What am I grateful for this summer?

One thing I'm proud of this season:

Lessons I've Learned:

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What's next?



Autumn on the Homestead

Autumn is a season of transition and reflection, where the hustle of summer gives way to cooler days and the opportunity to prepare for the months ahead. It's a time to harvest the fruits of your labor, preserve your garden's bounty, and begin readying your homestead for winter. For homesteaders, autumn is a balance of productivity and gratitude, as you savor the rewards of your hard work while setting the stage for the next season.

The beauty of autumn lies in its crispness and warmth. The vibrant colors of fall foliage surround you as you gather late-season crops and store them for the colder months. It's a season for both finishing projects—like seed saving or clearing garden beds—and beginning new ones, such as planting cover crops or winterizing your homestead.

In this section, we'll explore practical steps to make the most of autumn's unique opportunities. From preparing your garden for its winter rest to preserving food and creating cozy, sustainable systems for your home, this is a time to celebrate the rhythm of the land and prepare for the quiet months ahead. Let's embrace the changing season with purpose and gratitude!

Find Delicious Food in the Wild

What's better than inexpensive food? Free food! Nature provides an incredible abundance of edible plants if you know where to look. From purslane and chickweed to miner's lettuce and acorns, chances are you can find some nutritious wild foods in your local area. Foraging is a skill that connects you to the land and helps you discover the hidden treasures nature has to offer.

One of the most accessible wild edibles is the dandelion. While most people try to eradicate them, homesteaders know their true value. Dandelions are not only edible but also packed with nutrients and have a long history of medicinal use. Their leaves can be used in salads, their flowers in teas or syrups, and their roots as a coffee substitute. You might even strike a deal with neighbors who value a pristine lawn, foraging dandelions from their yard while saving them the effort of weeding.

Mushrooms are another popular choice for foraging, but they come with a cautionary note. Safe mushroom foraging requires experience and knowledge—spending time with an expert 'shroomer is essential before you venture out on your own. The rewards, however, are worth it, as wild mushrooms can elevate your meals with their unique flavors and textures.

Foraging is not just about finding food; it's about learning to see the world around you differently. By paying attention to the plants growing in your area and understanding their uses, you can reduce your reliance on store-bought foods and deepen your connection to nature. With a little practice, foraging can become a valuable addition to your homesteading skills.

Need More Help?

Click the links below for tips and guides on safely foraging wild edibles and incorporating them into your homestead.

[Foraging Edible Plants Right Outside Your Door](#)

[Pickled Wild Onions in Honey-Rosemary Brine](#)

Begin Saving Seeds From Your Garden

Also known as “brown bagging,” seed saving is an incredible skill to master. It allows you to save money, ensure the quality of your plants year after year, and take a rewarding step toward self-sufficiency. Imagine no last-minute dashes to the store only to find your favorite tomato seeds sold out, and no uncertainty about whether a particular variety will thrive in your climate. By saving seeds, you create a more sustainable and reliable homestead, preserving not just plants, but also knowledge and resources for the future.

The key to successful seed saving is to start small. Focus on learning to save seeds from one or two types of plants each season. This approach keeps the process manageable while allowing you to build your skills over time. Flowers are a fantastic way to begin—they’re often forgiving and produce seeds in abundance, making them a great confidence booster for beginners. For vegetables and herbs, consider easy options like lettuce, peas, beans, tomatoes, peppers, and flowering herbs. These plants are straightforward to work with, and their seeds are relatively simple to collect and store properly.

Understanding how seeds grow and mature is part of the magic of seed saving. Observing plants as they flower, develop seeds, and eventually dry out teaches you more about their natural life cycle. Seed saving is about more than practicality; it’s about connecting with the plants you grow and creating a legacy for future seasons. Whether you’re saving seeds from a favorite heirloom tomato or gathering marigold seeds for next year’s flower beds, you’re taking a meaningful step toward a more self-reliant homestead—and a deeper connection to your garden.

Need More Help?

Click the links below for detailed guides and tips on saving seeds, from beginner-friendly plants to advanced techniques for self-sufficiency.

[An Encyclopedia of Seed Saving with Printable Seed Packets](#)

[Your Guide to Reading and Understanding a Seed Packet](#)

[An Unexpected Use for SNAP: Buy Seeds with Food Stamps](#)

Learn the Basics of Water Bath Canning

Water bath canning is a fantastic starting point for anyone interested in preserving foods. This simple and effective method doesn't require expensive equipment—most of the time, a large stock pot will do the job. If you choose to invest in a water bath canner, you can find a complete set for under \$30, making it an affordable way to preserve fresh produce.

Getting started is easier with guidance, so finding a mentor can be invaluable. If you don't know anyone who cans, look for local classes, check with your state's cooperative extension, or explore online tutorials. Trusted resources like YouTube and *The Ball Blue Book of Preserving* are also excellent tools for beginners. Many farmers' markets and community centers also host canning demonstrations, which can give you hands-on experience.

One of the best things about canning is the ability to preserve more than just what you grow. Did your neighbor drop off a bushel of berries? Did you snag a great deal at the farmer's market? Canning allows you to extend the life of these treasures while creating delicious jams, jellies, salsas, sauces, and more. Water bath canning isn't limited to sweet treats—you can preserve tomato-based sauces, pickles, and even fruit syrups for pancakes or desserts.

Canning isn't just a practical skill—it's a deeply satisfying one. There's a unique joy in lining your shelves with jars of food you've prepared yourself. Each jar represents not only a preservation of food but also the memories of the harvest or market day that brought those ingredients into your home. By mastering water bath canning, you're taking another step toward self-reliance and enjoying the flavors of the season long after it ends.

Need More Help?

Click the links below for step-by-step guides and tips to start water bath canning with confidence!

[Water Bath Canning Recipes and Tips for New Canners](#)
[Flippin' Jelly! The Dangers of Grandma's Canning Methods](#)
[How to Can Jam Without Sugar or Honey](#)

Other Autumn Homesteading Activities to Consider

One of the best autumn activities is mastering additional food preservation techniques. While canning is a staple, autumn is a great time to experiment with fermenting, drying, and pickling. These methods allow you to preserve seasonal produce and even take advantage of great deals on fruits and vegetables you didn't grow yourself. Imagine pulling out [a jar of homemade pickles](#) or dried apple slices during the winter to enjoy a taste of autumn's bounty.

Autumn is also the perfect season for preparing your homestead for winter. Tasks like planting cover crops, mulching garden beds, and [winterizing animal shelters](#) help protect animals during the colder months. It's also a great time to save seeds from your summer and fall harvests, ensuring a strong start for next year's garden.

If you're looking for inspiration, here are a few more homesteading ideas to explore this autumn:

- **Make Fire Starters:** Use natural materials like pinecones, wax, and dryer lint to create eco-friendly fire starters for cozy winter nights.
- **Prepare Root Vegetables for Storage:** Learn techniques for storing potatoes, carrots, and onions to keep them fresh throughout winter.
- **Craft Autumn Wreaths:** Use dried flowers, herbs, and leaves from your garden to create beautiful seasonal decorations.
- **Learn to Make Herbal Teas:** Dry herbs like mint, chamomile, and lemon balm to create your own tea blends for chilly evenings.
- **Build a Cold Frame:** Extend your growing season into late fall and early winter by constructing a cold frame for hardy greens.
- **Harvest and Preserve Nuts:** Collect and store nuts like walnuts and acorns, which can be used in baking or even ground into flour.
- **Practice Wood Splitting:** Prepare firewood for the colder months while honing a valuable homesteading skill.

Autumn is a time to embrace the changing season, finish up summer projects, and prepare your homestead for the quieter months ahead. Whether you're preserving food, crafting, or winterizing your space, this season offers endless opportunities to grow as a homesteader and enjoy the fruits of your labor.

Using Your Autumn Worksheets

To help you make the most of this season, the following worksheets are designed to support your planning, track your progress, and encourage thoughtful reflection. Each section is tailored to help you set realistic goals, navigate challenges, and celebrate your accomplishments as you prepare your homestead for the months ahead. Take your time and embrace the process—every step moves you closer to your homesteading goals.

For those who prefer to work with printed worksheets, a printer-friendly version is included at the end of this workbook. Simply print them out, grab your favorite pen, and make them your own!

Let's dive in and make this autumn both productive and fulfilling as you transition into the next season of your homesteading journey.

Autumn Worksheets:

Plan, Track, and Reflect



Use these worksheets to set your goals, reflect on your progress, and get inspired this autumn!

Prioritize Your Goals

Autumn is a time for both wrapping up projects and preparing for the colder months ahead. Use this section to focus on what matters most by prioritizing your goals and identifying tasks that can wait until next season.

What are my top 3 priorities for this autumn?

Think about what will have the biggest impact on your homestead this season.

1.
2.
3.

What can I set aside for later?

List any tasks or projects that can wait until winter or beyond.

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*Embrace the season's change—
preparation leads to peace.*



Where should I focus my time and energy?

Task or Project <i>Save seeds from summer crops.</i>	Why It's Important <i>To reduce costs for next year's garden.</i>

What small wins can I accomplish quickly?

Write down small, achievable tasks that will help you feel productive and motivated.

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Barriers & Solutions

What could get in my way? Think about potential challenges and brainstorm ways to overcome them.

Potential Obstacle	How it Could Affect My Goal	My Plan to Overcome This

Resource & Inspiration

List books, websites, or tools that have inspired you this season

- *Resource Title; Why it's useful; What's one tip from this resource I can implement now?*

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Sketch & Vision Board

Draw your cold-frame garden layout, sketch plans for winterizing your homestead, or paste photos to inspire your autumn projects.

Tip: Print this page and use magazines or Pinterest for inspiration!

Autumn Gratitude & Reflection

Take a moment to reflect on this season and celebrate your progress, gratitude, and lessons learned.

What am I grateful for this autumn?

One thing I'm proud of this season:

Lessons I've Learned:

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-
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What's next?





Winter on the Homestead

Winter is a season of rest and reflection, offering the chance to recharge and prepare for the seasons to come. As the land settles into dormancy and the days grow shorter, homesteaders can focus on indoor projects, planning, and appreciating the fruits of the past year's labor. It's a time to slow down, regroup, and embrace the quieter rhythm of the season.

The beauty of winter lies in its stillness and simplicity. While your garden may be at rest, there's still plenty to do. From preserving the last of your harvest to crafting handmade goods, winter provides the opportunity to hone new skills and tackle projects that often get pushed aside during busier months. It's also the perfect time for planning—whether that's mapping out next year's garden or setting new goals for your homestead.

In this section, we'll explore practical steps to help you make the most of winter's slower pace. From indoor projects to seasonal planning and preparation, winter is a time to reflect, refine, and recharge for the year ahead. Let's use this season to build a strong foundation for what's to come!

Create an Indoor Herb Garden

Bringing fresh herbs into your kitchen during the winter is easier than you might think. If you already have herbs growing outdoors, you can transfer them inside to continue enjoying their flavor and benefits year-round. If not, many herbs are simple to start from seed. Great options for indoor herb gardens include chives, oregano, thyme, and parsley. While some people swear by rosemary as an indoor herb, it can be tricky to grow—I've yet to master it myself! When selecting herbs, choose ones you'll actually use and that thrive with regular trimming, as this is how you'll harvest them.

Windowsill herb gardens are both fun and functional. There's no shortage of creative container options to suit your style. Traditional planters work well, but you can also get creative with mason jars, teacups, tin cans, or even repurposed rain gutters mounted on a wall. These unique containers can add charm and personality to your space while keeping fresh herbs within arm's reach.

When choosing containers, drainage is key. Proper drainage prevents water from pooling at the roots, which can lead to rot. If your chosen container doesn't have drainage holes, you can often drill them yourself, though glass and ceramic may require a special drill bit. To further prevent overwatering, consider adding a layer of pebbles to the bottom of your containers to help with drainage.

An indoor herb garden not only provides fresh ingredients for your meals but also adds a vibrant, green touch to your kitchen during the colder months. It's a simple project that enhances your cooking and brings a bit of life and color to your winter homestead.

Need More Help?

Click the links below for tips and creative ideas to start your own indoor herb garden and keep your indoor plants thriving all winter long!

[Do-it-Yourself Chalkboard Planter {An Easy Weekend Craft}](#)

[10 Fabulous Reasons to Garden Indoors](#)

[Your Guide to Healthy Houseplants](#)

Make Your Own Greener Cleaners

Commercially manufactured cleaners are often packed with chemicals that can harm both humans and the environment, yet many of us continue to use them because we believe they're the only way to truly clean our homes. I used to be a firm believer in heavy-duty cleaners, gravitating toward anything labeled "Ultra," "Mega," or "Super." When a friend suggested that vinegar was one of the best cleaning agents, I dismissed her as a health nut. It turns out, she was absolutely right.

Natural, eco-friendly cleaners have gained popularity and are now readily available in stores. However, their high price tags can be discouraging. While it's encouraging to see more awareness of the safety of everyday products, many of us are working within a budget. The good news is that you can make your own greener cleaners at home for a fraction of the cost—and they're just as effective, if not more so, than commercial options.

DIY cleaning solutions often use simple, affordable ingredients like vinegar, baking soda, and essential oils, making them both practical and customizable. From all-purpose sprays to heavy-duty degreasers, you can tackle nearly every household chore with homemade cleaners that are better for your health and the planet.

Need More Help?

Click the links below for recipes and tips to create your own effective, budget-friendly green cleaners at home!

[Make Your Own Cleaning Products with Common Household Items](#)

[Clean Your Stovetop and Oven Without Harsh Chemicals](#)

[How to Make Your Own Laundry Detergent & DIY Your Laundry](#)

Don't have time to make your own? Check out my guide to the best green cleaners to keep your home spotless and eco-friendly!

[2024's 7 Best Green Cleaners for Your Home \(and 4 to avoid\)](#)

Concoct Your Own Simple Home Remedies

Home remedies are wonderful for many reasons. One of the best is their convenience—you can often create them with items already in your home. This is especially handy because when you're sick or uncomfortable, the last thing you want to do is get dressed and head to the store. Another reason to love home remedies is their simplicity. They often require fewer “ingredients” than over-the-counter (OTC) treatments, allowing you to address specific symptoms without the extras.

Many OTC medications, like cough syrups, come with long lists of ingredients—some of which treat symptoms you may not even have, such as congestion. These formulas also include warnings that many people overlook. For example, high doses of some cough medicines have been linked to severe health risks, including brain damage, seizures, and even death. Concerns like these are driving the renewed interest in safe, natural remedies.

However, just because a remedy is natural doesn't automatically mean it's safe. Even natural ingredients can be harmful if used incorrectly or in the wrong amounts. It's essential to do your homework before trying new remedies. Start with simple, time-tested recipes that are well-documented and widely recommended. This way, you can enjoy the benefits of home remedies with peace of mind, knowing you're using them effectively and safely.

Need More Help?

Click the links below for reliable home remedy recipes and tips to safely treat common ailments naturally.

[What is a Salve? How to Use & Make Your Own Salves](#)

[Lemon-Infused Pain-Relieving Herbal Tea to Keep You Feeling Your Best](#)

[Homemade Cough Syrup: An Easy Recipe For A Natural Remedy](#)

[Elderberry Syrup: A Delicious Guide To Making Your Own](#)

[How to Make Homemade Fire Cider for Cold & Flu Season](#)

[How to Make Vapor Rub with Essential Oils](#)

[The Top Reasons to Start Crafting Your Own Herbal Remedies](#)

Simplify & Reduce the Things That Aren't Important

You've likely heard the expression "less is more," and it's a concept that should resonate deeply with homesteaders. Simplifying isn't about getting rid of everything you own—it's about letting go of what doesn't serve a purpose or bring joy. When you have less, you can truly appreciate more. It creates space, not just in your home, but in your mind and your life.

Simplification isn't limited to physical belongings. Yes, that fondue set collecting dust might be a good candidate for donation, but what about the intangible clutter in your life? Are there homesteading tasks you've taken on that you don't enjoy or that don't enrich your life? Let them go. Homesteading should be about building a life you love, not about checking off a list of things you think you should do. There's no prize for accomplishing every single homesteading task out there, and certainly no competition for "Best Homesteader."

Simplifying is also about aligning your efforts with your values. Maybe you've been making your own soap but dread the process—would buying high-quality, handmade soap from a local artisan free up your time for something you're passionate about? Or perhaps you've taken on too many projects at once, leading to stress and burnout. Simplifying allows you to focus on what truly matters and brings fulfillment to your homestead.

When you reduce the unnecessary, you open up space for the meaningful. It might mean focusing on fewer animals but giving them more time and care, or planting a smaller garden that you can better manage and enjoy. It's not about doing less—it's about doing what matters most. Simplifying isn't a step backward; it's a conscious choice to live intentionally and find joy in what you already have and do.

By embracing simplicity, you'll find that homesteading becomes less about endless tasks and more about connection—to your home, your family, and the land. It's not about how much you do but about how deeply you enjoy the life you're creating.

Other Winter Homesteading Activities to Consider

Winter is a season of rest and reflection, making it the perfect time to focus on indoor projects and skills that often get pushed aside during busier seasons. Beyond the goals we've discussed, there are plenty of winter activities that can enrich your homestead and help you make the most of these quieter months.

Winter is an excellent time to **learn a new craft or skill**. Fiber arts like knitting, crocheting, or weaving are perfect for cozy winter evenings, and you can find free tutorials on platforms like YouTube or patterns on Ravelry.com. If fiber arts aren't your thing, consider woodworking, candle making, or soap making. These skills not only keep your hands busy but can also produce practical items for your home or thoughtful, homemade gifts.

Winter is also the ideal season to focus on long-term planning and organization. Take this time to map out your garden for the upcoming year, inventory your pantry, or create a budget for future homestead projects. It's a great opportunity to research and prepare for bigger projects you'd like to tackle in spring or summer.

If you're looking for inspiration, here are a few more homesteading ideas to explore this winter:

- **Experiment with Sourdough Baking**: Perfect your sourdough starter and try making bread, crackers, or pancakes.
- **Preserve Citrus**: Winter is peak citrus season—make marmalade, candied peels, or dehydrated slices.
- **Craft DIY Fire Starters**: Use natural materials like pinecones, dryer lint, and wax to create eco-friendly fire starters.
- **Start a Homestead Journal**: Record your successes, challenges, and ideas to guide your future planning.
- **Learn Basic Mending Skills**: Patch holes, replace buttons, or hem clothing to extend the life of your wardrobe.
- **Organize Seeds**: Sort through your seed collection, discard expired ones, and plan new varieties to try in spring.

Winter may be quieter, but it's full of opportunities to learn, create, and prepare for the seasons ahead. Whether you're crafting, baking, or planning, winter is the perfect time to

focus on intentional growth and set the foundation for a successful year on your homestead.

Using Your Winter Worksheets

To help you make the most of this season, the following worksheets are designed to guide your planning, track your progress, and encourage reflection. Each section is tailored to help you set meaningful goals, overcome seasonal challenges, and celebrate your successes. Winter is a time for intentional growth and preparation, so take the opportunity to pause, reflect, and plan ahead.

If you prefer working with printed worksheets, a printer-friendly version of each page is included at the end of this workbook. Print them out, grab a pen, and make them your own!

Let's dive in and make this winter both productive and restorative as you prepare for the seasons ahead.

Winter Worksheets: *Plan, Track, and Reflect*



Use these worksheets to set your goals, reflect on your progress, and get inspired this winter!

Prioritize Your Goals

Winter offers a quieter pace, making it an excellent time to focus on what matters most. Use this section to prioritize your goals, simplify where you can, and prepare for the months ahead without feeling overwhelmed.

What are my top 3 priorities for this winter?

Think about what will have the biggest impact on your homestead this season.

1.
2.
3.

What can I set aside for later?

List any tasks or projects that can wait until next spring or beyond.

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Embrace the stillness—small steps taken now will bloom in the seasons to come.



Where should I focus my time and energy?

Task or Project <i>Learn to make homemade candles.</i>	Why It's Important <i>Because it feels good to learn new skills.</i>

What small wins can I accomplish quickly?

Write down small, achievable tasks that will help you feel productive and motivated.

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Barriers & Solutions

What could get in my way? Think about potential challenges and brainstorm ways to overcome them.

Potential Obstacle	How it Could Affect My Goal	My Plan to Overcome This

Resource & Inspiration

List books, websites, or tools that have inspired you this season

- *Resource Title; Why it's useful; What's one tip from this resource I can implement now?*

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Sketch & Vision Board



Sketch your indoor herb garden setup, draft plans for a cozy crafting space, or create a vision board for the projects you want to accomplish during the winter months.

Tip: Print this page and use magazines or Pinterest for inspiration!

Winter Gratitude & Reflection

Take a moment to reflect on this season and celebrate your progress, gratitude, and lessons learned.

What am I grateful for this winter?

One thing I'm proud of this season:

Lessons I've Learned:

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What's next?



Wrapping Up the Year: A Time to Reflect & Celebrate

As the year draws to a close, it's the perfect time to pause and reflect on all that you've accomplished on your homestead. This is your opportunity to look back at the goals you've reached, the challenges you've overcome, and the lessons you've learned along the way. Homesteading is a journey of growth, and taking the time to evaluate your progress can provide valuable insight and inspiration for the seasons ahead. Reflection isn't just about remembering where you've been—it's also about celebrating your successes, learning from your experiences, and setting meaningful intentions for the future.

Every task you completed this year, no matter how small it seemed, contributed to your homestead's progress. Whether you were nurturing your garden, caring for animals, preserving food, or mastering a new skill, these efforts deserve recognition. Reflection offers a moment to acknowledge the time, energy, and passion you've poured into your homestead and to reconnect with the reasons you began this journey in the first place.

This is also an opportunity to think about what truly brought you joy. Were there projects or moments that stood out as particularly fulfilling? Did you discover a new skill or tradition that you'd like to continue? At the same time, consider what didn't work or what felt overwhelming. Are there areas where you could simplify or adjust your approach next year? By identifying these patterns, you can refine your plans and create a homestead lifestyle that's even more aligned with your values and goals.

As you reflect, remember to celebrate your growth, no matter how big or small. Homesteading is not a competition; it's a deeply personal journey. Use this time to appreciate the milestones you've reached, cherish the memories you've created, and feel pride in the progress you've made. By closing this chapter with gratitude and intention, you'll set the stage for a fresh start in the new year.

Use the following worksheet to guide your reflection, capture your thoughts, and celebrate all that you've achieved. Let it be a tool to honor the past year and inspire the seasons ahead.

Accomplishments to Celebrate

What were your biggest successes this year?

Which goals did you meet or exceed?

What are you most proud of from the past year?

Lessons Learned

What challenges did you face, and how did you overcome them?

What didn't go as planned, and what did you learn from it?

Is there anything you'd do differently next year?

Favorite Moments

What brought you the most joy on your homestead?

Were there any unexpected highlights or happy surprises?

Which moments made you feel the most connected to your homesteading journey?

Gratitude Reflection

What are you most thankful for this year?

Who or what supported you in reaching your goals?

How has homesteading enriched your life this year?

Looking Ahead

What goals or dreams do you have for next year?

What new skills or projects do you want to tackle?

How will you use the lessons of this year to guide your future plans?

Reaching Your Homestead Goals

Reaching your homesteading goals can be challenging, but you don't have to do it alone. One of the most powerful steps you can take is becoming part of a supportive community. Like-minded individuals can encourage you when the road gets tough, answer your questions when you're feeling lost, and celebrate your wins, big and small. At **The 104 Homestead**, we're here to provide that sense of connection and support, whether you're just starting out or looking to grow your skills.

Our [Facebook Page](#) is a fantastic space to ask questions, share ideas, and engage with other homesteaders who understand the joys and challenges of this lifestyle. Looking for fresh inspiration? Our [Pinterest Page](#) is filled with ideas for homesteads of all sizes, offering everything from DIY projects to gardening tips. And if you want a behind-the-scenes glimpse into my life as a homesteader (yes, the unpolished, unedited moments too), come hang out with me on [Instagram](#).

If there's anything I can do to help you on your homesteading journey, please don't hesitate to reach out. You can reply directly to our *Homestead Helper* newsletters or send me an email at jessica@104homestead.com. I'd love to hear from you and help in any way I can.

Homesteading is a journey of growth, learning, and resilience. As you reflect on your past year and look ahead to what's next, remember that every small step counts. Whether you're starting a new project, refining your routines, or simply taking time to appreciate how far you've come, each effort brings you closer to your homesteading dreams.

Most importantly, know that you're not alone. There's a vibrant community of homesteaders ready to support you, share knowledge, and celebrate alongside you. Together, we can learn, grow, and build a lifestyle that's sustainable, fulfilling, and

uniquely our own.

Thank you for allowing me to be part of your homesteading journey. Here's to all the adventures, challenges, and triumphs ahead—let's make them extraordinary!

Printing Your Worksheets

The following pages contain printer-friendly versions of the worksheets included in this workbook. These pages are designed to be simple, black-and-white layouts, making them easy to print and use as you plan, reflect, and track your homesteading journey.

How to Print Your Worksheets:

1. **Select the Pages:** Use your PDF reader's print settings to select only the pages containing the printer-friendly worksheets.
2. **Choose the Layout:** Set your printer to "Fit to Page" or "Actual Size," depending on your preference and printer capabilities.
3. **Optional Double-Sided Printing:** If your printer allows, you can enable double-sided printing to save paper.
4. **Use High-Quality Paper:** For best results, use sturdy paper to make writing on your worksheets smoother and to keep them durable for reference.

Once printed, grab your favorite pen or pencil and make these worksheets your own. Use them to document your goals, ideas, and progress as you continue your homesteading journey. Happy planning!

Spring Worksheets: *Plan, Track, and Reflect*



Use these worksheets to set your goals, reflect on your progress,
and get inspired this spring!

Prioritize Your Goals

Spring can be a busy season! Use this section to focus on what matters most by prioritizing your goals and identifying areas where you can simplify or delay.

What are my top 3 priorities for this spring?

Think about what will have the biggest impact on your homestead this season.

1.
2.
3.

What can I set aside for later?

List any tasks or projects that can wait until summer or beyond.

-
-
-



*Prioritize what matters most this season—
progress over perfection!*



Where should I focus my time and energy?

Task or Project <i>Plant a pollinator garden.</i>	Why It's Important <i>To help bees and butterflies thrive.</i>

What small wins can I accomplish quickly?

Write down small, achievable tasks that will help you feel productive and motivated.

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Barriers & Solutions

What could get in my way? Think about potential challenges and brainstorm ways to overcome them.

Potential Obstacle	How it Could Affect My Goal	My Plan to Overcome This

Resource & Inspiration

List books, websites, or tools that have inspired you this season

- *Resource Title; Why it's useful; What's one tip from this resource I can implement now?*

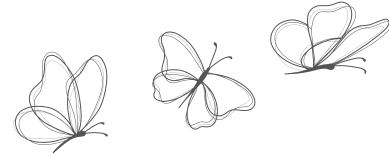
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Sketch & Vision Board



Draw your garden layout or paste photos to create a vision for your homestead this spring.

Tip: Print this page and use magazines or Pinterest for inspiration!

Spring Gratitude & Reflection

Take a moment to reflect on this season and celebrate your progress, gratitude, and lessons learned.

What am I grateful for this spring?

One thing I'm proud of this season:

Lessons I've Learned:

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What's next?

Summer Worksheets:

Plan, Track, and Reflect



Use these worksheets to set your goals, reflect on your progress, and get inspired this summer!

Prioritize Your Goals

Summer is a season of abundance, but it can also feel overwhelming with so much happening at once! Use this section to focus on what matters most by prioritizing your goals and identifying tasks that can wait until later.

What are my top 3 priorities for this summer?

Think about what will have the biggest impact on your homestead this season.

1.
2.
3.

What can I set aside for later?

List any tasks or projects that can wait until autumn or beyond.

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*Embrace the season's abundance—
small steps create lasting growth.*



Where should I focus my time and energy?

Task or Project <i>Preserve summer fruits + veggies.</i>	Why It's Important <i>To stock the pantry and reduce food waste.</i>

What small wins can I accomplish quickly?

Write down small, achievable tasks that will help you feel productive and motivated.

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Barriers & Solutions

What could get in my way? Think about potential challenges and brainstorm ways to overcome them.

Potential Obstacle	How it Could Affect My Goal	My Plan to Overcome This

Resource & Inspiration

List books, websites, or tools that have inspired you this season

- *Resource Title; Why it's useful; What's one tip from this resource I can implement now?*

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Sketch & Vision Board



Draw your outdoor projects, sketch your garden in full bloom, or paste photos to create a vision for your thriving homestead this summer.

Tip: Print this page and use magazines or Pinterest for inspiration!

Summer Gratitude & Reflection

Take a moment to reflect on this season and celebrate your progress, gratitude, and lessons learned.

What am I grateful for this summer?

One thing I'm proud of this season:

Lessons I've Learned:

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-
-

What's next?

Autumn Worksheets:

Plan, Track, and Reflect



Use these worksheets to set your goals, reflect on your progress, and get inspired this autumn!

Prioritize Your Goals

Autumn is a time for both wrapping up projects and preparing for the colder months ahead. Use this section to focus on what matters most by prioritizing your goals and identifying tasks that can wait until next season.

What are my top 3 priorities for this autumn?

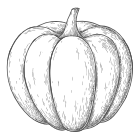
Think about what will have the biggest impact on your homestead this season.

1.
2.
3.

What can I set aside for later?

List any tasks or projects that can wait until winter or beyond.

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*Embrace the season's change—
preparation leads to peace.*



Where should I focus my time and energy?

Task or Project <i>Save seeds from summer crops.</i>	Why It's Important <i>To reduce costs for next year's garden.</i>

What small wins can I accomplish quickly?

Write down small, achievable tasks that will help you feel productive and motivated.

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Barriers & Solutions

What could get in my way? Think about potential challenges and brainstorm ways to overcome them.

Potential Obstacle	How it Could Affect My Goal	My Plan to Overcome This

Resource & Inspiration

List books, websites, or tools that have inspired you this season

- *Resource Title; Why it's useful; What's one tip from this resource I can implement now?*

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Sketch & Vision Board



Draw your cold-frame garden layout, sketch plans for winterizing your homestead, or paste photos to inspire your autumn projects.

Tip: Print this page and use magazines or Pinterest for inspiration!

Autumn Gratitude & Reflection

Take a moment to reflect on this season and celebrate your progress, gratitude, and lessons learned.

What am I grateful for this autumn?

One thing I'm proud of this season:

Lessons I've Learned:

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-
-

What's next?

Winter Worksheets:

Plan, Track, and Reflect



Use these worksheets to set your goals, reflect on your progress, and get inspired this winter!

Prioritize Your Goals

Winter offers a quieter pace, making it an excellent time to focus on what matters most. Use this section to prioritize your goals, simplify where you can, and prepare for the months ahead without feeling overwhelmed.

What are my top 3 priorities for this winter?

Think about what will have the biggest impact on your homestead this season.

1.
2.
3.

What can I set aside for later?

List any tasks or projects that can wait until next spring or beyond.

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Embrace the stillness—small steps taken now will bloom in the seasons to come.



Where should I focus my time and energy?

Task or Project <i>Learn to make homemade candles.</i>	Why It's Important <i>Because it feels good to learn new skills.</i>

What small wins can I accomplish quickly?

Write down small, achievable tasks that will help you feel productive and motivated.

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Barriers & Solutions

What could get in my way? Think about potential challenges and brainstorm ways to overcome them.

Potential Obstacle	How it Could Affect My Goal	My Plan to Overcome This

Resource & Inspiration

List books, websites, or tools that have inspired you this season

- *Resource Title; Why it's useful; What's one tip from this resource I can implement now?*

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Sketch & Vision Board



Sketch your indoor herb garden setup, draft plans for a cozy crafting space, or create a vision board for the projects you want to accomplish during the winter months.

Tip: Print this page and use magazines or Pinterest for inspiration!

Winter Gratitude & Reflection

Take a moment to reflect on this season and celebrate your progress, gratitude, and lessons learned.

What am I grateful for this winter?

One thing I'm proud of this season:

Lessons I've Learned:

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-
-

What's next?

Use the following worksheet to guide your reflection, capture your thoughts, and celebrate all that you've achieved. Let it be a tool to honor the past year and inspire the seasons ahead.

Accomplishments to Celebrate

What were your biggest successes this year?

Which goals did you meet or exceed?

What are you most proud of from the past year?

Lessons Learned

What challenges did you face, and how did you overcome them?

What didn't go as planned, and what did you learn from it?

Is there anything you'd do differently next year?

Favorite Moments

What brought you the most joy on your homestead?

Were there any unexpected highlights or happy surprises?

Which moments made you feel the most connected to your homesteading journey?

Gratitude Reflection

What are you most thankful for this year?

Who or what supported you in reaching your goals?

How has homesteading enriched your life this year?

Looking Ahead

What goals or dreams do you have for next year?

What new skills or projects do you want to tackle?

How will you use the lessons of this year to guide your future plans?

*Thank you for letting me be a part of your homesteading journey—
wishing you growth, joy, and success every step of the way!*