

Fall Homestead Checklist

Getting ready for winter — work through the sections in the order that fits your homestead.

START HERE: If you only have one free weekend, secure these before any cosmetic project — water • heat • shelter • feed • safe stored food • anything that turns dangerous in ice or heavy wind.

1 PRESERVE THE HARVEST

- ☐ Bring in frost-tender crops; sort by quality
- ☐ Can high-acid foods with tested recipes
- ☐ Blanch, cool & freeze produce in portions
- ☐ Dehydrate apples, herbs, peppers & onions
- ☐ Root-cellar potatoes, carrots, squash & garlic
- ☐ Keep damaged produce out of long storage

2 WINTERIZE SHELTERS

- ☐ Walk every shelter; note leaks & drafts
- ☐ Fix roofs, panels, latches & fencing
- ☐ Refresh dry bedding; block wind at animal level
- ☐ Keep ventilation high, not blowing across animals
- ☐ Check roost height & run cover for chickens
- ☐ Plan unfrozen water: heated buckets or tank heater

3 FEED, BEDDING & SUPPLIES

- ☐ Calculate weekly feed use; build a buffer
- ☐ Store feed dry, sealed & rodent-proof
- ☐ Stack bedding off damp floors
- ☐ Stock minerals, electrolytes & meds
- ☐ Set up an emergency animal-care bin

4 GARDEN CLEANUP

- ☐ Pull & dispose of diseased plants
- ☐ Compost healthy plant matter
- ☐ Add compost; mulch bare soil
- ☐ Sow cover crops: rye, clover, winter wheat
- ☐ Drain hoses & irrigation; store sprayers
- ☐ Clean, sharpen & oil hand tools

5 PERENNIALS & TREES

- ☐ Remove damaged growth; mulch root zones
- ☐ Wrap young trunks against rodents & deer
- ☐ Shield tender shrubs with burlap or frost cloth
- ☐ Move potted perennials to shelter
- ☐ Bring in or dry tender herbs

6 HOUSE & OUTBUILDINGS

- ☐ Seal drafts; replace broken panes
- ☐ Clear gutters & downspouts
- ☐ Stack firewood off ground, covered on top
- ☐ Schedule chimney / woodstove cleaning
- ☐ Tighten hinges, gates & door hardware

7 OUTAGES & STORMS

- ☐ List every system that depends on power
- ☐ Stock flashlights, batteries & NOAA radio
- ☐ Set aside food, water & first-aid supplies
- ☐ Review generator safety; run outdoors only
- ☐ Charge battery banks; write down key numbers

8 ROTATE STORED FOOD

- ☐ Pull jars forward; check seals & labels
- ☐ Map the chest freezer inventory
- ☐ Check root storage weekly; cull spoilage
- ☐ Keep storage cool, dark & separated

9 FENCES, GATES & PATHS

- ☐ Clear daily paths of tripping hazards
- ☐ Repair weak fences; mark low sections for snow
- ☐ Make sure gates swing freely
- ☐ Check roofs & overhanging limbs