

CHECKLIST FOR STARTING A HOMESTEAD

1. Work on reducing your debt completely.
2. Save as much money as you can for equipment that you'll need.
3. Start cooking from scratch and eliminate processed food.
4. Start growing food on a small scale i.e. container gardening. A salad bowl garden or sprouts are also easy beginner projects.
5. Learn everything you can about food preservation, i.e. freezing, water-bath and pressure canning.
6. Learn about herbs and natural healing. Take guided nature walks at parks to learn how to identify herbs and edible perennials.
7. Practice making bread.
8. Schedule a field trip to Lehman's, the non-electric store or look at their website. Study how to live without electricity. Live "low grid" and start using a clothesline.
9. Visit U-Pick farms and farmer's markets, talk to growers and ask questions. Always buy something and take it home to preserve.
10. Learn how to make jam.
11. Start composting.
12. Learn about fabric arts and start making things i.e. sewing, knitting, quilting, crocheting, etc. Homesteaders need to know how to mend clothing, make blankets, etc.
13. Make your own personal care items i.e. deodorant, soap, lotions, toothpaste, etc.
14. Get backyard chickens if your city allows. If you're not permitted, read books about chickens and look for opportunities to help a chicken owner with chores, so you can ask questions.
15. Begin to think about skills or products that you can sell from your homestead, to offset your costs.
16. Read every homesteading/sustainability book you can get your hands on, to prepare and educate yourself about how to be a homesteader!! Good luck!