



# PLANNING A HOMESTEAD

## Setting Homesteading Goals

**How to Use this Planning Guide:** You can simply print this guide and use it as is, copy your goals into a notebook, or set up a word document or excel spreadsheet.

### **Step 1: Create a Dream list**

Before you get into the reality of your homestead, start by setting out your hopes and dreams. What have you always dreamed about? Do you want goats? Do you hope to install solar energy? Do you want a large garden with food you can preserve?

Don't get too caught up in the reality/practicality at this point as you will have a chance to come back to this later. If you've always wanted goats, but live in an apartment, you should put 'goats' on this list even though it isn't practical!

### **Gardening Dream List**

<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
---



**Other Homesteading Dream List (Sustainability, etc)**

<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
---

**Step 2: Set a Long Term Vision**

Using your dream list above, describe what success looks like to you.

**Describe Your Dream Homestead in 10 Years**

<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
---

**What are your biggest obstacles to achieving your 10 year goals? (land, money, lifestyle, family support, etc)**

---

---

---

---

**Describe Your Dream Homestead in 5 Years**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Describe Your Dream Homestead in 1 Year**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Step 3: Assess What is Working (Skip this step if you are brand new to homesteading, or only fill out the sections that make sense for you)**

It's important to assess what is working well and what isn't working when you start setting new goals and planning a homestead. This will look different for each person since one person may meet their goals when they have an herb garden, while another person won't see this as success until they are completely self-sufficient.

You will also want to consider why you haven't met your goals. This can be for many reasons, but you want to start to identify these obstacles. For example:

- If one of your goals is to have a fruit orchard, but you just planted your fruit trees last year, you just need more time to meet your goals.
- If one of your goals is to have chickens, but you live in an apartment, then you will need more land to meet your goals.
- Perhaps you have 3 chickens but you want to have enough eggs to feed your family all year. You may need a new coop and need to select the right chicken breeds to get you more eggs.

*You may need more space for some of these items below so use a notebook or back of a piece of paper if needed.*

Success: List 5 things that are working well on your homestead? (our bees lasted through the winter, or I learned how to can)

---

---

---

---

---

Challenges: What are 5 things that are not working well (my goats keep getting out or I can't keep up with the weeds, I need more time)

---

---

---

---

---

Priorities: Using your dream list and your current situation, list your 5 biggest priorities for your homestead in the next year that will continue to move you towards your backyard farming goals.

---

---

---

---

---

**Step 4: This step gets into the heart of homestead planning and you can start to prioritize your goals.**

Start by listing your goals using the dreams from step 1 in the different categories below based on when you hope to achieve your goals. Now is the time to start thinking logically about what is practical, and when you hope to achieve your goals. Exactly how you do this may be different based on the obstacles you've identified. For example, if you won't be able to achieve many of your goals until you purchase land, you will need to adjust your timeline for when you can achieve your goals.

Try to fill out the tables below to the best of your ability. It may be helpful to go back to your dream list from step 1 and make notes next to each item about the different obstacles before you fill out the table below.

It's important to note that not everything from step 1 needs to go below AND just because you aren't setting the goal now, it doesn't mean you can't add it in later.

To set good goals make sure they are achievable, measurable and specific, but also remember these are your goals. It might be best to set a 1 year goal that you will have 5 chickens in a newly built coop, but you can also say that you will add some chickens to your homestead. Do what works for you.

In the action items column, list the steps you will need to achieve your goals. If you are planning to start raising chickens next year, you may list action items like: order chicks, build a coop, purchase feed.

If you need more space, print out multiple sheets.

Year 1

<b>Goals</b>	<b>Obstacles</b>	<b>Action Items</b>

Year 2

<b>Goals</b>	<b>Obstacles</b>	<b>Action Items</b>



Year 3-5

<b>Goals</b>	<b>Obstacles</b>	<b>Action Items</b>

Year 5-10

<b>Goals</b>	<b>Obstacles</b>	<b>Action Items</b>

## Step 5: Identify the Obstacles

Look through the tables and goals created in Step 4. Take a hard look at the obstacles you need to overcome to meet your goals and decide for yourself if these goals are worth the obstacle. Consider other parts of your life that may be impacted if you put your effort into overcoming these obstacles.

This is your chance to think holistically and purposefully about how these goals fit into your life. Below are a few examples to consider.

- If your goal is to raise goats, but your obstacle is not having enough land, are you willing to move? If the answer is no, it might mean that raising goats is not going to work for you at the moment and you can move on to other dreams.
- If your goal is to grow a large garden that produces enough food to can and preserve and your obstacle in having enough time, are there ways you can make more time if your schedule? If not, can you hire someone to help? Or perhaps you should scale your garden back to a smaller space.
- Perhaps your goal is to raise bees, and your obstacle is not having the funds to purchase hives, can you set aside some money each month, ask for hives for a gift, or do you want to prioritize your money elsewhere.

Revisit your goals list and cross out any goal that you decide isn't worth overcoming the obstacle in order to achieve. Then, list out your obstacles below and come up with a plan to overcome these obstacles. I've listed one example to get you started

*Not enough time to weed garden - set aside 15 minutes each morning to weed*

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Step 6: Create a 1 year plan for achieving your goals.**

Once you have a set of short and long term goals, some action items, and you've identified your obstacles, it's time to create a plan for the next year to achieve your goals. You can do this directly in a calendar or planner, or use the table below. Take your goals for year 1 and start plugging your action items into a calendar. Remember that you can turn your obstacles into action items as well.

January

February

March

--

April

--

May

--

June

--

July

--

August

--

September

November

December

***You are off to a great start! Now it's time to put these goals into action! Visit the Backyard Farming Connection for more information on Backyard Farming and start making your dreams a reality!***