

Autumn Homestead Checklist



Garden Maintenance

- ☐ **Harvest Remaining Crops:** Pick late-season vegetables like pumpkins, squash, potatoes, and carrots before the first frost.
- ☐ **Plant Cover Crops:** Sow cover crops like clover, rye, or winter wheat to protect the soil and add nutrients over winter.
- ☐ **Clean Up Garden Beds:** Remove dead plants and debris from garden beds to prevent disease and pests. Compost healthy plant material.
- ☐ **Mulch Garden Beds:** Apply a thick layer of mulch to insulate the soil and protect plant roots.
- ☐ **Start Fall Crops:** Plant cool-weather crops like kale, spinach, and garlic that can survive the autumn chill.

Orchard and Perennial Care

- ☐ **Harvest Fall Fruits:** Pick apples, pears, and late-season berries.
- ☐ **Prune Trees and Shrubs:** Light pruning of trees and bushes after fruiting encourages growth next season. Focus on removing dead or diseased branches.
- ☐ **Mulch Perennials:** Add mulch around fruit trees, berry bushes, and perennial herbs to protect them from frost.
- ☐ **Transplant Perennials:** Move or divide perennials like rhubarb or asparagus to new locations before winter sets in.

Livestock Care

- ☐ **Prepare Shelters for Cold Weather:** Ensure barns, coops, and animal shelters are insulated and ready for cooler temperatures.
- ☐ **Stockpile Feed and Bedding:** Begin stockpiling hay, grain, and extra bedding to ensure your animals are well-fed and warm through winter.
- ☐ **Check Water Supply:** Ensure waterers and troughs are freeze-proof or have heating elements to prevent freezing.
- ☐ **Prepare for Breeding Season:** Autumn is often the breeding season for livestock, so ensure animals are in good health and breeding areas are ready.

Property and Equipment Maintenance

- ☐ **Store Garden Tools:** Clean, sharpen, and oil all garden tools before storing them for winter.
- ☐ **Check Fencing:** Inspect fences and gates to make sure they are secure and in good repair before the harsh winter conditions.
- ☐ **Drain Irrigation Systems:** Drain and store hoses, and turn off irrigation systems to prevent freezing.
- ☐ **Prepare Machinery:** Perform maintenance on tractors, mowers, and other machinery to store them for the winter. Drain fuel from equipment that won't be used.

Home Maintenance

- ☐ **Check Heating Systems:** Inspect and service your heating systems, including furnaces, wood stoves, and chimneys. Make sure they are clean and safe for winter use.
- ☐ **Seal Drafts:** Check windows, doors, and attics for drafts, and seal any gaps to keep the home warm and energy-efficient.
- ☐ **Inspect the Roof:** Ensure the roof is in good condition to handle winter snow. Repair any leaks or damage.
- ☐ **Clean Gutters:** Remove leaves and debris from gutters to prevent clogging and water damage during rain and snow.

Compost and Soil Health

- ☐ **Turn and Cover Compost:** Keep turning your compost pile through the fall and consider covering it to prevent it from getting too wet during heavy autumn rains.
- ☐ **Add Leaves to Compost:** Collect fallen leaves and add them to your compost or use them as mulch in your garden beds.

Food Preservation

- ☐ **Can and Preserve Harvests:** Can, freeze, or dehydrate the remaining harvests like apples, tomatoes, and squash for winter consumption.
- ☐ **Make Sauces, Jams, and Jellies:** Use up any extra fruit or vegetables by making preserves, sauces, and jellies for long-term storage.
- ☐ **Store Root Vegetables:** Store root vegetables like potatoes, carrots, and beets in a cool, dry, and dark place to last through winter.

Wildlife and Pest Management

- ☐ **Secure Stored Feed:** Store animal feed and grains in rodent-proof containers to prevent pests from raiding your supplies.
- ☐ **Protect Against Wildlife:** Install barriers or fencing to prevent deer, rabbits, and other wildlife from damaging your crops or stored food supplies.



FARMSTEAD LIFE

gardening | natural solutions | animal care | food