

Animal Husbandry 101



Who is this talk for?

- Beginner Homesteaders
- Those that are thinking about starting with animals

You should stay if you want to know...

- Why you should raise animals!
- What are the best animals for the beginner's homestead?
- How can animals help the homestead?
- How to prepare for owning animals!
- We will share our successes and failures; the good, the bad, and the cuddly!

(Ask your neighbor)

“What was the best animal you
ever owned?”

Be sure to write down your questions
to ask at the end of the presentation!

Why Raise Animals?

- Enjoyment!
- Family experience - children
- Manure
- Land management
- Eggs, milk, etc.
- Wool, etc.
- Ticks / pest reduction
- Regenerative agriculture
- Life / spiritual lessons
- Facts of life discussions...



Another Question:

Was there manure in the garden of Eden?

How Can Animals Help the Homestead?

- Compost
- Worms / Vermiculture
- Farmers market
- Products produced on the homestead
- With neighbors, don't start with a discussion on the Mark of the Beast! Start with a jar of wild blackberry jam..., or a dozen eggs...



How to Prepare for owning Animals?

- Fencing / Enclosure
- Shelter
- Purebred vs. mutts
- The right animal for the terrain
- The right animal for the job
- Water
- Feed



What are the best animals for the Beginners Homestead?

We haven't experienced every animal but from what we've seen:

- Goats
 - Chickens
 - Guineas
 - Dogs
 - Cats
 - Geese
 - Ducks
 - Worms
 - Rabbits
 - Sheep
- Female animals are generally far more desirable on a farm than males



Things to Consider

Chickens:

- Roosters can crow at any time of day or night
- Roosters will fight
- Chickens need shelter/somewhere to roost & lay
- You'll deal with bumblefoot, mites, and other things
- Chicken Math...
- Your chickens multiply on their own if you let them...
- Chicks - Hatching your own vs. letting the mommas sit on the eggs
- Eggs (Sell or use)
- Feeding scraps and best kind of feed
- Free-ranging/roaming vs. penned
- They fly and will get out of a fence if not secured correctly
- Aged chicken manure can be used in the garden



Ducks and Geese

- Water source - important!
- Do well on grass
- Different feed than chickens (ducklings / goslings: 20% protein, adult: 14-17%)
- Hatching ducklings / goslings
- Egg production
- Most don't fly well



Guineas

- Great Guard birds
- Tough birds when adults
- Delicate when they're chicks
- Super loud!



Goats

- Need Copper
- Fencing!!! No stranded wire!
- Deworming goats... the different ways to go (natural vs. pharmaceuticals)
- Signs that your goats need deworming...
- Clearing land
- Our goat story
- Goat milk can be used for a variety of things
- Fresh-ish manure can be used in the garden



Sheep

- Some need shearing and some don't
- Generally don't need copper
- Sheep milk can also be used for a variety of things
- Aged sheep manure can be used in the garden
- We haven't had a whole lot of experience with sheep ourselves, but we want to...



Dogs And Cats

- Different breeds of dogs for the job...
- A good barn cat is necessary on the homestead



God created this planet as one large cycle and we are encouraging people to consider having animals on the homestead to complete that cycle.

Go into it with your eyes wide open!

Make the best choices for your homestead. Every situation is different.

Animals do cost money.

Animals do bring heartbreak at times...

They also bring a lot of joy and can really make your homestead a better place! Be smart about the animals you choose to bring onto your homestead.

Conclusion:



QUESTIONS ?