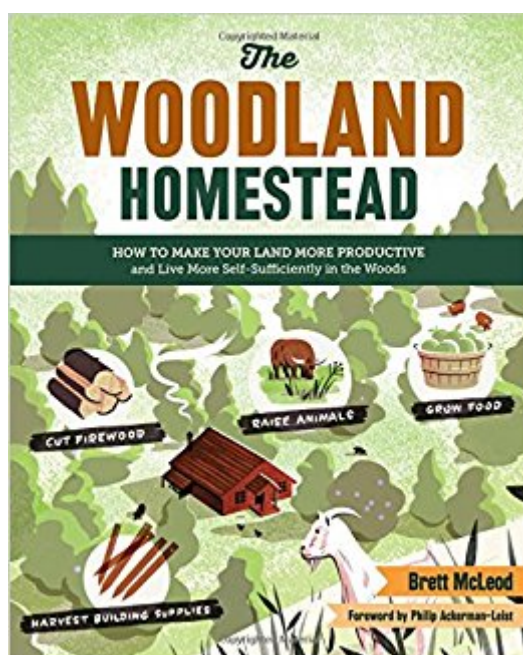


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# The Woodland Homestead: How To Make Your Land More Productive And Live More Self-Sufficiently In The Woods



## Synopsis

Put your wooded land to work! This comprehensive manual shows you how to use your woodlands to produce everything from wine and mushrooms to firewood and livestock feed. You'll learn how to take stock of your woods; use axes, bow saws, chainsaws, and other key tools; create pasture and silvopasture for livestock; prune and coppice trees to make fuel, fodder, and furniture; build living fencing and shelters for animals; grow fruit trees and berries in a woodland orchard; make syrup from birch, walnut, or boxelder trees; and much more. Whether your property is entirely or only partly wooded, this is the guide you need to make the best use of it.

## Book Information

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Sustainable Agriculture

## Customer Reviews

“When you start reading *The Woodland Homestead*, you'll learn how to think about your woodland not only as an ecosystem but also as an “ecology of possibilities” from the foreword by Philip Ackerman-Leist “A friendly and informative book about a subject that intimidates many folks new to homesteading. McLeod makes a walk in the woods a whole new world.” Jenna Woginrich, author of *One-Woman Farm*, *Barnheart*, and *Chick Days*

A wooded property -- even just a small one -- is full of possibilities for sustainable use. Whether your goal is to grow food, harvest wood, or support livestock, forester and homesteader Brett McLeod has the knowledge, tools, and techniques you need to get the most out of your land. You'll learn how to take stock of the forest makeup, use different axes and saws, prune and coppice trees,

grow fruit and berries, build living fences, and much more. Along the way, you'll read the stories of other homesteaders who, through innovation and resourcefulness, have realized their dreams of a bountiful woodland home.

I found this when looking for other books in the Backyard Homestead series also published by Storey Publishing. It was intriguing to me because the land my Husband and I plan to build our Homestead on is heavily wooded and we were debating whether or not to clear cut a significant portion of the land- yet here was a book offering us an alternative. So at first I picked it up first for Kindle, but then decided to get it in Paperback form once I saw the information in it. This book really does take you through the basics from beginning- right up to and including information on how to perform your own Land Surveys to determine what's in your woodland and how you can best utilize it. It also has an incredible section on various tools and even the techniques of using them for various needs. Perhaps what I love most about this section is that it even tells you the appropriate way to fell a tree- including a handy illustration showing you where your escape routes are compared to the potential danger zones or "felling area" (the area the tree could fall in if something goes wrong with the cuts the author illustrates). In addition to showing you how to evaluate, get started, and build a farmstead in your woodland, it also gives you a host of ideas for what to do with your trees. These suggestions include everything from making furniture, to charcoal, how to cut and season firewood, how to tap trees for Syrup, basket weaving with barkstrap, and so on. All in all, there is an incredible host of information here... And while my Husband and I have still decided to clear cut some of our land for pasture, we've definitely opted to keep more woodland than initially decided because of this book and I look forward to putting the information here into practice.

I received this book at the start of the weekend and had it finished within a few hours. It's a fast read and I was able to make it through 95% of the book within 3 "nap time" periods with ease. Overall I think it's a great book. There was roughly 5-7% that I thumbed through as it didn't offer me much use at the moment, or interest for that matter. We are currently in the 'burbs' still adjusting to life in a new region of the country. Once established, we are looking to begin rural homesteading within the next 15-36 months. Because of this, while some sections will prove useful in time, right now, it's lost on me. Really, it was mostly chapter 2 that I didn't read in depth. A few paragraphs here and there, but that's it. In this chapter it talks about tools and techniques needed and used on a woodland homestead, building your home from scratch from cord wood, building your own tools, using portable saw mills, etc. The remaining chapters gave me some much needed food for thought. Until

reading this book, I have been unable to find sufficient resources that detail how to establish a homestead in the woods. Everything from raising animals, beekeeping, orchards, gardens, etc! I have been trying to find a location that offered enough woods yet enough cleared but has untainted soil and ground water from surrounding industry and ag. Finding this book gave me new things to consider and has opened my eyes to the possibility of "taking to the woods", successfully. In our new home region, woodland lots are available often and usually better priced than semi-cleared lots. If I hadn't read this book, I would continue to overlook the benefits of woodland homesteads. You will find information in here on how to "prune" and harvest firewood from living trees to allow regeneration from existing root stock. I had no idea that could be done! How to introduce livestock to weeds and bramble on your land and get them to begin to prefer these forms of fodder over traditional hay/feed options; allowing up to 25-30% reduction in purchased feed. Again, that's because most in woodland settings wouldn't have the cleared space to turn animals out onto traditional pastures. It gives information about breeds of various animals from chickens, turkey, sheep, cattle, etc that you can consider for a woodland homestead- how they adapt to the climate, fodder, foraging ability, etc. It gives instruction on how to clear a section to literally have an orchard in the middle of the woods. How to integrate vegetables and fruiting bushes into the orchard, and basic orcharding advice. You could take this same advice and use it for a large veggie patch if you were not so interested in orcharding. The author is a fan of community and the community as a "resource". He talks about basic info on how to get neighbors and the community to help you and visa versa for free or bartering. This is something other homesteading books cover as well, but he shows how he did it with orcharding, etc. You'll get handy advice about how to use pigs to remove stumps, how to use all of your animals as a tiller and weed management system, How to use horses and oxen to pull the heavy loads, building the tools to pull the loads, how to build/graft living fences, grafting trees, how to grow in old stumps, look at trees and know if it's disease or woodpecker damage, survey your trees that would pass the grade for lumber, firewood, as well as furniture-grade wood, sugaring, etc. You'll even get a section about basket weaving with some types of "wood" found in some regions of the country (His region- Upstate NY). Although I'm now in the Deep South, I found so many useful tips, techniques, and factoids to help when considering which property we will buy. It was a fast read, knowledgeable read, and in depth enough to get you started in the right direction. There are some things that I'll investigate further but it is nice having strong basics in once place at my fingertips!

Love it. It has given us some idea's on more practical uses of our 17ac woodlot. Some items he

goes into some details on. But usually only a little. If you can't think for yourself and need detailed instructions this would not be for you. However if you can run with an "idea" and make it work, then great information. As another reviewer had said. I wish I had started with this book. I've spent plenty of money on other books that were not worth it. HTH.

This was a fascinating read for a future homesteader like myself. I've been really studying and researching for the past year and a half, and this book opened up a whole different world of possibilities that I had never considered or even come across before! I burned through the book in a few hours because it was so engrossing. Granted, I know little if anything about rural/woodland living, so the material was all very new. I learned a considerable amount about forestry in general, and got some great new ideas for integrating livestock, growing firewood, living fences, and how to incorporate multi-use areas into my future homestead plans. Overall, very inspiring and informative, great illustrations, and surprisingly detailed instructions about a range of different topics. This book is going to be a great asset to my homesteading library, and I can't wait to make my homestead dreams a reality!

I LOVE this book! I just got done reading threw it and truly it's a must have for any homesteader with a mostly wood lot. I used to think all our woods were inconvenient or we would need to clear a ton, but not after this book. It gave me so many ideas of utilizing our woods instead.

Great book after having just purchased 40 woodland acres. Many great ideas and overview of how to get started with each. I'd recommend this book to any woodland owner to get you started down the right path and mindset. I am looking forward to tackling many of the projects in the book and expanding on the material covered. Thanks to the author for compiling such a volume.

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