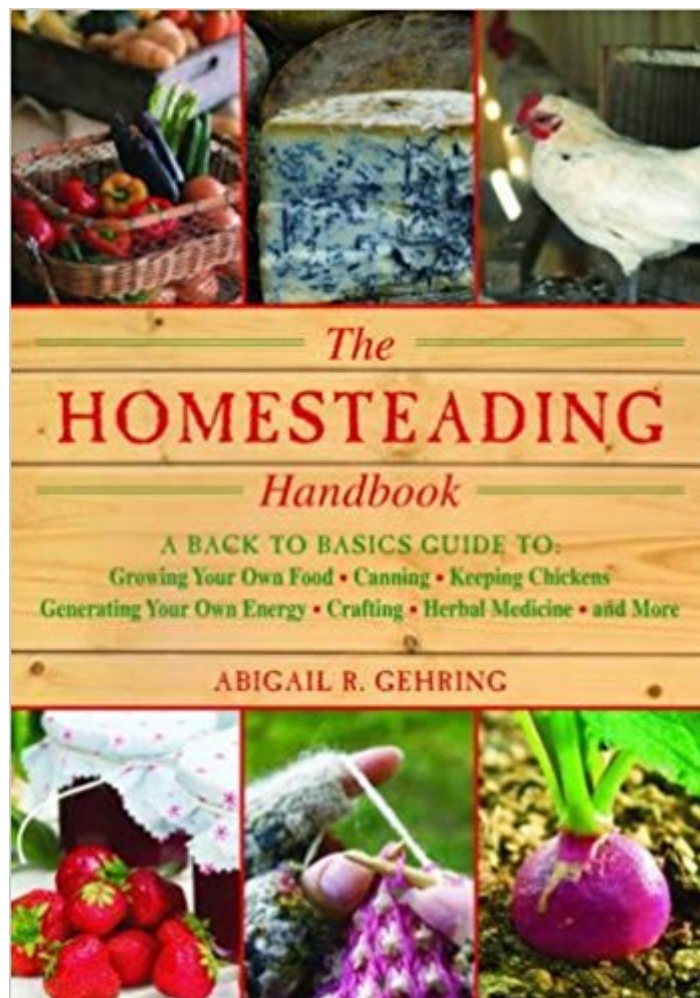




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The Homesteading Handbook: A Back To Basics Guide To Growing Your Own Food, Canning, Keeping Chickens, Generating Your Own Energy, Crafting, Herbal Medicine, And More (The Handbook Series)





Synopsis

With the rapid depletion of our planet's natural resources, we would all like to live a more self-sufficient lifestyle. But in the midst of an economic crisis, it's just as important to save money as it is to go green. As Gehring shows in this thorough but concise guide, being kind to Mother Earth can also mean being kind to your bank account! It doesn't matter where your homestead is located—farm, suburb, or even city. Wherever you live, *The Homesteading Handbook* can help you:

- Plan, plant, and harvest your own organic home garden.
- Enjoy fruits and vegetables year-round by canning, drying, and freezing.
- Build alternate energy devices by hand, such as solar panels or geothermal heat pumps.
- Differentiate between an edible puffball mushroom and a poisonous amanita.
- Prepare butternut squash soup using ingredients from your own garden.
- Conserve water by making a rain barrel or installing an irrigation system.
- Have fun and save cash by handcrafting items such as soap, potpourri, and paper.

Experience the satisfaction that comes with self-sufficiency, as well as the assurance that you have done your part to help keep our planet green. *The Homesteading Handbook* is your roadmap to living in harmony with the land.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Abigail R. Gehring is the editor of *Back to Basics*, *Homesteading*, and *Self-Sufficiency*, and author

of Odd Jobs and Dangerous Jobs. She's practiced living self-sufficiently since her childhood in Vermont, being home-schooled, home-canning jams and jellies, and enjoying natural crafts. She lives in New York City and Windham, Vermont.

I received this book as a gift, after having heard great things about it. After owning it for a few months, I've come to the conclusion that this is an excellent example of when not to buy a book based on online reviews alone. (ironic that I should be writing that in just such a review, isn't it?) The summary is right there in my title, "Lots of information, TERRIBLE editing". there are typos on nearly half the pages, several captions are switched, the insets refer to pictures as being below when they're above and vice versa, and some images were clearly simply cut from websites and scaled out of proportion without any regard to their quality. (the entire alternative energy section springs to mind) If you have any experience with canning whatsoever, then before you buy this book you should know that a disproportionate percentage of the book is devoted to canning your food. While some topics get a single page worth of text, canning alone apparently warrants forty seven. If for some reason you already own this book and are reading this, please pay attention when reading the edible poisonous mushroom section. Although its caption is accurate, the VERY POISONOUS wild amanita mushroom is featured in a picture without its own heading. And finally, a note to Ms. Gehring: My apologies if the above comes off as harsh. It is readily apparent that a lot of work went into gathering the information contained in your book, but it's just as apparent that little to no work went into the editing process. I realize that things like typefaces are important. But text that relates accurately to the illustration, and illustrations that are legible are just as important, if not more so. As this is the first printing, I hope my criticism can be considered constructive, and your next edition will be greatly improved. Sincerely, A Homesteader

I love the information in this book, However the print is way too small. That makes it difficult to read. The canning times and pressures I'm not sure of, it is not listed that they are the approved ones from the FDA to avoid botulism. Over all a lot of useful information to have on hand.

I am buying this for my library at work too. Lots of good information for how to do most anything on any size homestead you have. It truly is a back to basics book.

This book isn't exhaustive in subjects, and it isn't going to get you through any end-of-the-world scenario, but for someone who is collecting a few books on self-sufficiency, it covers a lot of

subjects: some lightly, some more in-depth. I do recommend people interesting in homesteading get this as a "basics" book, and from here, you can decide to buy other books that you might need to give you much more detail about one subject. For example, there's a short section on how to build a..chicken coop or animal shed (brain fog at the moment,) and if you know carpentry, it's all you need. If you're not a carpenter but clever, you could use it as a guide to build something suitable. If you can barely tell one end of a nail from the other, you'll need a book on basic carpentry. Oh, and it has quite a good section on canning, which I consider very important in homesteading.

This is a great resource in your homesteading collection. I love that there are a variety of homesteading topics in one area. I will say that you will need other resources to supplement this book as this is not exhaustive. But, if you are looking for a great general reference, this is a great place to start! I recommend this book for all beginners who want to learn the different aspects of homesteading without spending a lot of money on books from each different area of homesteading.

This handbook is best suited for people who are new to the idea of self-sustainability and homesteading. The book has quite an extensive section on canning and preserving food which made me wish the author had given other areas such attention, but overall this is an effective guide to the first time homesteader. There are plenty of illustrations, diagrams, and full-colour photographs which bring a little life to the text. My copy had a few errors such as incorrectly labelling goat breed photos, but I purchased a discounted book and therefore errors might not have made it to more recent printings.

There are not too many times I give 5 star ratings to anything but I have to admit that this is a must 5 star!!!! The author put so much info and time into this book that it has become one of my go to bibles that I always review. If you are interested in Homesteading, farming, planting, critters or anything with just learning on how to grow your own food or animals or any type of rural living, this book is a must have. Again, just chocked with information, and you can tell that it was well written. there are tons of tips, pictures and info that will show you how to do things that you had no idea about. Again a must have!!!!

I just purchased this book and haven't had time to go through it all...but being a small dairy goat/poultry farmer, I decided to check out the 'Backyard Farm' section first. It became shockingly apparent that this person has little to NO first hand knowledge in this area. Facts were not facts at

all!! The picture of the lamancha goat described as having no external ears (which isn't actually true anyways) VERY clearly has long white ears in the included picture. Not even close to a lamancha. Also...please educate me on what mathre goat weighs 20 lbs!? I used to raise pygmies and know MANY breeders of nigerian dwarfs and have never heard of one. Pygmies are not a dairy breed either...fyi. As for the poultry section....that's a lovely goose in the duck section...and I had never even heard of the Aylesbury duck....with good reason! It is NOT a common breed at all! There is 1 pure flock in the UK and it is a critically endangered species in the US. I could truly go on and on but I believe you get the picture. Please do not buy this with great expectation or hopes it will guide you on your homesteading journey.

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