

Fall Homestead Checklist

Everything between the last tomato and the first hard freeze. Work backward from your first-frost date.

My first-frost date: _____

Year: _____

Livestock & coop — before first frost

- ☐ Deep-clean the coop and lay fresh bedding (ventilate, don't seal)
- ☐ Set up winter water — heated base or insulated waterer
- ☐ Stock hay and feed before prices climb (run the hay calculator; buy a 10% cushion)
- ☐ Hooves trimmed, FAMACHA check, CDT boosters — before breeding
- ☐ Plan breeding pairings and note due dates
- ☐ Decide who gets processed before the winter feed bill starts
- ☐ Expect the molt and the egg drop — decide now whether you'll add light
- ☐ Walk the fence line; check latches — fall predators are hungry ones

Garden — frost minus 2–4 weeks

- ☐ Harvest everything tender before first frost — and write down the yields
- ☐ Sow the last fall crops while there's still a window
- ☐ Plant garlic and shallots (October for most of the country)
- ☐ Pull spent plants; compost the healthy ones, bin the diseased
- ☐ Cover crop or mulch every bare bed
- ☐ Save seed: label it, dry it, store it cool
- ☐ Soil test now, so you can amend over winter
- ☐ Drain hoses and drip lines; bring in the tender tools

Pantry & preservation

- ☐ Finish canning — log every batch with a best-by
- ☐ Inventory the pantry and the freezer; eat oldest first
- ☐ Cure and store the keepers (onions, squash, potatoes) and set a date to check them
- ☐ Restock staples and rotate the shelf before winter roads

Equipment & infrastructure — before the first hard freeze

- ☐ Drain and store pumps, hoses, and anything that holds water
- ☐ Service the generator; run it under load once
- ☐ Inspect heat tape, heat lamps and every extension cord — replace anything frayed
- ☐ Stock firewood or propane; test the smoke and CO alarms
- ☐ Clear gutters, check roofs and fence posts, mark the driveway edges
- ☐ Tractor and vehicles: winter fluids, tire pressure, battery
- ☐ Sharpen and oil the hand tools before they go on the wall

Money & records

- ☐ Tally the season — what did the garden, the flock, the pig actually cost?
- ☐ Get the receipts in one place now, not in March
- ☐ Budget the winter feed bill so February isn't a surprise

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