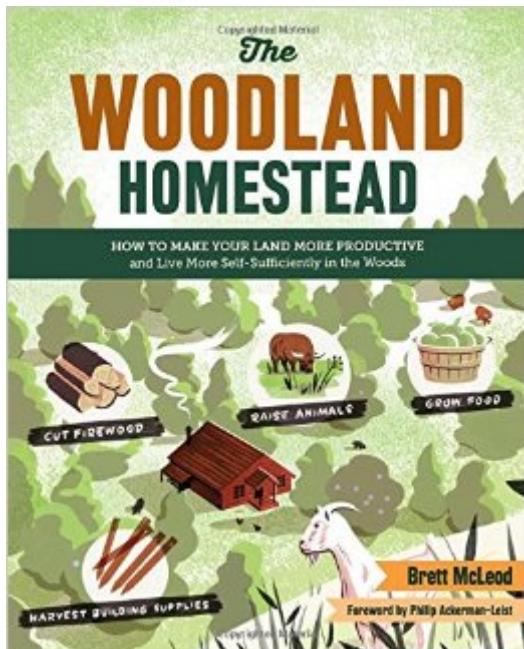


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# The Woodland Homestead: How To Make Your Land More Productive And Live More Self-Sufficiently In The Woods



## **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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## **Customer Reviews**

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!

This is an easy and fast book to read even though the topics it covers are often complex. I have

been a homesteader in Vermont for over 40 years and I still learned new things like how to figure the height of a tree so that I can decide if it will fall on my house or other objects before cutting it down. I wish I had had this a few times in the past! Great tips on splitting wood with nice explanations about different woods, their uses and characteristics. Great information on the care and use of tools including sharpening and safety. I will be giving this book to my nephew who has a small wood lot in the Berkshires. I do not eat or keep animals due to my plant based diet, but even without those chapters I found the book worth having for all its other uses. It is also nicely illustrated and environmentally sensitive. Read it even if you are not a homesteader or forester as it will make you more aware and able to live more simply without having to rely on the marketplace or on others.

Well written and wonderfully illustrated. So many homesteading books have the same basic information- this book really feels really fresh and offers a new look at homesteading; it's full of great tips, homemade contraptions, and short case studies. It made me think differently about how I could use integrate our patch of woods on our small homestead to grow food and forage. Awesome read.

**The Woodland Homestead, How to Make Your Land More Productive and Live More Self-Sufficiently in the Woods, Brett McLeod**  
Genre: Outdoors & Nature, Self-Help  
Review from Jeannie Zelos book reviews I was brought up in a home where every bit of land was used, and if dad couldn't grow it then we rarely ate it...we lived in a council house with a largish garden and he had 2/3 acre of allotments. We had goats for milk (awful stuff! and the damn things are born to escape and eat what they shouldn't), chickens for eggs and meat, rabbits to sell for meat (always made me cry as it was my job to look after them and I named them all "I still can't eat rabbit), turkeys reared for xmas, plus of course all home grown veg and fruit, the surplus of which was preserved for winter in bottles, jams, salted or frozen. I still love that idea of growing as much as possible. Now I've a home with four acres of land, much of which is woods and this book caught my eye. Sadly I'm disabled now and unable to put most of this into practice, but for anyone able bodied it's a real gem, full of practical advice on managing woodlands, unusual and practical ways to use wood offcuts, how to build shelters from an open stock one to a full cabin. I love the way he tells us about what trees to use for which purpose, and how to plant around them, how to make living fences. I've always loved cut and laid hedges, those where the trees are cut partway through and bent horizontal allowing new shoots to grow up and form a strong, impenetrable barrier. There's advice on fruit growing (I've lots of fruit trees and plants so that was useful), tree pruning and even foraging from

what grows naturally. For me its important to work with the land, to look at soil types and surrounding environment and plant to suit it. Trying to grow something which has very different needs to that which you can provide is going to fail and feel very demoralising. By taking the time to see what works on our own land naturally and follow suit will be much more successful. I loved his tale of cider making at age seven “ I was trying ( and naturally failing ) to make perfume from rose petals soaked in water for several days at the same age.... Brett utilises many ideas from the past which have gone out of fashion now, but are so good for both us and the environment, and I feel we need that voice to encourage continued use. There’s something special about old methods when they use what’s to hand, and have little adverse impact on the environment. We only have one world and leaving least impact on it and preserving what we can is really important to me. For anyone interested in self sufficiency, or at least part of it, and who has or aspires to have the land for it one day this book is perfect. Practical, easy to follow advice that will set the reader on the road to success. Stars: Five, practical advice for anyone wanting to learn more about self sufficiency. ARC provided by Netgalley and publisher

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