

WINTERIZING THE FARM

Garden

- Summer crops harvested and stored/processed.
- Fall crops are sown.
- Spent plants pulled and added to compost.
- Trellises removed and stored away.
- Hoses, irrigation equipment, and all watering apparatuses removed, drained, and stored.
- Fall amendments added and worked into the soil by method of choice.
- Garden soil covered and protected by mulching or cover crop.
- Cold-frames & mini hoop-houses brought out of storage to cover winter-hardy crops.

Homestead

- Close up summer entrances – bulkhead, etc.
- Re-install storm windows.
- Check heat source—have it serviced.
- Stop drafts—weather-strip & caulk around exterior doors & windows, openings for pipes, wires, vents & ducts.
- Clean heat registers, vents & duct-openings.
- Inspect chimney/flue—clean it.
- Shut off outdoor spigots.
- Pick up the yard—toys, bar-b-que, etc.
- Protect exposed pipes by insulating or wrapping with heat tape.
- Prepare winter-survival equipment; gather in one place, bin or bag, etc.

Apiary

- Mite tests performed & miticides applied if necessary.
- Brood nest is properly positioned in the bottom box.
- Colonies each have adequate pollen & honey stores for the winter.
- Extra summer equipment removed: honey supers, queen excluders, pollen-traps, etc.
- Entrance reducers in place.
- Mouse-checks and guards installed.
- Moisture absorption material applied above the inner cover.
- Candy-board or dry sugar applied if desired.
- Wrap hives according to local practices.
- Wind-break provided for hives.
- Top covers weighted down.
- Equipment stored—combs protected from winter-mice.

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Livestock

- Annual fall health examinations: trim hooves, fall shearing, administer vaccines/wormers, etc.
- Stop drafts in barns/livestock sheds.
- Maintain adequate ventilation in barns/sheds.
- Thorough fall cleanings of livestock housing.
- Make necessary repairs to barns and/or livestock sheds.
- Stock up on feed and bedding for all livestock.
- Service heaters & well-pumps.
- Air livestock blankets & examine to see if repair/replacements are needed.
- Stock-up barn's first-aid kit.
- Consider how to provide water to livestock all winter & prepare necessary equipment.
- Ensure heated-waterers are working properly.

Equipment

- Put antifreeze in tractor.
- Make sure the farm truck is equipped for winter: antifreeze, good tires, proper maintenance, etc.
- Pick up and put away any tools that are still out.
- Store mowers or other such equipment, making sure they are cleaned of dirt and debris.
- Clean all tools before storing.

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Winter Survival Equipment

- Flashlight(s)
- Emergency radio
- Batteries
- Enough food and water to last a minimum of 3 days, along with manual can opener.
- Emergency heat-source
- Blankets and/or sleeping bags
- Emergency cook-source (ie - camp-stove, etc.)