

Your Radical Homestead Dreaming Big in 2014



Whether you are dreaming about a future homestead, or working hard to make your current homestead thrive, it can be hard to take time to celebrate successes in the midst of our busy lives. This dream book is about stretching our ideas about homesteading, articulating a vision for your Radical Homestead, celebrating what you've accomplished this year, and moving you forward into your wildest dream future.

Before you begin: Create time and space to really dig into this exciting work. Mark off a chunk of time in your calendar, get out your favorite journal or write on the pages themselves. Play your favorite music or make your favorite hot drink. Take a few deep breaths and allow yourself to sink into the process, but don't worry too much about the product: It's perfectly okay to make a mess, draw pictures, arrows, mark up the page with your exclamation points!!! Be as creative, or as linear as you'd like. It's your chance to put your dreams into words!

First off, I want to define and embrace the word *RADICAL*. So often we think of radical as being extreme, but I prefer these definitions:

rad i cal

adjective \ 'ra-di-kəl\

: very new and different from what is traditional or ordinary
: very basic and important

Because these definitions are so inclusive, it's easy to claim the word radical for our very own. Let's celebrate the radical within us!

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How are you living radically right now? Write down at least five ways that you move beyond the traditional or ordinary, or honor the essence of what is basic and important in your life.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

{Radical Inspiration}

“What will our children do in the morning if they do not see us fly?” - Rumi

Next, let's talk about your homestead. Many people hear the word “Homestead” and automatically conjure up an image of 40 acres of pasture and forest with a farm pond, lots of animals, fruit trees, and huge gardens.

Here's the reality: Homesteads are rural, urban, and suburban. They are as small as a container garden on the balcony, or on large acreages. Homesteaders devote themselves to their craft full-time, part-time, or even very part-time.

Homesteading is both a state of mind, and a practice.

- It is creating networks of interdependence with friends, neighbors, and within your community, and balancing this with self-sufficiency and self-reliance.
- It is cultivating a hard-work ethic and a can-do attitude.
- It is taking a hard look at your current situation: employment, food sourcing, diet, finances, health, and coming up with creative ways to live more in harmony with the earth, and to your highest potential.
- It is dynamic, always urging you, the homesteader, to learn and grow, and to put new skills into practice.
- It is fun and challenging, satisfying and frustrating, routine and infinitely creative.

With this in mind, describe what your homestead looks and feels like RIGHT NOW.

How do you define your homestead? What size is it? How much time each week do you spend working on your homestead? What do you grow or raise? How do you interact/barter/trade with your community? Do you make money from your homestead, work off-site, a little bit of both? What skills do you put into practice regularly?

Your Radical Homestead

Dreaming Big in 2014

{Radical Inspiration}

The Red Wheelbarrow

So much depends upon
a red wheelbarrow
glazed with rain water
beside the white chickens
- *William Carlos Williams*

Now, conjure up, and write down your wildest dream vision of your Radical Homestead. Don't hold back! Describe it in great detail: What does it look like, feel like, sound like? Who lives there? What are your days like?

Here are some prompts of different categories to consider:

Home
Garden
Food
Cooking
Media Use
Animals
Native and Wild Edibles
Fruiting Trees
Water
Community
Interdependence
Nurturing your Dreams and Goals
Finances
Employment
Daily/Weekly Schedule
Health
Family Life
Seasonal Living

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It's so much fun to dream big, and yet at times it can feel a bit overwhelming. Let's take a break by celebrating the work that you have already done, and then we'll break your dream homestead down into manageable pieces!

What steps have you already taken this year towards your Radical Homestead vision?

This might include skills you have learned, connections you have made, or steps you have taken to simplify your life. No step is too small, and each deserves recognition.

Write down 5-10 accomplishments that you can celebrate, right now!

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Now it's time to take our Radical Homestead Dreams and turn them into Action.

Look at your Radical Homestead vision, and pick 2 or 3 areas that feel the most exciting and alive to you. What are they?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

{Radical Inspiration}

"What do you plan to do with your one wild and precious life?" – Mary Oliver

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What actions can you take this year to make each of these dreams happen? Get specific and write down 5 action steps that you can implement.

For instance, if “Buying Land” is part of your homestead vision, then some of your action steps might be:

1. Examine personal finances so we know what our budget is
2. Create a list of ideal property characteristics
3. Talk to friends that have purchased property, and interview them about their experience
4. Put the word out to friends, family, and other community connections that you are looking for land
5. Connect with a reputable realtor

First Area:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Second Area

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Third Area

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Taking action can be so exhilarating and satisfying. And, it is possible to get stalled or burned out without a support network to cheer us on when we get stuck.

What support do you need to make your vision a reality this year?

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This goes beyond just making a list. Whether your dream is to eat more local food, grow a garden for the first time, bring a milk cow into your life, or build new fencing, you may need support to make these dreams happen!

Support may look like plenty of sleep, a good diet, regular exercise, check-ins with a friend or your spouse, a formal course to learn something new, an accountability group, or anything else that keeps you moving forward.

For me, accountability is really important, so I like to be in touch with friends or online groups to help me keep my goals moving forward. I am also a part of a homestead blogging network, which keeps me connected to people who share my passion, and who provide resources and information that help me grow.

List five ways that you will build support into your New Year, so you can take action on your homestead dreams!

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

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**Anything else that you would like to create this year on your
Radical Homestead?
Write it down here!**

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{Radical Inspiration}

“Your life is a sacred journey. And it is about change, growth, discovery, movement, transformation, continuously expanding your vision of what is possible, stretching your soul, learning to see clearly and deeply, listening to your intuition, taking courageous challenges at every step along the way.

You are on the path...exactly where you are meant to be right now...and from here, you can only go forward, shaping your life story into a magnificent tale of triumph, of healing, of courage, of beauty, of wisdom, of power, of dignity, and of love.”

- Caroline Adams

Your Radical Homestead dream is completely unique to you. Yes, do learn from those that have more experience than you, but remember to honor your unique vision. No two homesteading dreams look alike!

Moving into your wildest dream Radical Homestead is a fluid process. Our dreams, visions, needs, and priorities change over time. Feel free to reexamine your vision in six months and celebrate all that you have accomplished thus far!

The [Homestead Honey website](http://www.homestead-honey.com) is full of resources, inspiration, and how-to's to help you move into your homestead vision. I share my family's successes and challenges as we create our radical homestead from scratch, from building a tiny house and growing an organic garden, to creating community networks, homeschooling our children, and living off-grid.

Be sure to also join the community on the [Homestead Honey Facebook Page](https://www.facebook.com/homesteadhoney) and share how your vision is turning into reality. I look forward to celebrating your Radical Homestead with you.

Dream Big!

Warmly,

Teri

<http://www.homestead-honey.com>