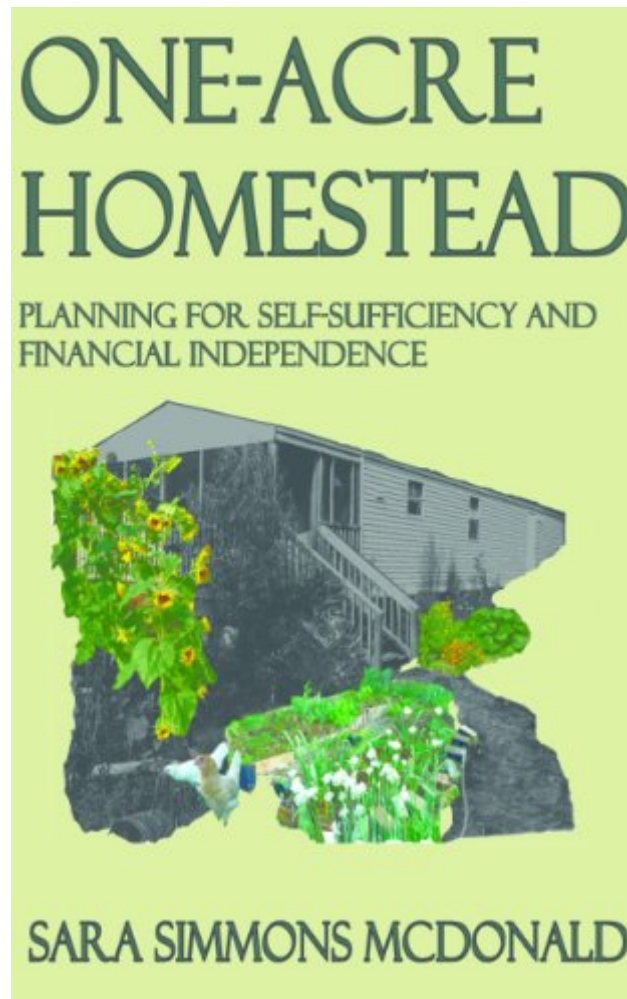


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One Acre Homestead: Planning For Self-sufficiency And Financial Independence



Synopsis

Sara McDonald embarked on her homesteading journey wondering "is self-sufficiency really possible on one acre of land?" In this book she recalls the experiences that inspired her to begin homesteading, and some of the successes and failures of her first 5 years. She then illustrates a long-term plan to achieve her goal of self-sufficiency. One-Acre Homestead features a simplified permaculture design for a one acre farm that produces the majority of the resident's food. This design is based on practical workable methods that the author uses on her homestead. The author explains the importance of creating zones that will be dedicated to different purposes in the garden, and encourages planning ahead with slow but steady progress in mind. Instead of investing in expensive livestock, she focuses on a few small animals, practices forest gardening and growing trees for biomass production in order to achieve a no-till, sustainable gardening system. She explains why her goal on the homestead isn't to provide 100% of everything a family uses in order to be self-sufficient. Instead, gardening zones are established so that production can be maximized to meet the majority of a family's food needs in a crisis year. Written in an informal style directed toward the reader, the author aims to encourage others to take steps toward self-sufficiency no matter where they are in their journey. Using her own experience over the past 5 years as a guide, she urges readers to begin working now toward their goal of self-sufficiency. She often refers to methods that have worked for her in the humid southeastern US and makes suggestions for readers in other climates to adapt these practices to their gardens. This book is broken into 3 parts I. The author's journey II. The basic design process with lots of photos and reasoning for each step of the plan III. Gaining financial independence

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is a very odd book. Almost the entire first half of this book is about the author's personal life story. Parts of this were interesting, but it got pretty tedious too - I didn't buy a *biography*, I bought a book on homesteading. I really didn't need her full psychological history and her detailed personal background. I didn't need to know about her mistakes in high school, her meandering travels, her mental health struggles, and her family background. It felt very self indulgent and it really got on my nerves after a while. [A couple of personal introductory pages would have been great, but not half the book...!] I put the book down in frustration many times thinking I'd just quit reading it, and then picked it back up because I thought surely there would be some useful info if I could just stick with it long enough. Then somewhere near the middle, there is a long rant-y discussion of economics and how our society works. I found it sort of interesting, but again - kind of weird and out of place, based on the title of the book and what I was expecting when I got it. If you make it to the half way point of this book, you will begin to find some information on homesteading. As other reviewers have noted, she doesn't go in depth on any subject. This is a broad introduction of sorts. Much of the information she includes is very specific to her climate and her personal situation. She also has some very strong opinions about homesteading and much of her advice conflicts with what you may find in other sources. I thought some of her ideas were interesting, but I got a little frustrated with the "my way is the right/only way to do this successfully" kind of attitude.

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