

September 25, 2013

Issue 2

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Ozark Homesteader



Quote of the Week:

"When you start with a necessary evil, and then over time that necessity passes away, what's left?" – Matthew Scully, *Dominion*

[Here is an interesting article about the Ozarks in Mother Earth News written in 1975.](#)

[Think your government is bad? This Egyptian was recently arrested for naming his donkey after a military official.](#)

[Want free firearms training videos? Get yours here completely free!](#)

Links available through the online version at:

www.ozarkhomesteader.com

Do you have a story you would like to share with other homesteaders? Tell it to us! We are looking for contributors, and story ideas.

Ozark Calendar of Events:

10/05 & 10/19 – Homesteaders Swap Meet in Harrison, AR

10/05 – Homesteaders Swap Meet in Clinton, AR

10/05 – 6th Annual Flying Jam in Marshall, AR

10/11 & 10/12 – Mountain Man Rendezvous in Leslie, AR

10/31 – Halloween

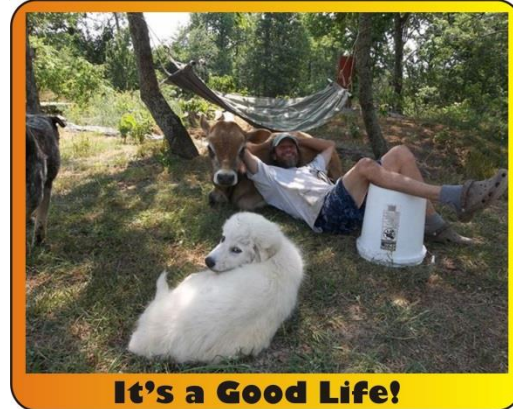
Sustainability – Sufficiency – Sanctuary – Personal Responsibility

Homestead Highlight: Rocky Hill Farm

Jerry and Hilda Scott of Rocky Hill Farm, located in Dennard, AR, have been homesteading for 3.5 years. The Scotts define homesteading as becoming self-sufficient. A desire to get away from genetically modified organisms (GMOs) moved them to homesteading.

The Scotts are currently raising miniature Jerseys, ducks, geese, peacocks, guineas, pheasant, homing pigeons, 5 breeds of chickens and several Great Pyrenees to protect them all.

Moles and parasites are the most annoying critters on Rocky Hill Farm. Watermelon is the favorite plant in the garden. When asked to name the one tool that he couldn't live without, Jerry replied: "The Iron Steed." Which, we were to find



It's a Good Life!

out, is what he calls his 4-wheeler.

Jerry says that homesteading "...has been one of the most rewarding things I've done. (It is) a lifestyle that's hard to beat." He also says that the most rewarding part of homesteading is in knowing that he "raised it or grew it."

What do they find most challenging about homesteading? "It's all a challenge but the lack of knowledge can be the most challenging – a special thanks to all those who have shared their experiences & information. We need all the help we can get."

Corn Mazes are in Season

It's corn maze season. We found these corn mazes in North West Arkansas:

[Farmland Adventures](#) offers wagon rides, a pumpkin patch and "flashlight nights."

[Ozark Corn Maze](#) advertises a Petting Zoo, Corn Cannon,

Cow Train, Hay Maze, Pony Rides, and Helicopter Rides.

We also saw a couple on our way to Harrison, but we couldn't find them online. If you try any, tell us about them!

Harrison Homesteaders Swap

We attended the Homesteader's Fall Festival and Swap Meet in Harrison this past weekend. Even though the District Fair and Rodeo were in town, there was still a good turnout.

We liked the set up and the informal atmosphere. We met many interesting people.

Jennifer really wanted some of the chickens and rabbits that were for sale. One man kept trying to sell her two roosters. He didn't say how much they were,

only that "the price is right." I didn't ask how much that was because we don't need two roosters.

We met a couple who told us that there is a Farmer's Market on the square (in Harrison) every Saturday and Tuesday. They said there are always lots of people there. We plan to try it out sometime.

Clinton Feed & Supply



225 South Street
Clinton, Arkansas 72031

501-745-8405

James Reed 501-253-1955

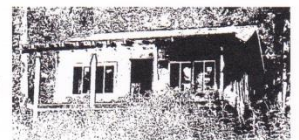


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The Gray Homestead

Leslie, AR



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Sustainability Simplicity Sufficiency Serenity

Picture of the Week



Fall has arrived! Here's a pic of the homestead from last fall. Send us your favorite fall pic.

Email your picture to ozarkhomesteader@gmail.com to submit it for Picture of the Week. No copyrighted pictures, please.

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Off Grid Living

This is the first of a series about our solution for powering an off grid cabin.

When most people find out that we live off-grid, usually they ask what we do for electricity. That is a simple question that has a complex series of answers – complex yet simple at the same time.

The simple answer is that we use batteries and an inverter. The more complex answer involves explaining how much electricity we use and how we use batteries to meet our electricity needs.

As for our electricity usage, the truth is that we don't use much electricity at all. We use LEDs for indoor lighting at night. We don't need indoor lighting during the day. We don't have a TV. Our fridge, when we use it, runs off of propane and a 12 volt source (the thermostat requires 12 volts – I have no idea why). I took the light bulb out of it to conserve power.

We do not have an air conditioner. We heat with wood. We cook with propane and/or wood. Our water comes from the creek – we do not have a well with a pump. Our water pressure is supplied by gravity, not a pump.

We do have a laptop, cell phones, and a car stereo

(which we use for entertainment). We spend most of our nightly free time reading and writing, both of which use very little electricity.

As you can see, we use very little electricity – it is our only practical solution. To produce enough electricity to live the way we did when we were on grid would cost a fortune. Our system has cost us about \$200. 2 years ago, I would not have dreamed how easy and rewarding it is to live this way.

In the next edition, I'll explain how we use batteries to power our cabin – and almost everything else, as well as how we keep the batteries charged. For some of our other off grid solutions, read my blog at www.thegrayhomestead.com.



Our power and entertainment system.

Poll

Are you on grid or off grid?

Let us know at
www.ozarkhomesteader.com

Media Review

In *Dominion*, Matthew Scully examines the treatment of animals by humans, and argues to end the cruelty from which they suffer.

To do so, Scully examines biblical scripture, laws, personal stories, and the beliefs of everyday people. This is not your average opinion piece – Scully provides many well documented sources when justifying his positions as well as the positions and beliefs of others. He cites specific studies and experiments which suggest to some (and convinces me) that some animals function differently than in a merely stimuli response behavior. He also conducted his own style of investigative reporting by meeting and interviewing subjects of interest.

If you endeavor to read this book, prepare to be shocked at the level of cruelty of which some of your fellow humans level upon animals every day. From whaling to pork production in factory farms, animals are not only killed for food, they are often tortured before the slaughter. Citing production practices on factory farms, Scully presents a bleak existence for those animals unfortunate enough to be raised there, as well as an unsustainable food production method as man's hunger for animal flesh continues to grow. He devotes almost an entire chapter of the book to first hand descriptions of modern factory farming methods of pork producers in the US. Scully, himself a vegetarian, urges consumers to buy

meat from small, humane farmers.

Although Scully's disdain for trophy hunting is unveiled and obvious, I do not feel that Scully was trying to demean or chastise the responsible hunter. He does question the necessity of the hunt, and therefore, necessarily, the motivation of the hunter. Scully argues that, in most cases, the need for the hunt is the hunter's, not the hunted.

Scully's call to action is for justice and mercy for the animals over which we have been – by whatever means – given dominion. He argues for an end to the mercilessness of factory farming, canned hunts, baiting (bear baiting in particular), African trophy hunting, trapping, and dove hunting are merciless

and easily ended by legislation. Scully asks for an end to canned hunting if nothing else.

This book is not an easy read. It is definitely not for anyone who prefers not to think. It deals with moral and ethical issues that once explored lead into a spiral of additional moral and ethical dilemmas. This is a must read for those of us who are responsible for the lives of animals.

