

## Helpful Information & Resources from Rancher John Carter

### MATTER OF FACT SURVIVAL SKILLS

Peace of mind in a turbulent world comes through confidence in being able to provide water, food, and shelter for you and your family. Although a seemingly daunting process, the important thing to take into consideration is that each of these three aspects of survival are not complicated and simply require a plan and action to achieve. Don't be a deer in the head lights, frozen in fear. Side-step the fear and fill that mental space with knowledge. Just like a pilot has a backup system for instrument outages, always have a backup for food, energy, and water. Surround yourself with skilled people: electricians, carpenters, mechanics, and farmers. To try and create an off-grid environment by oneself is foolish both in terms of quality of work as well as in terms of developing new friendships. In essence, what we need to be doing now is to focus on becoming self-sufficient in a community setting whereby we create a new society outside of the control grid.

A good habit is to have a 5-point contingency plan in mind when looking at your different systems: water, food, energy. Who, what, when, where and why:

- Who will execute the necessary job? Broken water pump, electrical outage, garden pest problem are examples;
- What is the remedy for each problem? Before something breaks, anticipate in advance what may happen so that you have necessary parts on hand and a plan to fix said problem;
- When? This can mean "when" do you have to repair an issue, such as an electrical outage that jeopardizes your frozen food, "when" will parts arrive or "when" a problem happens in the dead of night what do you do;
- Where? Where do you set up your backup generator based on efficiency, noise, fueling? Where do you go for help if you lose water and energy? Where is your back up water pump located when you need it at night? Where are your spare pvc parts and glue?
- Why? Why do I need to know who my neighbors are and what skills they have?

### ENERGY

- 1 Solar – a battery-backed system is better today than it was 30 years ago but should not be your primary backup. It should be used to inventory and/or provide energy for light bulbs, fans for nighttime cooling, car batteries to use for short wave radios;
- 2 Propane – this fuel is a must for cooking, refrigeration, and backup generator. It is quieter, albeit less powerful, than diesel or gasoline. But, it can be hauled in smaller tanks and is less volatile;
- 3 Diesel/gasoline fueled generators are one's ideal backup energy source and the most energy-dense options. They can be rationed in a way to use them for 4 hours a day to provide energy at night for lights and to keep your freezer foods frozen. During the day

the generator can be turned on for shop jobs such as welding, power tools, air compressor, etc. Generac and Briggs & Stratton offer great diesel options and Honda is the best gasoline option. A transfer switch will be necessary to switch between the grid power and the alternative power source.

#### 4 Wind Turbines

### WATER

- 1 Drilled Well – shallower wells provide less volume but demand less energy to get out of the ground. Old fashioned hand pumps are very viable and should be on hand in case of long-term energy outages. While power is on water should be pumped and inventoried into some sort of storage tank that can be used and constantly refilled to keep fresh water in it. If you lose your source of pump power, then this water would be used for essential drinking and cooking only. Bathing would be done in streams or lakes. Obviously, wind mills are a great source of energy to pump the water but they are expensive and involve a lot of maintenance.
- 2 Springs – springs can be improved to provide higher volumes and cleaner water. This water can either be gathered by electric pumps, gravity-fed downhill to storage. We fed this water by pipeline to a water wheel pump located at a man-made lake that pumped water uphill a mile to our house.
- 3 Water well – depending on the water table, it is often doable to dig a hole down 30' to 60' to access water. These holes are bricked or stoned and covered to keep out dust and other impurities. We used one of these until we improved other water sources, maintaining the well as a backup to this day.

### FOOD

Focus on raising multiple species of animals as that up your odds of having meat on a year-round basis. Cattle, goats, sheep, pigs, and chickens are common livestock options and these species can be complimented with rabbits, quail, ducks, etc. A varied meat diet brings peace of mind as well as a varied diet. The same holds true with garden plants. There are unlimited resources on how to raise both animals and vegetables, some great books I recommend that would jump start the homesteading process would be:

The Backyard Homestead by Carleen Madigan  
The Mittleider Gardening Course by Jacob R. Mittleider  
Capturing Sunlight by Woody Lane

To produce food well demands a healthy soil. There are options as to how to improve production, but they can be broken out into two methodologies:

- 1 Dead Soil / Commercial - The most common farming system today is a result of the Rockefeller-backed Green Revolution, a food production system aimed at producing poor quality, high volume food stuffs that would feed the serfs and provide the United States foreign policy with ample food to satisfy Henry Kissinger's "food as a weapon" plan. This system guarantees huge profits for the input providers of herbicides, insecticides, fungicides, and fertilizers while providing a constant client base for the banks that loan the money to the farmers, as well as the traders that buy up the commodities. This system is a closed system that guarantees serfdom to the farmer, an addiction / dependence on chemicals, synthetic fertilizers, fake money that respectively kill the soil, feed the plant, and in debt the farmer.
- 2 Live Soil / Regenerative - Freedom comes in breaking away from the food apocalypse system rammed down our throats post-WWII. Instead of focusing on feeding the plant and being forced to having to truck in all the inputs, it is possible to produce your fertilizers "in-house" in the soil itself like God intended. By focusing on soil health and creating the conditions that allow for a vibrant microbiology which in turn transforms cover crops and organic matter into necessary macro and micro minerals accessible by the plants.

When you are living in abundance, act like you are living in hard times. Conditioning one's mind and actions to a harsher environment make it easier to deal with truly hard times. Frugal living and storing food for expected long hauls of shortages, drought, etc. are prudent decisions. The same holds true with fuel usage, water usage, etc. Always keep on hand critical parts and medicines, such as belts, spark plugs, fuel and oil filters, spare tires, antibiotics, pain relievers, etc.

## RESOURCES

EnSoil Algae: 100% Natural Fertilizer/Soil Amendment  
<https://www.enlightenedsoil.com>

Soil Regen: Regenerative Farming & Soil Health  
<https://www.agsoilregen.com>

*A Guide to Canning, Freezing, Curing & Smoking Meat, Fish & Game*  
<https://www.christianbook.com/guide-canning-freezing-curing-smoking-game/wilbur-eastman/9781580174572/pd/174574>

*Seed to Seed: Seed Saving and Growing Techniques for Vegetable Gardeners*  
<https://www.chelseagreen.com/product/seed-to-seed/>

*Root Cellaring: Natural Cold Storage of Fruits & Vegetables*  
<https://www.storey.com/books/root-cellaring/>