

June Preview – Project TWH

First, let me apologize. The end of May and June were a crazy time around the Suburban Steader Homestead. I don't really feel like going into detail, but a lot of family issues came up. Long story short, everyone is happy and healthy(er) now, so we're moving on. And, while it's early June, we're going to continue with the Project TWH and discuss the June Preview.

As an aside, my goal is to write about both the June and July topics this month in hopes of getting caught up. If it spills a little into August, so be it, but please know that I am committed to this discussion and believe it's beneficial for both my readers and myself.

In what seems to be a theme lately, the June Preview of Project TWH is a mismatch of topics. Some of the topics are straight-up homesteading related. Others are more suburban homestead related and can be related to a general approach for bettering your life.

As usual, we'll be referencing *The Weekend Homesteader* throughout this month. In fact, our four main articles for the month will be centered around the four topics Anna Hess outlines for June:

- Compost
- Worm Bins
- Seasoning
- Your Real Hourly Wage

Compost

- Goal: Build a compost pile
- Cost: \$0-50
- Time: 1-3hrs
- Difficulty: Medium

- Kid-Friendly: Yes

Compost – the lifeblood of a garden. Well, maybe that's water, but you get the point. We'll spend a good amount of time talking about the science behind compost and how to create it. Not sure what browns and green are? Should you turn or aerate your compost? Do you need to water it? Don't worry about it because we will talk about all these topics and more. We'll also get a little into how to store or contain your compost with bins and store-bought systems.

Worm Bins

- Goal: Build an under-the-sink worm bin
- Cost: \$35-100
- Time: 1-2hrs
- Difficulty: Medium
- Kid-Friendly: Yes

Yup, you hear that right. Worms! And we're going to teach you how to build a worm bin to grow them! Well, the purpose of the worm bin isn't really to grow worms, it's to produce worm casting and worm tea for composting and fertilization needs. This post will be a kind of "How-To" in that we'll walk you through building a worm bin and getting started with growing a worm colony. We'll talk about what to do with the by-products of your bin and wrap up with a list of resources to get started on this most interesting adventure in suburban homesteading

Seasoning

- Goal: Expand your culinary horizons by trying out new spices and herbs
- Cost: \$0-10
- Time: 1-2hrs

- Difficulty: Easy
- Kid-Friendly: Yes

The first two posts for this month will concentrate on helping your garden grow and this post will give you some advice on what to do with its product. When you think about it, we garden and raise animals on our suburban homestead for one reason – to feed ourselves! Seasoning, however, makes this goal that much more interesting. Herbs and spices add whole new level of taste, texture and nutritional input to your diet. We'll talk about the basic herbs and spices, how to use them in your cooking and where you might want to try experimenting with 'off the beaten path' herbs and spices.

Your Real Hourly Wage

- Goal: Discover the true value of your time
- Cost: \$0
- Time: 1-2hrs
- Difficulty: Easy
- Kid-Friendly: No

It's probably not a stretch to assume that, as a suburban homesteader, you probably live in the (gasp!) suburbs. That being said, it's probably safe to assume that you don't own enough land to be completely self-sufficient. That means that one of you (at least) must have a full-time job. And I bet you can either tell me how much you get paid annually or per hour. But is that really what you make? In this post, we'll spend some time talking about how to calculate your *real* hourly wage and what to do with those numbers. This article and it's tasks will be an interesting introspective activity for you; I expect it will really get you thinking about what's important to you and what isn't.

Conclusion

So there you have it, the June Preview of Project TWH. As usual, it's going to be an eclectic and busy month. There are some hands on activities as well as some non-gardening activities – this blog is about suburban homesteading after all and gardening is just one subset of that. I'm definitely interested in a few of the article this month – worm bins and real hourly wage especially. So sit back, enjoy a cup of coffee and join us on our suburban homesteading journey in June.

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