

Seasonal Priorities

Midwinter

FOCUS ON:
paperwork • woodlot

Garden

- » **Read your notes** from the past growing season to assess how well the previous year's varieties, rotation, and cover crops performed.
- » **Use your notes** to plan this year's crop rotation and cover crop plantings, then order seed.
- » **Price and order** or purchase soil amendments (based on soil test results) if not applied last fall, for spring application.

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Field

- » **Assess how well** the previous year's crops performed by going over your notes from the past growing season.
- » **Plan this year's crop rotation** and cover crop plantings based on your notes from last year, then order seed.
- » **Purchase soil amendments** (based on soil test results) if not applied last fall, for spring application.

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Pasture

- » **Order seed** for overseeding winter feeding areas in early spring.
- » **Work on clearing fence lines** of brush and branches if there's little or no snow.

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Orchard

- » **Select and order new trees** and pest controls — traps and treatments — if you want them.
- » **Sprinkle wood ashes** around trees at the dripline.

Beeyard

- » **Observe hives** on warm, sunny days (over 45°F/7°C), looking for bees emerging for “cleansing flights.” Do not open hives.
- » **Order hives**, supplies, and bees for spring delivery.
- » **Assemble and paint hives** when they arrive.

Barn

- » **Check the hay supply:** you should have at least half left. If you’re short, start looking for more to buy.
- » **Check all livestock**, and monitor water, salt, mineral, and hay feeders daily.
- » **Ultrasound goats and sheep** to see how many young they are carrying, if desired.
- » **Control rodents.**
- » **Research where you can buy** weaner pigs in spring.

Coop

- » **Order chicks** for delivery in early to mid-spring.
- » **Check feed**, and water hens daily.
- » **Let hens outside** on nice days.

Equipment Shed

- » **Clean and lubricate** any tools and equipment that are in use.

Woodlot

- » **Harvest timber** and do forest improvement work (pruning, thinning, debris cleanup) in regions where the ground is frozen or dry.
- » **Burn debris** if there is snow on the ground or if the weather is wet.
- » **Check over your sugaring equipment** if you have sugar maples and plan to tap them.

Wildlife Habitat

- » **Research what native plants** and animals occupied your acres before settlement.
- » **Order native plant seed**, food trees, and shrubs for wildlife.
- » **Build birdhouses and bat and wild bee houses.**
