

The Plain and Practical

Year Five, Issue 46, October 2012

“Live simply, that others might simply live.” Elizabeth Seaton

The Big Chest Freezer

Now, if you lined up twenty folks, a good mix of ages and addresses and backgrounds, about two might say “Yes” to the question, “Do you have a chest freezer at home?” And those two, I think, would also live outside the city limits and have been raised on a farm. Their skillsets would also include canning pickles and tomatoes, make repairs on things they own, and I also think they already, as of the first day of Tenth Month, have a salting bucket and scoop next to their front door for dusting the steps this upcoming winter. Because they are the smart ones.

A chest freezer is considered a necessity for most farm folks, you put your packaged-up former living livestock in there, and any herbs you’d rather freeze than dry. It’s where the ice cream goes for the party next week, because ice cream gets soft in your refrigerator’s freezer. You can make ice for that camping trip, filling up recycled containers; sometimes your parents would let you put the last snowball of the season in there and of course it never lasted until the summer, it turned into a baggie of ice.

You can be smart and dandy by making two casseroles, or bake two and save the extra into smaller containers, tuck them into that freezer and some night you know you are returning late or having someone else do up the dinner, that casserole can be thawed during the day and baked and be easy-peasy to prepare. Pies can be made and frozen to bake later, or you can do pierogies, ravioli, and other pastas and get them out on the day you need them.

I happen to like a frozen bread we used to bake at the store last year, it came in cases from GFS and the cracked wheat one could be “embellished” by folding in other ingredients. It could become jalepeno-cheese bread, cinnamon bread, herb bread, rolls, sub buns—very flexible sort of blank stuff that made baking as easy as thawing it the night before, kneading it in the morning if you wanted to add ingredients, and then baking it. So a case of bread needs to be in my freezer.

Other people’s freezers contain teething beads, bagged animal hides for later processing, a skull for boiling down head cheese “later when we have more time,” and meats to be ground together for smoked sausage. I’ve seen odd-looking bags of frozen applesauce, golden smile-shapes for sliced and slush-frozen peaches, brown golf balls that were actually meatballs ready for the skillet. By the way, some golfers swear keeping their golf balls in the freezer improves their score by making the balls fly further.

Some folks keep their fat drippings from bacon pans and roasts and such, and put them into the freezer then eventually get them all out, melt and strain them, and make a batch of candles or soap or liniment. I’ve seen spinners putting bags of wool in there for killing moth larvae. People put sewn bags of sand in there to get cold, then pull them out and put them on that injured knee or ankle to take down the swelling.

But by far, the weirdest things I have ever seen in someone’s freezer, was when I was visiting two friends in northern Michigan for a weekend. Susan sent me out to the freezer “and get some vegetables for this soup” so I put on shoes and went out to a connected shed-room on the side of the house where I’d seen a big chest freezer the night before. I hoisted up the big sarcophagus lid and there were packages labeled “Mr. Tibbs” and “Sunnyboy” and “Gladis” so I put the lid down and returned to Susan, who was stirring a huge pot on the stove. I explained.

“Oh, that’s the wrong freezer, you need the one in the storehouse,” and she pointed with the soup spoon to a sturdy shack out the kitchen window. That freezer had packages with “Corn,” “green beans,” and “ground beef” written on them, more like what I’d expected to find in the first place.

Over dinner, my friends explained the mystery. One winter, years earlier, they had lost a beloved family pet, and Samuel had gone out in the two feet of snow and shoveled a hole for burying it. He’d missed (continued on page 2)

Favorite Rabble-Rousers

American history contains its share of Revolutionaries and treasonists; lawbreakers were lawmakers in the beginning of our Nation. In world history accounting, the victors edit the reports of what occurred and whether it was noble or not; opposing sides are painted with a tarnished brush. Place your arms in the sleeves of these heroes of our Democracy when next you are listening to the world news reports.

Thomas Paine:

—“Government, even in its best state, is but a necessary evil; in its worst state, an intolerable one.”

—“Arms discourage and keep the invader and plunderer in awe, and preserve order in the world as well as property . . . Horrid mischief would ensue were the law-abiding deprived of the use of them.”

James Madison:

—“If tyranny and Oppression come to this land, it will be in the guise of fighting a foreign enemy.”

—“I believe there are more instances of the abridgement of freedom of the people by gradual and silent encroachments by those in power than by violent and sudden usurpations.”

Dolley Madison:

—“I am accordingly ready; I have pressed as many Cabinet papers into trunks as to fill one carriage; our private property must be sacrificed, as it is impossible to procure wagons for its transportation.”

Abigail Adams:

—“If particular care and attention is not paid to the ladies, we are determined to foment a rebellion, and will not hold ourselves bound by any laws in which we have no voice, or representation.”

Thomas Jefferson:

—“I predict future happiness for Americans if they can prevent the government from wasting the labors of the people under the pretense of taking care of them.”

—“A strong body makes the mind strong. As to the species of exercises, I advise the gun. While this gives moderate exercise to the body, it gives boldness, enterprise and independence to the mind. Games played with the ball, and others of that nature, are too violent for the body and stamp no character on the mind. Let your gun therefore be your constant companion of your walks.”

—“I believe that banking institutes are more dangerous to our liberties than standing armies.”

—“Experience hath shewn, that even under the best forms of government those entrusted with power have, in time, and by slow operations, perverted it into tyranny.”

Thrifty Thinkings

“But if my jacket and trousers, my hat and shoes, are fit to worship God in, they will do; will they not? Who ever saw his old clothes — his old coat, actually worn out, resolved into its primitive elements, so that it was not a deed of charity to bestow it on some poor boy, by him perchance to be bestowed on some poorer still, or shall we say richer, who could do with less? I say, beware of all enterprises that require new clothes, and not rather a new wearer of clothes . . . If you have any enterprise before you try it in your old clothes.”

Henry David Thoreau, *Economy*

“A wise and frugal government, which shall leave men free to regulate their own pursuits of industry and improvement, and shall not take from the mouth of labor the bread that it has earned—this is the sum of good government.”

Benjamin Franklin

“Any intelligent fool can make things bigger, more complex, and more violent. It takes a touch of genius—and a lot of courage—to move in the opposite direction.”

E. F. Schumacher

“Tis the gift to be simple, ‘tis the gift to be free, ‘tis the gift to come down where we ought to be, and when we find ourselves in the place just right, ‘twill be in the valley of love and delight.”

Elder Joseph Brackett, Shaker

October, 2012

Tenth Month

S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Columbus Day: 8th

New moon on the 15th

Full moon on the 29th

Though most of the folks who get this paper don’t go in for celebrating Halloween in a big way, do be careful when you travel around that date, as the observance varies with neighborhoods, and children will be in the streets after darkness falls.

(Freezer, cont'd)

the edge of the flower border by three feet, and chapped his hands, and Susan was disabled and it was too risky for her to trek out there so they could be together to say a few words over their lost friend. So they hatched up a plan for future occasions when this might happen.

So when a pet passed, they would neatly wrap them in a cloth and plastic and then slip them into a paper grocery sack, and write the name of their little friend on the outside, tape it securely, and plop it into the freezer. When friends learned of this neat idea, they would bring their little deceased pets as well, and all year, while Mud Season and Snow Season and Lots More Snow Season came and went, the freezer would receive the remains of dogs and cats and pet chickens and sometimes a parrot or ferret.

In early summer, Joe would bring the backhoe over and a spot would be selected in the woods, and a large hole would be dug out. A potluck picnic would be arranged and everyone would come and tablecloth sheets would be spread out on doors Samuel had put on sawhorses. New kittens and friendly old dogs and sometimes feathered critters would join in and play under the billowing tablecloths and beg for tasty morsels from the humans, and people would chat and remember their pets. All the deceased were placed in the hole and the dirt made to cover them and the whole Event was a memorial service to the remembered. The local minister would say a toast to the fine qualities our pets try to teach us, and paper cups of cider would be lifted with a hearty, "Hear, hear!"

So when you see a freezer that has been unplugged and is now used to store dry foods away from vermin, or someone is keeping their wool blankets in there so the moths are deprived, or you open it up and there are stacks of fabrics safe from sun-fading, remember that folks can be clever. Whether plugged in or not, it's a dandy big storage box, once you have secured it so children can't get stuck inside. You can bury an old freezer in the dirt for storing your squash in the fall, hunters often keep them at campsites for keeping food where nature's furry woods creatures won't get into it. Whatever you use yours for, I think you are smart for having one!

Feel like making lots of soups this winter?

Soups are a good fit for wintertime eating—they hold on the stove for awhile when someone's got to commute home and arrival times vary. They provide a nice balanced meal for folks who maybe don't get as many vegetables in their diet as they should, at a time of year that fresh salads are cost-prohibitive and not very tasty. Soups help use up leftovers, are easy to warm up for lunch, and can be portioned in any size you want. Having the following dry goods in the cupboards will help you have more soup ingredients on hand (and remember, you can cook beans overnight in the crock pot, drain them, and use some while freezing the others).

Beans: Black, Navy, White, Shellouts, Pintos, Red, etc.

Pulses: Green Split, Orange Split lentils, Chick Peas

Grains: Rices, Barley, TVP, Wheat Kernels, Popcorn, Whole Oats

You'll find it also is a help to have a jar of dried vegetables on the shelf for sprinkling into the soup when you don't have a lot of fresh or frozen variety on hand. Canned Tomatoes, chicken/beef/other kinds of bullion (I use vegetable bullion cubes), vegetable oil, potato flakes, and of course herbs such as dill, chili, sage, pepper, onion or garlic powder, and all the other favorites, will help give your soups a good depth of flavors.

Rice flavoring packets last for years, and can flavor soups as well.

My Latest Crazy Idea

I was talking to a friend the other day, and she had been called to Jury Duty. We talked about how it can be disruptive to your job and your routine, and cost money out of your pocket for gasoline and parking, but was a necessary way to provide "a jury of your peers" which is a pillar of our justice process.

Then I got to thinking (always a dangerous thing) that maybe we could have cleaner, decent, honest politicians by using the same system. When there was a packet of bills to be voted upon, there would be a lottery drawing of, say, 100 individuals, who would be brought to a conference center and given room and board for two weeks. The bills would be allowed one page of type to explain what they were (that would help keep things simple and brief) and the conscripted individuals could wander around the conference center for two weeks and discuss the various proposals. They could go on a computer or to the library or make phone calls and do their own research, individually or in groups. At the end of the two weeks they would fill out their votes on ballots, just like we all do for elections, and go home to their jobs and families.

I think I might like real people with real lives deciding issues based not on their personal gain, not as a career move, but through personal duty.

Church Raffles

I visited a rummage sale last Saturday at a local church, hoping to find some crafting supplies for my seniors I volunteer with at the assisted living, and while there, was told I should buy some raffle tickets on a quilt the church ladies had made. I said I didn't gamble, and the man representing the church just froze.

Sometimes I find I have "swallowed" a teaching that was represented to be from the bible, when it was someone's interpretation. Now, I like to go to the Good Book and do my own research, and I found these scriptures:

Mark 11 15-16

"And they come to Jerusalem: and Jesus went into the temple, and began to cast out them that sold and bought in the temple, and overthrew the tables of the moneychangers, and the seats of them that sold doves;

And would not suffer that any man should carry any vessel through the temple."

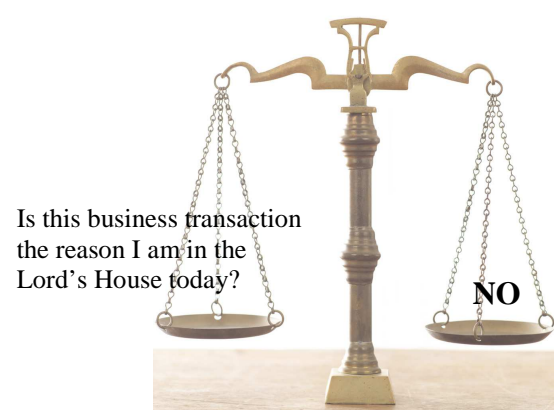
Matthew 21:12-13

"And Jesus went into the temple of God, and cast out all of them what sold and bought in the temple, and overthrew the tables of the money changers, and the seats of them that sold doves. And said unto them, it is written, My house shall be called the house of prayer; but ye have made it a den of thieves."

And there was a decree from King James, who commissioned the KJV, "One of the features of Paul's Walk to which many objected was its use for the sale of merchandise; but this was not peculiar to that cathedral. Anglican visitation articles again provide evidence of a widespread attempt to stamp out this practice from all ecclesiastical buildings. As early as 1649 in a Draft for Visitation Articles the churchwardens were bidden to suffer no buying or selling in church or churchyards, especially during common prayer." *Old St. Paul's In London, described by John Earle in 1628*

So if there's a table of CDs there in the back that you are pressured to buy and the church profits, or someone brings their Tupperware or Amway or Girl Scout cookies to the church parking lot to deliver it and conduct business for the sake of convenience "to save on gas," think about how that fits into what you believe. This is your individual decision, not mine.

Here's how I'm going to handle this in future, for myself. I'm going to put it onto a balance of sorts, two halves of a statement:



Homemade Garlands

Some folks put up a holiday tree, some do not. Some are in temporary arrangements and want simple decorations as reminders of the season, or may want to hang something in their workplace. Garlands are a good solution—they can be unbreakable, kept in a small box or even an envelope, and expand to cover a large space when needed. They can be mailed around the world to someone with which you want to share the holiday.

Monofilament fishing line works very well, but a stout string or cord is fine, too. Beads can be wood leftovers or jewelry quality, or made from strips of paper rolled into little tubes and coated with clear nail polish or a spray. Beads can be natural materials, such as pine cones, nuts, seeds, or fibers that have been knotted.

Spaces between beads can be strips of wool scraps folded like tiny ribbon candy, or wool pennies, felted balls, a strip of calico, a spring, or folded scrap paper cut into angel's wings.

Small baskets, little mittens cut from felt or paper, paper with written scriptures, small paper boxes made like little gifts, all sorts of decorations are easily made from the cast-offs of a typical life, or a walk in the woods, or recycled from year to year from the wrappings of the year before. If you start putting some

Ways to Recycle An Old Wool Sweater

- Wash in hot water to felt it—then cut large oven-mitt type mittens and line those with poly fleece or flannel
- Make legwarmers for kids, by detaching and trimming the sleeves
- Detach the sleeves and use the body of the sweater as a cushion cover or for a dandy cover for a bleacher seat
- Felt the sweater, then cut apart and make a sling pouch with some of it
- Four sweater fronts/backers can be joined and backed with flannel, to make a nice lap robe for someone at the elder’s home
- Washed and cut squares of sweaters make nice packing material between plates; cut sections of sleeves can embrace goblets or vases, rolling pins or cooking tools
- A small felted square, about 3”, of a sweater, makes a nice polishing cloth
- Cut out inserts for inside heavy shoes and boots
- Felt, and then cut into little squares and string onto garlands
- The sleeves can be cut off and made into legwarmers for children
- Sections can be cut from felted sweaters and used in soakers

Useful Tools and Props

The other day, I bought something in a thrift store, and I’m passing it on to someone with an up-and-coming young son in his household, so they can use it for learning about cabinetry, especially math and ratios. Here’s a list of handy tools you may not have run across in awhile—all are good to have around the house—unscamble the names to each (Answers on page 4, upside down.)

- H T O P P A A N G R a simple folding wood apparatus for enlarging and reducing a drawing
- C A A B S U ancient simple calculator constructed of moveable beads arranged in rows
- D H T R I N H A D tool that clamps onto a table’s edge, and provides a clamp for holding projects so you have two hands free to work
- D I F pointed tool used to splice rope or cordage
- T N E S X A T Used to measure distance between a celestial body and the earth’s horizon
- M P S S A C O small handheld device for indicating north, south, east and west
- K I I N N G P R A E S S H special scissors that leave a notched edge
- H W P T S T A O C precise measuring timepiece
- T T R A S I N Contractors use this to measure angles and levels
- K Y T S D R C A I useful as straightedge or long ruler
- K P I E If cut to exactly six feet, can be used to estimate height of trees and buildings with accuracy
- E E O M B R T A R measures air pressure for weather forecasts
- T T A E I I I N O P P C R measures rainfall
G G E A U
- T R G N S O I Stacking arrangement, with openings in descending sizes, so that coins fall through from largest to smallest
R T A
- B L U I N R A C O S Lenses used for seeing distant details

Editor's notes

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Firestarters for Winter Fires

This is an easy, fall-day craft that makes good gifts!

- some of those cardboard-style egg cartons
- Shredded paper, cardboard, or excelsior, dried grasses, wood shavings, small dry pine cones, dry nut shells, used (dry) wood skewers, dryer lint, hair, or other combustible items
- Old candles, bits of sealing wax, jelly sealing wax

Cut off the lids of the egg cartons, and set aside. Lay out the cartons on several layers of newspapers so they are right next to each other. Stuff each compartment with the items above, if using pine cones, place those in the middle 1/2 way down with other materials around them. When these are completely ready, it’s time to melt the wax.

Use a soup pot, filled 1/3 with water, and set it on medium heat on the burner. In a large tomato juice can or beans can, put the broken candle pieces and other scraps of wax, strings and all, and set it into the water. This can will get hot, so you’ll want some pliers or other method to lift it out, and pour the contents into the trays. Do not leave that wax unattended, this is an eyes-on project.

This is the point, just before pouring, that you can add a scent to the wax with candy flavoring oils. cinnamon, or lemon, or root beer, lend themselves well to the purpose.

When the wax has melted, either use a dipper, or pour the contents over the compartments in the egg cartons. I use an old dye spoon to press down the combustible materials as the wax pours in. 2 cups of wax does a good job on one egg carton, so you may want to work in batches. Allow to cool for at least 2 hours, then pick up each one, trim off any leakage, put the lid on and tie it.

These are used by tearing one off, lighting the corner of the carton “cup” with a match or a lighter, and placing it under your prepared kindling. Friends report these will burn for up to eight minutes, even in a breeze.



“I never considered a difference of opinion in politics, in religion, in philosophy, as cause for withdrawing from a friend.”

Thomas Jefferson

All things bright and beautiful,
All creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful:
The Lord God made them all.

Each little flower that opens,
Each little bird that sings,
He made their glowing colors,
He made their tiny wings.

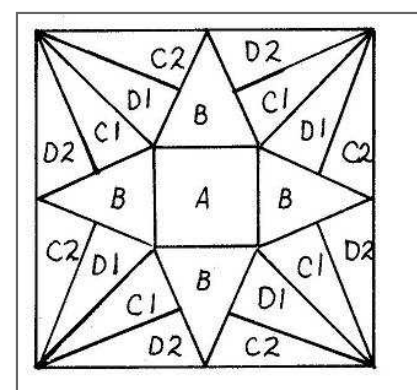
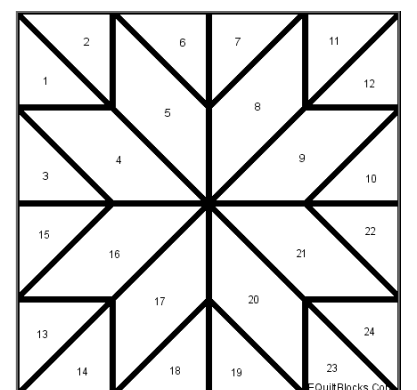
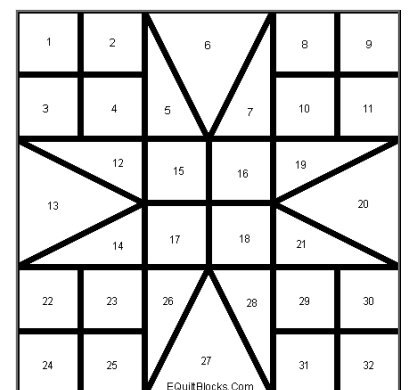
The rich man in his castle,
The poor man at his gate,
He made them, high or lowly,
And ordered their estate.

The purple headed mountains,
The river running by,
The sunset and the morning
That brightens up the sky.

The cold wind in the winter,
The pleasant summer sun,
The ripe fruits in the garden,
He made them every one.

The tall trees in the greenwood,
The meadows where we play,
The rushes by the water,
To gather every day.

Cecil Alexander, 1848



A Few Plain and Practical Resources for Self-Sufficiency

Need something for the Home, or Clothing?

- Lehmans, 877-438-5346, or write for a catalog, 289 N. Kurzen Rd., Dalton, OH 44618.
- Healthy natural soaps and salves, Cindy High, 905 Egeler Lane, Dexter, MI 48130
- Gohn Brothers, Box 1110, Middlebury, Indiana 46540-1110, toll free number 1-800-595-0031. All sewing done by local seamstresses to your measurements, at very reasonable prices for good quality.’
- Prayer caps, Plain and Simple Head coverings, Bayley Thompson, P. O. Box 185, Bagdad, KY 40003.
- Aprons, Dresses and Coverings, Mennonite Maidens, <http://www.mennonitemaiden.com> , or orders by phone, 703-622-3018 or 304-492-5590. Wide variety of all offerings, reasonable prices.
- GVS, clothing for the entire family, baby supplies, toys, stationary, sewing supplies—many hard to find items. Highway 5, Versailles, MO 65084.
- Sisterthreads is a group of three Christian women who sew together in the daughter’s house amongst her four children, one of which is special-needs. Although they focus on quilts, they also do a variety of purses and organizers for knitting needles, crochet hooks and other sewing items. By mail: Sister Threads, P. O. Box 91, Herrietta, MI, 49638, or telephone, 231-389-0253.

Need something wholesome to read?

- The Budget, a Mennonite rural newspaper, P. O. Box 249, 134 N. Factory Street, Sugarcreek, OH, 44681. Several editions, so ask for information, 330-852-4634.
- Keepers At Home magazine (Plain homemakers) \$13 year/4 issues. 2673 Township Road 421, Sugarcreek, OH 44681
- Quaker Hill Farm, children’s books, P. O. Box 10, Harrisville, MI 48742 (recently featured on Animal Planet!) Quaker Anne has all kinds of good things made from her farm, web site is www.quakeranne.com
- An Encouraging Word, P. O. Box 374, Covert, MI, 49043, \$20/year includes yours and one gift subscription.
- Plain Interests newspaper (Plain lifestyle), 420 Weaver Road, Millersburg, PA, 17061. Monthly, \$16 yearly.
- Young Companion, Pathway Publishers, 2580N=250W, LaGrange, IN 46761, scripture-rich moral stories for young people, many are reader-contributed. They also produce Family Life, as well as Blackboard Bulletin, and I recommend all three as suitable literature to leave around where you find yourself spending a few moments in the day, they are uplifting, spiritual, and helpful. \$23 annually for all.
- Pendle Hill, 338 Plush Mill Road, Wallingford, PA 19086. Quaker literature resource.

Want to stop and get bulk food on your next trip?

- Clintonville Community Market, 200 Crestview Road, Columbus, Ohio, 43202, 614-261-3663
- Yutzy’s Bulk Foods, 614-873-3815, 6010 Converse Huff Road, Plain City, Ohio 43064
- Countryside Bulk Foods, 4230 West Pike, Zanesville, OH 43701, telephone 740-450-1595
- Bulk Food Depot, 5457 Radford Road, Athens, OH 45701, 740-594-5053.
- Apple Hill Ltd., 8690 Vermilion Road, Amherst, OH 44001-9475. Telephone 440-965-7077
- Coon’s Candies, 16451 County Highway 113, Harpster, OH 43323, telephone 740-496-4141
- American Harvest 51323 County Road 16, Coshocton, OH 43812, 740-622-2855
- Swiss Village 309 S. Broadway St., Sugarcreek, OH 44681, telephone 330-852-2896

Need supplies for Making it yourself?

- handspun yarns for knitting, soy candles, black walnuts for dyeing: Beverly Thorne, 1941 S. Camp Ten Road, Elmira, MI 49730.
- Leather: Scrap Leather, lacing, and hides, all American leather, Real Leather People, P. O. Box 251, Sonora, KY 42776 or 270-369-8880 or sales@realleatherpeople.com
- Make your own brooms—Broomcorn and supplies at R.E. Caddy, Box 14634, Greensboro, N.C. 27415, 336-273-3609.
- Sewing Supplies, Home-Sew Inc., P. O. Box 4099, Bethlehem, PA. 18018-0099, 1-800-344-4739, homesew.com.
- Linen and wool fabrics, 1-888-546-3654, FabricsStore.Com, 6325 Santa Monica Blvd., Suite #102, Hollywood CA 90038
- Countryroad Fabrics and Gifts, 2195 N 700W Shipshewana, Indiana, 46565, good resource for fabrics, snaps, prayer caps, and more.
- Knit Picks, P. O. Box 870760, Vancouver, WA 98687, 1-800-574-1323. Fine quality wool and wool blend yarns—their natural color, dye your own selections are especially well priced. Many sock yarns, patterns, and superior quality needles. Online also.
- Raw Wool for Spinning at \$2-4 pound, also well priced natural roving, and shepherd’s supplies, Mid-States Wool Growers Co-op, 9449 Basil Western Road, Canal Winchester, OH, 43110-9278, 614-837-9665, call for hours and directions.
- Wm. Booth, Draper. 18th century reenactment supplies, I get my linen thread, horn thimbles, and other well-made, old fashioned items from this resource, 2115 Ramada Drive, Racine, WI. 53406, or, <http://wmboothdraper.com>, or 815-648-9048.
- Discount fabric, Guhl’s, 710 E. Main Street, Jackson, Ohio, cash only, closed Sundays.

Self-Sufficiency and Preparation Supplies

- Bathtub liner for 100 gal. water storage—Water Bob, from Way Safe Florida, Inc, 14175 Icot Blvd, Suite 100, Clearwater, FL 33760 1-800-966-8044, approximately \$25. Available on Ebay as well.
- Seeds to store, \$55 for small garden, non-hybrid—Baker Creek Seeds, 2278 Baker Creek Rd., Mansfield, MO 65704.
- Archery supplies—Obsession Archery, 8289 Burden Rd. Machesney Park, IL 61115, 815-877-1212
- First aid supplies—a number of professional-level kits from \$71 to \$415, First Aid Supplies Online, 1-800-874-8767

Honey and Honey Products: Honeyrun Farm, 9642 Randle Road, Williamsport, Ohio. 43164, 740-225-2462. Candles of the rolled beeswax as well as poured, beeswax in all amounts for sewing and crafting, honey straws, honey and combs.



Storage Containers

There are several good places to locate a storage container for inside your garage, shed, bury it underground, or just set it in the back yard. 14-gauge steel keeps out burglars and elements, and sometimes are available with doors on both ends. They make dandy secure storage places; structurally supported and buried and lined with hay bales, it’s a cold storage for squash and other garden stuffs; you can drop one on acreage and have your hunting shelter available year-round with your gear already in it. Inside your garage, it can keep your tools and valuables locked up tight.

Common sizes: eight feet wide, and in ten foot increments—10 x 8, 20 x 8, 40 x 8. They are 8.5 feet tall in the inside, and render 80 square feet of floor space and 680 cubic feet, for each ten foot increment. There’s many examples on the internet (go to Google images and type “shipping container storage” and you’ll see how people have creatively turned these into homes, garages, kitchens, restrooms, work shops, swimming pools and other uses). The strength is in the corners and edges, so some uses require additional support inside your container, but you can find them in new, used, and almost-gone conditions for a variety of prices ranging from \$1000 from the man who bought one and then found out he couldn’t put it in his city yard, come get, to the brand new 40-foot \$9,000 ones. Remember, even though these can be dropped of on slide-back beds into your space, or with a crane, delivery will be a fee and mileage and is usually not included.

Anywhere near a port (water, rail, truck stop) is a cheaper place to locate containers than out in the countryside; I also recommend you NOT purchase unless you have walked the container yourself and viewed it with your own eyes. Keep in mind, the closer it is located to your home, the less cost of getting it delivered.

Mark Rumpke, 513-478-6724, rents and sells containers, does delivery (fees), gravity-bed or crane drops.

Benedict Enterprises, Inc. 750 Lakeview Drive, Monroe, Ohio 45050, 1-800-288-4995, approx. \$2000 for a 20-foot.

Container Corp. Group, 2400 Creekway Drive, Columbus, OH 43207, 614-492-2036, nationwide resource for containers.

Answers:
Panograph
Abacus
Third hand
Fid
Sextant
Compass
Pinking shears
Stopwatch
Transit
Yardstick
Pike
Barometer
Precipitation gauge
Sorting tray
Binoculars