

# Are You Ready for Rural Living? A Checklist

Here are just a few things to 'check in' with yourself on prior to making the decision to move to the country. Rural living has a lot of variables many of us who've done it didn't really take into account before we moved. Hopefully, these will save you some pain later on! ☺

	<b>Your teeth are wearing out from clenching your jaw</b> – Is your health starting to suffer from the constant stress of your current situation?
	<b>You find yourself reading every gardening and rural living magazine you can get your hands on.</b>
	<b>You don't mind getting dirty</b> – It's difficult to do the work that needs to be done on a homestead/rural property without getting dirty. Can you handle it?
	<b>If you have children, you've checked into the schooling situation at your new locale.</b>
	<b>You've made a list of pros and cons for your specific situation.</b>
	<b>You have a plan to get you there.</b>
	<b>You can survive without being 'coiffed'</b> – Country living is pretty rough on those concerned with their appearance. Are you comfortable out in public without being all spiffy all the time?
	<b>You don't need to transfer huge files over the Internet for work (from home)</b> – Have you checked the internet options for your new home? Many options in rural areas are not conducive to uploading big files or streaming video.
	<b>You've got some money put aside, just in case the whole thing goes sideways</b> – If you won't be continuing your 'regular job', have you calculated your anticipated expenses and put aside enough funds to carry you through for a year or two?
	<b>You are flexible</b> – Are you going to be able to handle: snowy roads that aren't plowed for days, if ever; power outages that last for days; hawk and coyote attacks on your livestock; persistent pests; your internet connection/power going out when you have a big project due; isolation; contractors taking forever to show up after they've been hired; and all sorts of other inconveniences and calamities.
	<b>You're willing to cultivate a 'beginner's mind'</b> – Are you comfortable asking questions, locating mentors, and willing to look like you don't know what you're doing?
	<b>You're comfortable asking for help</b> - Can you swallow your pride and know when to ask your neighbour to help you get the wood in for winter, the local organic gardener how to prepare your raised beds for planting, or the pest control guy how to stop the crazy squirrel from driving you nuts with her incessant chewing on some corner of the house you can't locate?
	<b>You've done your homework</b> – Here are a few more things to consider: <a href="http://modernhomesteading.ca/blog/10-key-things-to-consider-before-moving-to-the-country">http://modernhomesteading.ca/blog/10-key-things-to-consider-before-moving-to-the-country</a>
	<b>If you have family, they're all on the 'same page' and willing to give it their 'all'.</b>