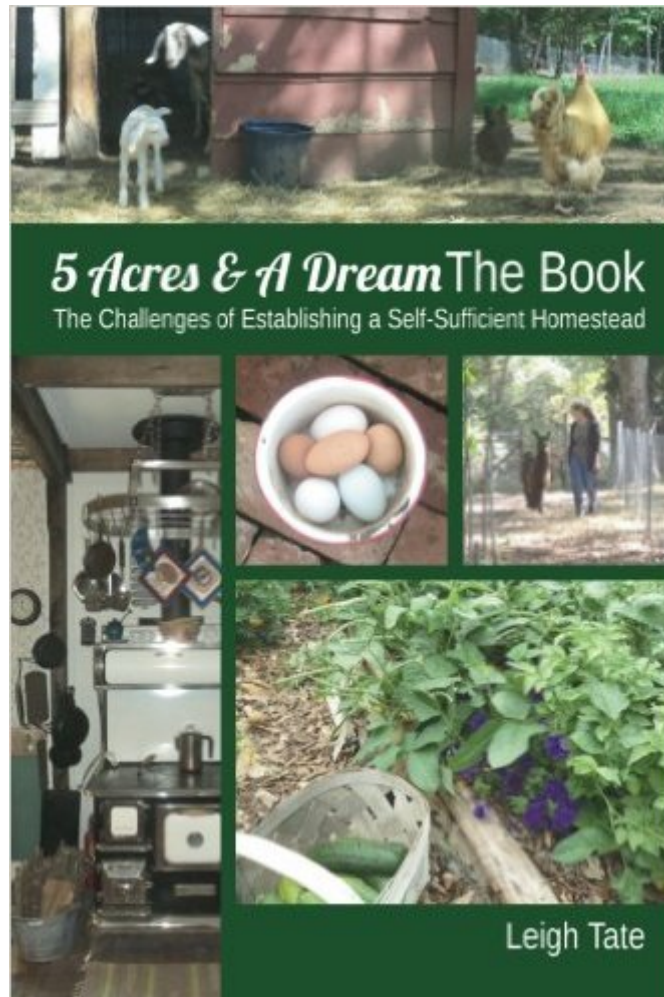


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# 5 Acres & A Dream The Book: The Challenges Of Establishing A Self-Sufficient Homestead



## Synopsis

What does it take to become a successful homesteader? Based on her popular homesteading blog, *5 Acres & A Dream*, Leigh Tate shares how she and her husband Dan are facing the challenges of trying to establish a self-sufficient homestead; from defining their dream, finding property, and setting priorities, to obstacles and difficult times, to learning how to work smarter, not harder. She shares what they've learned about energy self-sufficiency, water self-sufficiency, and food self-sufficiency for themselves and their goats and chickens too. Included are copies of their homestead master plan plus revisions, homegrown vitamins and minerals for goats, and several of Leigh's favorite homestead recipes.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (93 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #47,478 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #32 in [Books > Science & Math > Agricultural Sciences > Sustainable Agriculture](#) #91 in [Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Sustainable Living](#) #446 in [Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Home Improvement & Design](#)

## Customer Reviews

Although I (seriously) have more than a thousand books in my non-fiction library, I rarely write reviews. I'm not sure why - I am an English teacher living on a 40 acre farm and I have actually READ all of the books I have from cover to cover (really). However, I am making an exception for this book - I couldn't put it down. It was fantastic reading from beginning to end. Now, part of the reason I might have liked it so much (disclaimer) is because, like the author, I am also middle-aged... but I truly think the reason it resonated with me was because it is an honest telling of both the good and the frustrating times the author had trying to carve out their farmstead. If you are looking for a step by step "How To" book, this isn't the one for you (although you should still buy it and read it, because it WILL help you). If you are looking for an honest look at the types of experiences one might have while trying to establish a homestead, and how one couple went about

dealing with everything, this is IT!!!! I have loaned out my copy to several neighbors already, and they loved it too. We are all hoping there is more to come from this author.

5 Acres and a Dream is a fantastic blog, one I've been reading for a couple of years now. I've always been impressed with homesteader Leigh's (and husband Dan's) measured, logical approach. When a problem presents itself, they research and come up with the best solution for them. When I first got a hint that maybe a book was in the works I was excited and also a bit curious. Would it just be another book about how to homestead? How much of Leigh and Dan would be in the book? Would it simply be a collection of posts from the blog? Alas, I had nothing to worry about. The book is outstanding! Sure, the book talks a lot about homesteading, and there are even some recipes included. The footnotes and reference section provide a wealth of further reading and information. But where the book shines best is where the author talks about their mindset and relates their thought process -- what brought them to each decision they made. I did not buy this book strictly as a "how to" manual for homesteading. Rather, I wanted to know more about Leigh and Dan's experience, more about the road that brought them here. But don't get me wrong, you could certainly do worse for homesteading information -- the book is stuffed full of hints, tips, and handy references for everything from cheesemaking to forestry. Often, Leigh includes alternatives or options for other ways to produce, grow, fix, or care for various components of the homestead. And where other books can come across as preachy or condescending, 5 Acres and a Dream: the Book has a friendly, helpful tone. The author talks about why they made the decisions they made, but does not chastise those that haven't made the same choices. She talks about what worked and what did not. She mentions their failures, rather than painting the whole experience in the rosy "DIY" light that we get on television and most other books on the subject. I loved this book! And it's a beauty, certainly worthy of your bookshelf. Leigh packed the book with dozens and dozens of photos, really bringing their homestead to life. The writing's concise and the layout is so well done. Often, self-published books fall victim to layout/structural issues, but Leigh (as usual!) did her homework and devoted a year to getting it right. Yes, true to her philosophy, she did everything herself rather than hiring out the various parts of production. That meant learning many new opensource software programs and diving into self-publishing head first. The results speak for themselves. I highly recommend this book.

If you like Barbara Kingsolver's *Animal, Vegetable, Miracle*, then you are going to love Leigh Tate's book. It is not a repeat of her popular blog, *5 Acres & A Dream* (which I have read since the

beginning), but a very concise telling of the planning, work, research and love that she and her husband, Dan, have put into making their 5 acres as self-sustaining as possible. Not only does she explain their successes, but also their failures in order to help others who want to become self-sustaining as much as possible. The book is enjoyable to read and there are over 140 images to help explain and show you what they have done are are doing. And recipes!!! I will be telling everyone I know about this book. Thank you, Leigh, for writing this book.

This book looks at self sufficiency a little differently than other resources I've seen. For one, the author is open about sharing what worked, what didn't work and what they'd like to try in the future. That honesty allows you to take from their experience and use what you need. Their level of commitment is very high but she doesn't expect yours to be and I liked that very much - it's not gloating and self-congratulatory. It's well indexed so you can refer to the information that's pertinent or you can do as I did and read it straight through - like a book :) Nice job and worth the purchase.

I purchased Leigh's book at the same time I purchased my own "five acres." As a long time reader of her blog, I knew her informative and clear presentation would shine. What I found icing on the cake was that her narrative struck such an inspiring chord. Particularly rewarding was the portrayal of an empty nest age couple meeting the challenges of establishing a simpler, more sustainable lifestyle. Many share the dream, & this narrative helps assure us that dreams can come true.

I have been reading the 5 acres and a dream blog for over a year now so when Leigh put out a book I decided to use an gift card I had and buy the book. It did not disappoint, I found a bunch of new information not featured on the blog and a lot of good tips that I can apply in my life. I live in the suburbs but I found her information on chickens (we are allowed to have 3!) and gardening to be very helpful. Because of Leigh my goal this year is to increase my canning to have enough for the year. I loved her pictures of her pantry on her blog, what an inspiration! So go ahead and buy the book and definitely check out her blog, I know you wont be disappointed.

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