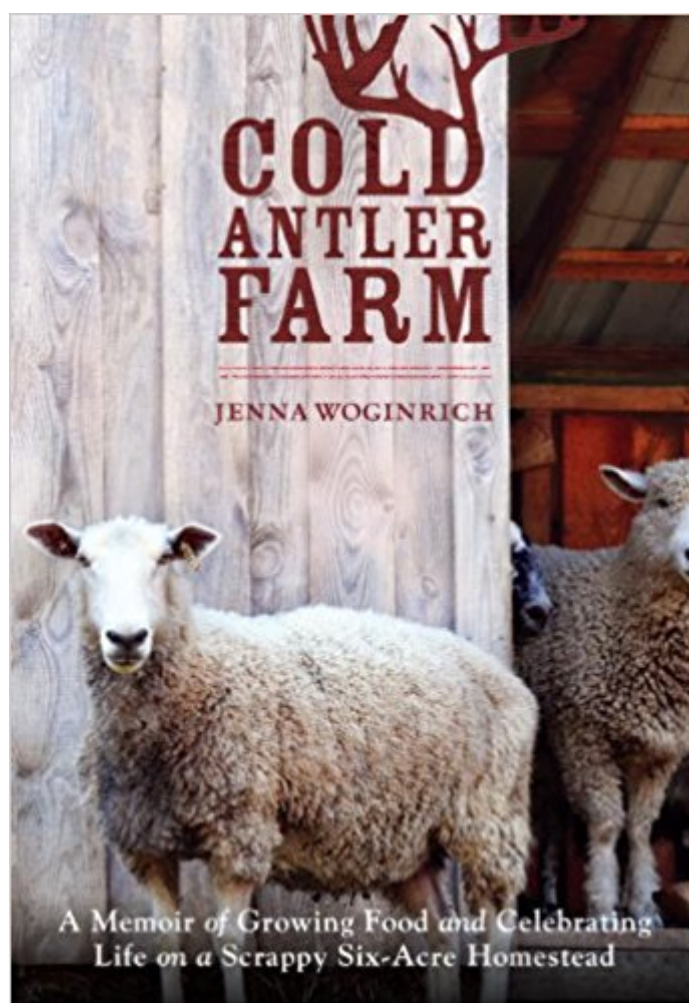


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# Cold Antler Farm: A Memoir Of Growing Food And Celebrating Life On A Scrappy Six-Acre Homestead



## Synopsis

Farm City meets The Omnivore's Dilemma in Cold Antler Farm, a collection of essays on raising food on a small homestead, while honoring the natural cycle of the "lost" holidays of the agricultural calendar. Author Jenna Woginrich is mistress of her one-woman farm and is well known for her essays on the mud and mess, the beautiful and tragic, the grime and passion that accompany homesteading. In Cold Antler Farm, her fifth book, she draws our attention to the flow and cycle not of the calendar year, but of the ancient agricultural year: holidays, celebrations, seasonal touchstones, and astronomical events that mark sacred turning points in the seasons.

Amidst the "lost" holidays of the equinoxes, May Day, Hallowmas, and Yule, we learn the life stories of her beloved animals and crops--chicken, pig, lamb, apples, basil, tomatoes. May apple blossoms are sweet fruit for rambunctious sheep in June. And come September, the harvest draws together neighbors for cider making under the waning summer sun. The living beings she is tending fuel one another--and the community--day to day, season by season. By examining what eating seasonally really means, the "ancient" reclaimed calendar becomes a source of wisdom. How do we set down roots and break new ground in spring? How to best nourish body and soul in the heat of deep summer? And what can we learn by simply paying more attention to weather patterns than to our social network feeds? Cold Antler Farm encourages us to eat and live well with respect to the natural rhythm of the seasons. In turn we learn what it means to be truly connected, not super-networked.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Verdict: Homesteading advice, some recipes, and a good dose of humility make this a most enjoyable read for anyone who is interested in living a life that's more in tune with natural rhythms." •Library Journal

"Few writers can put into words the epiphanies that break upon a mind and spirit communing with a piece of earth. Home, barn, and garden converge in the quietness of agrarian labor to provide transcendent thoughts about living, loving, and learning. Jenna is a master." •Joel Salatin, farmer, Polyface Farm, and author of *Home*

"In this graceful and touching book, Jenna Woginrich reminds us of humanity's deep connection to season and cycle. This is a book full of humility, inspiration, and the richness of experience inherent to living in harmony with natural forces far beyond our control." •Ben Hewitt, author of *The Town That Food Saved*

"Jenna Woginrich's life and writing are both marked with a ferocity and passion that are inspiring, disturbing, and mesmerizing all at the same time. This is a powerful memoir of a brave and determined young woman's love affair with a gritty six-acre farm that is every inch her own and her struggles to keep it going." •Jon Katz, author of *The Second-Chance Dog: A Love Story*

"In *Cold Antler Farm*, Jenna Woginrich lovingly grabs you by the hand and takes you along for the ride of her life. As the caretaker of a menagerie of lively animals and an antique home riddled with personality, she is the sage observer of seasonal rhythms and the compassionate soul studying, questioning, and learning from it all. This book will ultimately leave you torn: you'll be just as anxious to turn the page and learn what comes next while simultaneously wanting to close the book, put it down, and walk away, so as to draw out the eventual conclusion. It's that good." •Ashley English

JENNA WOGINRICH is a thirty-something homesteader and the author of *Barnheart*, *Chick Days*, *Made from Scratch*, and *Days of Grace*. A Pennsylvania native, she has made her home in the mountains of Tennessee, in northern Idaho, in rural Vermont, and most recently in upstate New York, where she lives with a flock of Scottish Blackface sheep, a border collie-in-training, chickens and geese, a hive of bees, and several amiable rabbits.

I love Woginrich's books, and this one is excellent. It focuses on the wheel of the year, and includes essays on both the seasonal responsibilities and their rewards. Very grounded! My husband and I hope to retire to a small holding like this, though we are not up for being as ambitious as Woginrich is! Still, it's very inspirational, and her writing is helping me to maybe find some joy in gardening (I'm

more a critter person) than merely the harvest. I also love the way she connects the wheel of the year with social commentary. That context is vital to sustainable lifestyles, however they might be achieved. Highly recommended, especially to people who long for a small-holding of their own- however realistic that might be.

I own all of Jenna's books, but this one is hands down my very favorite!! I love the way she writes about living life on her small homestead through the Wheel of the Year, and her thoughts, feelings, and experiences as each season passes. I've been a fan of hers for a long time, and this is one book I'll definitely be enjoying more than once.

I so wanted to like this book! Some chapters are boring, as if she needed to write something, whether it was interesting or not. Then other chapters were delightful. The consistency was sporadic and often felt a waste of time. It also revolved around some sort of pagan beliefs the author tried to base her book on, creepy and depressing.

Highly recommended by a friend, but I had a hard time getting through it.

Have enjoyed this author since her first book which I loved! The new book was not a disappointment. Jenna is concise, witty and insightful. I feel as if I traverse her farm with her. There is great warmth and clarity as she outlines her life on the farm...with it's joys, struggles, sadness and delights. Highly recommend it to anyone with a "barnheart".

I loved it....here is someone who threw caution to the wind and went for more joy and experience in LIFE. We should all perhaps take a moment or two to imagine what we would do if the life we were living was contrary to what we wanted to experience before we die. Everyone these days should be thinking more green and definitely more community involved. We all have to be the change we want to see in the world and she is happy with her choice.....I envy her in many ways. Jenna you may not have the riches that some Americans have but you are richer by far in more important ways. I will be giving her a call one of these days to stop by and make a donation and to experience life on 'Cold Antler Farm'. I can't wait for your next book.

This was pretty interesting and well written. The format is a series of stand alone chapters on various events and slices of life on the farm. I enjoyed reading about the author's life on a farm in

upstate New York. (We really do call it that) The farm is located not far from my home so the local interest is there for me too.

I had enjoyed the authors other books and looked forward to seeing the story of her life unfold. She didn't let me down! This was a truly pleasurable read from beginning to end. I like her style of telling a story and hope she continues to evolve into telling more tales of life in a simpler fashion.

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