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Homesteading and Preparedness Festival comes to Bowling Green

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Three friends are bringing their love of homesteading to Bowling Green. They are hosting a Homesteading and Preparedness Festival that will be free to the public at the L.D. Brown Ag Expo Center on Oct. 28-29 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day.

Jake Snyder from Dog Creek Farm in Southern Indiana, Jason Sparks from Kentucky Sustainable Living in Bowling Green and Shelli Randolph from Two Old Crows Homestead in Kentucky have spent the past couple months organizing the first ever Homesteading Festival in Bowling Green.

Homesteading has become increasingly popular over the past few years, the idea of self-sufficiency

has become comforting to people in an ever changing world.



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“It really applies to so many different walks of life and so many different things to different people. The base of it I would say is just growing your own food and trying to build a self-sufficient lifestyle,” Snyder said.

Speakers are coming from across the country to teach people about homestead security, picking the right homestead dairy cow, pasture management, planting guides and much more.

“There’ll be food preserving classes, for people wanting to learn how to can. There’ll be processing classes for people that have a bigger farm and raise animals and want to know

how to process animals. Take it from an animal to an actual piece of meat that you would see in a grocery store,” Snyder said.

The festival is also offering paid classes on Oct. 27 for those wanting to learn more about permaculture or wanting to learn what to do in a medical emergency. The classes will last all day, the permaculture class costs \$150 and the medical class costs \$250.



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Permaculture is the planting of a fruit tree guild, which means planting seven or eight plants around the recently planted fruit tree rather than just putting mulch around it. The plants will then feed the tree. They can be used as fertilizer or as a nitrogen fixer.

The medical classes tend to be popular at homesteading festivals. "When you're on a homestead, or doing any farming thing, obviously you're running chainsaws, you're working on a lot of stuff, just having an idea of what to do if you get a cut," Snyder said.

Homesteading isn't just for those that farm acres of land or own livestock. Homesteading can also be a couple potted plants on a city balcony or a

small chicken coop in a suburban backyard. The main theme of homesteading is simply taking control of anything you can.

“Homesteading to somebody might be having raised beds in their backyard in a subdivision and to somebody else that’s moving out of the subdivision to five acres and growing everything,” Snyder said.

The idea of homesteading has become increasingly popular since the pandemic. Being self-sufficient by producing one’s own food has become extremely appealing to many people across the country.

“There are going to be speakers there that have been in other countries when there’s been a catastrophic event. They’re going to know how to prepare for that,” Snyder said.

“They’ve watched people that have struggled.”

More information regarding the event can be found at <https://kentuckysustainableliving.com> or contact Snyder 765-480-3436.

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