

# ***Setting up a Permaculture Farm Checklist***

## ***Climate & Geography***

- ✓ Collect data about plant hardiness zone, frost free dates, wind and annual distribution of the rainfall
- ✓ Use Google Earth to get a screenshot of your property and then mark the boundaries
- ✓ Get a topographic map - use Google Maps terrain view option and grab a screenshot
- ✓ Get any other maps showing soil types and surficial geology

## ***Water Supply***

- ✓ Water storage calculation - calculate how much water you'll need
- ✓ Water catchment calculation:  $1\text{mm (rainfall)} \times 1\text{m}^2 \text{ (surface area)} = 1\text{L (volume of water)}$  - calculate how much water you can get
- ✓ Put your main water storage on the highest possible point in your landscape
- ✓ Create water harvesting drains that divert runoff to your main water storage
- ✓ Reticulate stored water with plastic irrigation pipes using gravity

## ***Access - Possible Locations***

- ✓ On ridge crests to keep them dry and easy to maintain (main roads)
- ✓ On the contour to prevent erosion and concentration of the run-off
- ✓ Along boundary lines

✓ By water channels such as diversion channels, irrigation channels, irrigation areas.

### ***Buildings and Structures***

✓ Look after what you have first, restore what you can next and then finally introduce new elements into the systems.

✓ Buildings shouldn't be overly exposed and they should have good solar access

✓ Put your buildings on a slope to allow for good water and air drainage

✓ Position your buildings higher than house in order to utilize their water tanks for a gravity-fed water source for your home.

✓ Consider your energy needs and building structures that generate and store that energy

### ***Fences***

✓ Install perimeter fence

✓ Follow the roads with your other main fences

✓ Enclose paddocks and planting areas

✓ Plant living fences and hedgerows

### ***Soil Conditioning***

✓ Use keyline plowing to lift and aerate the soil while limiting soil disturbance

✓ Use cover cropping and mulching to build up organic matter and protect the soil

✓ Apply bio fertilisers and compost teas to inoculate the soil with microbes

✓ Use planned grazing techniques and intermittent disturbance regimes to build soil faster

### ***Planting***

✓ Plant windbreaks for a protection of your plantings.

- ✓ Establish pastures and annual crop lands so you have a quick source of income
- ✓ Use the tree density as a guide to determine which of the tree based systems you want (food forests>>orchards>>farm forestry)
- ✓ When planting trees on a bigger scale follow the shape of the land

### ***Animals***

- ✓ Introduce your animals once your plantings have established
- ✓ Use pigs and chickens for an easy start
- ✓ Use temporary fencing to move animals around, protect your plantings and boost a fertility of an area.
- ✓ Introduce big herbivores and planned grazing practices to increase your fertility even further and close the mineral cycle.

### ***Farm Economy***

- ✓ Create a narrative about your farm and tell a story
- ✓ Use social media tools to create a personal relationship with your customers.
- ✓ Analyse your markets so you can deliver the products that are really needed
- ✓ Set up an e-commerce site like Shopify so you can sell directly to you customers

### **Notes:**

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