

How to Make a Living While Living Off-The-Grid

I am a solo homesteader and have been on my land since 2021.

For many of those years, I struggled hard financially and lived in a meager shanty. I had no indoor plumbing, no kitchen or bathroom, just a hose for water, some electricity, and a bucket for doing my business.

I was unemployed and under-employed for quite a while. It took me a lot of determination to start making a living out here, and for a while, I thought I was going to have to give up on my land for greener pastures.

I did manage to land a good job at the military base out here, but it took a lot of time and effort.

Before I got the job, I tried all kinds of ways to make money, some successful and some not. But I had to be resourceful and creative to stay afloat.

I want to share my ideas with you so you can think about different ways you can make a living while living off the grid.

I. FIX STUFF

1. Mobile RV repair business
2. Mobile mechanic
3. Small engine mechanic
4. Roadside assistance
5. Mobile auto maintenance (oil change, tire rotation, fluids check)
6. Tractor supplier and operator - land clearing
7. Diesel mechanic
8. Towing business
9. Computer repair
10. Cell phone repair
11. Handyman

Fixing stuff will always be in demand because if there is one thing I learned, most people would rather hire someone to fix things than learn how to fix it themselves.

Rural areas are excellent for mechanics. Diesel mechanics to work on tractors and farming equipment will always be in demand.

Roadside assistance is also a great one, especially if you have a tow truck. You can get contracts with insurance companies.

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When I was broke and struggling, I could not find a local job to save my life. I turned to the internet and hustled up an article writing gig for an insurance company. It paid by piece and I could work anywhere. Unfortunately, the work dried up. But it lasted me for several months.

II. DIGITAL WORK

12. Write articles for websites
13. Build websites
14. Programmer
15. Video editor
16. Content creator
17. App developer
18. Voice over artist
19. AI data trainer
20. Virtual assistant
21. Social media manager
22. Stock footage creator

Many of these jobs are fizzling out and the competition is fierce, but social media management is pretty hot right now. Managing a schedule, content creation, and posting content for a business or brand is in demand.

Video editing is also a big one because content creators and businesses do not like to video edit, nor do they want to develop the skillset.

Once I got laid off from the writing gig, I had to hustle up another job. I found a travelling job and left the property for six months. I got a job doing network infrastructure, which is a fancy title for pulling cables in ceilings and walls.

It was a pretty crappy job, but it landed me the experience I needed to upskill.

III. TRAVELING WORK

23. OTR trucker
24. Rural delivery (USPS, Amazon)
25. Traveling PC technician
26. Cell phone tower tech
27. Data center technician
28. Hotel HVAC refresh tech
29. Solar field installer
30. EV charging station tech
31. Traveling nurse
32. Stage/theater tech
33. Disaster recovery tech

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I decided I was gone long enough from my land and I returned to my shanty. I still needed to make money so while I was working on studying to get some IT certifications, I did side hustles to keep me afloat.

IV. ENTREPRENEUR SIDE HUSTLES

34. Cleaning for someone or starting a cleaning business
35. Rural trash service
36. Water hauling service
37. Dogsitting, petsitting, large animal care
38. Mobile grooming
39. Fence building and repair (big one)
40. Window cleaning/power washing/solar panel cleaning
41. Snow plowing/landscaping/driveway maintenance
42. Junk removal / estate cleanouts
43. Septic tank pumping and inspections
44. Party and event rentals

These types of side hustles can be done part-time and made into small businesses too.

I worked very hard to get IT certifications and land a job here at the local military base. It was not easy and it took me several months to land the job. I am now an IT support technician and I make decent money and have nights and weekends off.

V. FEDERAL/STATE/PRIVATE RURAL JOBS

45. Military installations
46. Prisons and jails
47. Ranger stations
48. Fish hatcheries
49. Border patrol (BIG in AZ)
50. Dept of transportation
51. Mines and mining operations
52. Electrical Substations
53. Wildland firefighter
54. Landfill and recycling plants
55. Water and wastewater plants

These types of jobs are good because they pay well and are often located in remote locations. Dept of transportation has employees in the most remote of locations, same with mining companies, USFS, and Border Patrol.

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You usually have to pass a background check, credit check, and may need a clearance to hold these jobs, so they are not for everyone.

On top of working full-time, I also maintain a secondary way to make income. And that is because I do not trust that my job will always be there for me. I want to be resilient in case of job loss or job market uncertainty. I think blindly trusting that you will always have a job is an illusion.

I think the ultimate goal for many while going off-grid is to create a business based out of your land. Building a business on the homestead that supports you is a very rewarding endeavor.

VI. HOMESTEAD BASED BUSINESSES

- 56. Farmers market operations
- 57. Beekeeping
- 58. Woodworking
- 59. Jewelry making and selling
- 60. Mead and wine making and selling
- 61. Homesteading workshops
- 62. Glamping operations
- 63. Raising and selling livestock
- 64. Gourmet mushroom growing
- 65. Nursery operations
- 66. Cut flowers and dried flower production
- 67. Herbs, teas, and culinary seasonings
- 68. Educational farm/homestead tours
- 69. Firewood, milling, wood chips
- 70. Christmas tree farm, pumpkin patches, u-pick orchards

I think these types of businesses can do well, but they can be seasonal and change trends with the times. Some things are riskier than others like a glamping business. You need to be in the right location for a business like that to take off, and it has thousands in upfront costs.

You can run more than one of these at the same time for resiliency, just make sure to not get spread too thin juggling too many businesses at once.

Overall, you will have to make money while living off-grid. You are going to need money for maintenance and repairs, expanding the homestead, and buying staples that you do not produce yourself.

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However, I think it is important to try and reduce your expenses as much as possible so you can afford to take some risks financially, like investing in starting a business, or keeping yourself afloat while building up your homestead.

Send me your ideas for making money and I will add them to the list!

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