

# **RURAL WISDOM**

**10 Life Lessons From Country Living**

**SHAWN OUSLEY**

Rural Wisdom: 10 Life Lessons from Country Living  
by Shawn Ousley

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# **Rural Wisdom**

## **10 Life Lessons From Country Living**

**Intro**

**1) Patience**

**2) People are Still Neighborly**

**3) Simple Pleasure**

**4) Two Things**

**5) Adaptability**

**6) Rainy (and Snowy) Days Will Happen:**

**7) Resourcefulness**

**8) Buy a truck**

**9) Hard Work Pays Off**

**10) Bonfires are Therapy**

**Conclusion**

# Intro

My family consists of my wife LaKeesha, and our two sons, Nathan and Xavier. Our family of four has lived in many cities, and in various types of homes over the years. From small to large apartments in Huntsville, Alabama to houses in the same city, the places I have called home have varied. We spent time in a subdivision home in Athens, Alabama, built in the middle of old farmland. We also lived for a period in a nice apartment in Mathews, North Carolina and a small, claustrophobic apartment in north Shreveport, Louisiana. Out of all these homes, my seven years on a mini farm in the small village of Mira, Louisiana taught me the most life lessons.

Driving north out of Shreveport once you pass the last grocery store the road splits. To the left Hwy 1 takes you to and through the small Louisiana towns of Oil City, Vivian, and Rodessa, and then to the Texas state line. To the right, Hwy 71 takes you to and through the towns of Dixie, Belcher, Gilliam, Hosston, and then to Mira. Six more miles and you go through Ida and then the Arkansas state line. Twenty-seven miles from that split up Hwy 71 you will arrive at our minifarm. Sidenote: After staying there for a few years I was even able to tag myself on social media as Ousley Minifarm.

Our boys were 8 and 10 when we moved into that 3

bedroom, 2 bathroom, yellow house with the wraparound porch. To the right of the house sitting back, there was a barn that once held horses. To the right of the barn there were multiple persimmon trees. And to the right of the persimmon trees there were numerous plum trees. Attached to the left side of the barn was the beginning of a chicken coop. Inside the barn were two rooms that would eventually be used for a multitude of things.

From the road to the back corner of the house, the driveway was 175 feet long. There was a massive oak tree at the front corner of the house midway down the driveway. At the end of the driveway opposite of the house was another massive oak tree. Funny thing about those two trees, there was never a time that there were no leaves on those two trees. Even in the fall when all of the leaves would fall off, there would still be “original” leaves when the new leaves started to sprout in the spring.

There was a tree line to the left side of the house and another tree line that ran the entire back line of the property. To the right of the house on the other side of the driveway was an open pasture that the previous owners used for their horses.

The home was built in 1935. It was on a pier and beam and the subfloor was the actual floor at one point. The small back porch had been converted into a laundry room and second bathroom.

Over the seven years we put new floors in the living room, dining room, hallway, hall bathroom, and our oldest son's bedroom. Besides our bedroom, we painted every room in the house, including the hallway. We installed a new ceiling fan in the living room, as well as a new light fixture in the dining room. It was the perfect house for our family of four.

Over the seven years we would have 3 dogs, 7 barn cats, multiple chickens, about 6 quail, 4 pigs, and one goat that ran away back to his original owner a mile away.

**Chapter / Lesson**

**1**

**Patience**