

Stake Self-Reliance Newsletter - November 2020 - #1

Egg preservation and tomatoes

I have researched preserving eggs without refrigeration for my Son who is planning a long cruise with his wife. I have found some interesting methods which can also be used in efforts to prepare for times of a great surplus of eggs and for hard times ahead.

This link uses several methods including waterglass, greasing and simply rotating eggs every 3 days.

<https://theboatgalley.com/how-to-store-eggs-without-refrigeration/>

Another link uses limewater to preserve eggs for 8 or more months. This is the same lime, calcium hydroxide, used to make pickles more crispy, whitewash and for the nixtamalization of corn for tortillas. Side note: Between 1906 and 1940 more than 3 million Americans were affected by pellagra, a niacin deficiency, with more than 100,000 deaths because this simple process was ignored.

Caution, this link contains advertising. If you want the basics, contact me directly.

<https://homesteadingfamily.com/preserved-eggs-water-glassing-eggs-for-long-term-storage/>

The caveat to both of these processes is you must use farm fresh, unwashed eggs. I am updating my resource list so if you know of anyone raising chickens for eggs, please let me know.

On another subject, tomato plants can be preserved by careful observation of enemies. Specifically, the tomato horn worm. This is an ugly, green, huge caterpillar which can defoliate a tomato plant overnight.

Tomato Hornworm and 'Buddies'

If you find this garden pest with the little white 'fuzzies' attached, let it be. The white cocoons are from a parasitic wasp which has already fed on the insides of the caterpillar. They will hatch and infect other hornworms in your garden. These beneficial wasps are attracted by smaller size flowers like yarrow and aster, so you may want to plant some to encourage them to visit your yard. If the worms are found without fuzzies, a can of soapy water or a heavy foot will dispense with them.

For more information, see <https://ugaurbanag.com/tomato-hornworms-and-parasitic-wasps/>

Good Luck.

Michael



Photo courtesy Michael Goodwin.