The Encyclopedia Of Country Living, 40th Anniversary Edition
The bestselling resource for modern homesteading, growing and preserving foods, and raising chickens, The Encyclopedia of Country Living includes how to cultivate a garden, buy land, bake bread, raise farm animals, make sausage, can peaches, milk a goat, grow herbs, churn butter, build a chicken coop, catch a pig, cook on a wood stove, and much, much more. This comprehensive resource is the most authoritative guide available to a sustainable lifestyle and living off of the land.

Carla Emery started writing The Encyclopedia of Country Living in 1969 during the back-to-the-land movement of that time. She continued to add content and refine the information over the years, and the book went from a self-published mimeographed document to a book of 928 pages. This 40th Anniversary Edition reflects the most up-to-date resource information and the most personal version of the book that became Carla Emery’s life work. It is the original manual of basic country skills that have proved essential and necessary for people living in the country, the city, and everywhere in between.

Carla Emery’s The Encyclopedia of Country Living contains 1,000,000 words, 2,000+ recipes, and 1,500+ mail-order sources (for everything she tells you how to do, she also tells you where to get the supplies to do it). This book is so basic, so thorough, so reliable, that it deserves a place in every home.

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From the Trade Paperback edition.
I briefly met Carla Emery years ago. She was a very warm, giving, and likeable person (sadly I later learned she died shortly after I met her), and she was the real deal. She had grown up on a farm, homesteading, and living and learning from her relatives many of the skills she writes about in her book (she admitted some parts of the book were researched--not surprising given this book is truly encyclopedic). But for her the skills she writes about was a way of life. There’s a good reason this book is a classic with multiple editions. It includes more information on country skills than most of us will ever use. It boogles my mind how she put it all together. Back to Basics is another classic in this genre, but that was written by a whole team of writers. This was all Carla. Reading this is like spending time in a room full of homesteaders and listening to them chat and swap stories. Of course, you probably won’t need to know how to give birth to a baby without a doctor around or how to midwife/husband a baby calf into the world in a snow storm, but it’s comforting to know you could find out how if necessary, even if the power is out. Most likely you’ll need if for things like mending a fence or growing grain. Yep, it’s in here. And Carla’s likeability comes through in print. This book is a classic. Other books likely of interest: >Your Cabin in the Woods, which is a great starter book for anyone thinking about getting their own place in the country, as it is a very helpful combination of both practical and philosophical.

I just got the Kindle version of this 40th Anniversary Edition of what I know as Carla Emery’s Old Fashioned Recipe Book. I own one of the first actually bound-book editions (vs. the loose leaf, three-ring binder, subscription editions.) From what I understand, Carla numbered that one, the first completed, professionally printed, and bound edition, the second edition. I bought it in the late 70’s... probably 1977, would be my guess and I carried it all over the world with me for all these years, unbelievably it’s still bound like new and every page is in place! Granted, I treasured it and was careful of it, but that’s still a testament to its hardiness and my care over the years. I also own an Encyclopedia of Country Living version from a couple of years ago. And now this Kindle, 40th Anniversary Edition. Money well spent; all of it. This book, all editions, is an entire University of Self-Sufficiency in one fat volume (928 pages) all for only, ONLY, $14.99! This book represents the
work and learning of an entire lifetime well-spent, if curtailed too early. We are all poorer for the loss of Carla back in 2005. I miss her, there's a Carla shaped hole in my Universe; and I never even got to meet her. I read my first copy, front to back, several times and referred back to it over and over, over the last many decades. I skimmed the more recent Encyclopedia version once, maybe twice--I can still get sucked in when consulting for one particular piece of information... and surface hours later. Tonight, I decided to read this new Anniversary Edition again, front to back. I want to see what's new. I know there's updated information, in particular source information, and that should be interesting.

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