

# MaryJane's Cluck™

april

brings may

showers flowers

## May Day 2009



### A word from your Sisterhood Coordinator

#### The Land of Terratopia

My best friend is Terra, and I call my friendship with her "Terratopia." It is that place where I feel the most like I can be all that I dream of being, as I can see myself more clearly thru her friendship.

Life has shown me that there are things that only a "sister" can get you through, and one of those things happened for me this week. As Terra tells it, while I am usually a very strong and capable farmgirl, there are two known things that can drop me to my knees: rodents and having to have my picture professionally taken.

This week, I was scheduled to have my picture taken by a brilliant local photographer, and it had me totally freaked out—so much so that one would have thought I was anticipating being marched out in front of a firing squad. While I don't have all the answers as to why it bothered me so much, I do know that if anyone would get me through this, it would be Terra.

In Terratopia, few words are required. I always feel safe from judgment and from being misunderstood. I never have to ask her if she *will* ... only what time she *can*—she is there for anything and everything. She is my best cheerleader, defender, student, and teacher. And on this night, she was the very best photographer's assistant any photographer could ask for, making me laugh in a way only someone who knows "where the buttons are" could. (See one of the results below.)

Many of us have found this kind of friendship through The Farmgirl Connection chatroom. We are learning how to be better women to one another. Learning to be less judgmental and more willing to show grace. We have become less competitive and more celebratory of each other's successes, and we are learning how to come alongside one another, more willing to offer our gifts to ensure that we all reach all our dreams. We are learning that wanting the best for our fellow sisters only opens up the world of possibilities for ourselves. We live in a world of abundance, and one another's successes don't empty the cookie jar; rather, they make more room for each other's opportunities.

One of the best lessons I have learned to date is that we don't need more critics and more judgment, as the world seems to hand that out in spades—we just need more women willing to be "sisters" and provide a safe place for one another ... a "Terratopia."

To share your Each Other stories, please [click here](#).

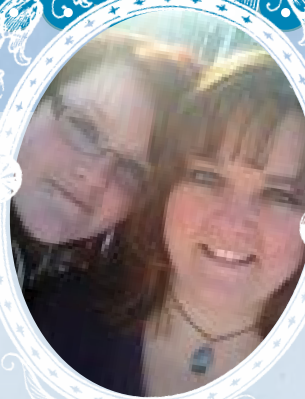
*Gene' Shoom*







## Featured Farmgirl



**1) Name:** Marcy Piggott

**2) Forum ID:** Marcy Jo

**3) Married?** Yes, for three years

**4) Children?** 6 ~ Kody 18, Morgin 17, Brett 14, Devon 12, Zakk 10, Hannah 9

**5) Tell me about you.** I never felt comfortable in my life until I embraced being a farmgirl. The older I got, the more I wanted to learn from my grandmothers. I know I should have started that many years ago, but when I stumbled upon MaryJanesFarm, I knew I found what I was looking for. I finally knew that I could be a farmgirl in every sense of the word. I love to garden and take care of my sheep, chickens, rabbits, cats, and dog. I am a proud member of MJ's Mavens and am learning to save heirloom seeds to pass on to future generations. I want to preserve all that my grandmothers knew and send that along as well. Anything from crafts to simpler living. I realized after I went back to work at the factory that I am meant to be a home farmgirl. My husband and I both want to be self sufficient in every sense of the word. That will involve lots of work, but I am ready to take on that task. I have started my own little home business called Marcy's Market. I have aprons and baby bibs, tops and skirts for sale, as well as seeds and extra produce from the garden.

**6) Favorite flower and why?** Tulips ... because they come back every spring.

**7) What is your passion, besides hubby and kids and other family members?** Being a farmgirl; nothing is better than wearing some dirt!

**8) Favorite quote?** "This is no ordinary farmgirl you're dealing with." I'm pretty sure I got that one from MaryJane. And "Discontent is the want of self-reliance." by Ralph Waldo Emerson.

**9) Best piece of advice anyone has ever given you ... and who gave it?** "It'll be there." Grama always says this when I tell her I just haven't gotten to all my chores or finished my to-do list.

**10) What are your dreams for the future?** I want to live on a self-sufficient farm, taking care of my family and teaching others that you can be healthy and live simply.





## The scoop from MaryJanesFarm

**MaryJanesFarm Store Class:**  
**Bed Bugs to Rag Rugs**  
**May 9**

It is already time to sign up for the next class in Coeur d'Alene. We will crochet, talk, and LAUGH all morning, leaving you free to explore Coeur d' Alene's shops or crochet by the lake in the afternoon. Bring Mom along!

Cotton bed sheets are transformed into one-step crocheted rag rugs that work up quickly and effortlessly—bright and cheery, but sturdy and durable and easy to wash.

**Instructor:** Rebekka Boysen-Taylor  
**Skill level:** Beginner  
**Class fee:** \$20  
**Supplies:** Kit fee \$5 (includes crochet hook and take-home crochet instructions). Bring at least three full cotton bed sheets (top or bottom); can be new but slightly worn works best. Any other large scraps of fabrics are also welcome.  
**Time:** Saturday, May 9, 10 am–12:30 pm  
**Location:** MaryJanesFarm Store, 210 E. Sherman, Coeur d'Alene, ID

Payment can be made at the time of class, but please register by e-mailing [rene@maryjanesfarm.org](mailto:rene@maryjanesfarm.org) so that we are prepared for you.

To see who else will be attending, [click here](#).  
 For additional Pay Dirt Farm School classes, [click here](#).

### Farmgirl Collection Fabric

Hi everyone! Is there any chance that we will be getting a sneak preview of the new line of fabric that MaryJane and Andover Fabrics are putting out? I don't think I can wait until June to see it! Please!!!  
 ~ Cathy Tieton, Washington

**MaryJane:** You gals are the very best! There will be a full-page release in the next magazine (that starts shipping out to subscribers and stores April 28). We'll have the entire "Farmgirl Collection" line available at a "launch party" July 4th during our Farm Fair. (Do try to attend.) It will have its debut (along with a cutting table) in a 20-foot circular hand-sewn tent on the grounds of my historic three-story flour mill. We'll stack the bolts of fabric along an oak church pew. So farmgirl! After that, it will be available in quilt shops only. Make sure your local quilt shop contacts Andover and gets signed up. The designs lend themselves to lots of complementary handwork. I can't wait for you to get your hands on it! (We'll have lots of contests for showing off your creativity.)





## The farm scoop continues ...

Dream with me ... 2009 Farm Fair

**Click here** for details about our 2009 4th of July Farm Fair called Buggy, Barter, and Boogie.



### May Holidays

May 1	May Day
May 2	Join Hands Day
May 5	Cinco de Mayo & National Teachers' Day
May 10	Mothers' Day
May 15	International Day of Families
May 16	Wear Purple for Peace Day & Armed Forces Day
May 25	Memorial Day

For more details on fun days you might not know about, **click here**.





## Farmgirl Chatter

### What are Farmgirls chatting about?

Check it out at The Farmgirl Connection link [here](#)!

We have had a lot of chatter about new Farmgirl Chapters sprouting up all over. You can read more about all these new chapters in the Chapter Chatter section of the Farmgirl Connection [here](#).

If you are looking for a chapter to join in your area, or if you are thinking of starting a chapter, [click here](#) for details.

### HomeSafeHome ~ Recipe for Green Fabric Softener Wanted

Anyone know of a green alternative to fabric softeners? I read somewhere that plain vinegar works. Does it? If so, how much do you need to add to the rinse cycle?  
Barbara ~ Perrysburg, Ohio

To find the answer to Barbara's question, [click here](#).

### Farmgirl Barter ~ RAOK Thank You's Here

Let's see if we can keep one or two threads going for the RAOK thank you's!

I'll start this one off by thanking Elizabeth for the wonderful seeds she sent. Thank you so much!!!  
Erin (Bluewrenn), Texas

[Click here](#) to see more Thanks You's!

### Barnyard Buddies ~ Join Me on My Hatching Journey

Okay, so I have my first hatch in the incubator on day three. I thought it would be interesting to share my journey with my farmgirl sisters. I candled the eggs this morning and feel pretty good about them being fertile and growing nicely. Every time I candle, I will share the pics! Here we go girls!!!! I hope you enjoy this just as much as I do.  
Christina (twzlrwho) ~ Dewitt, Virginia

[Click here](#) to follow Christina's hatching journey.



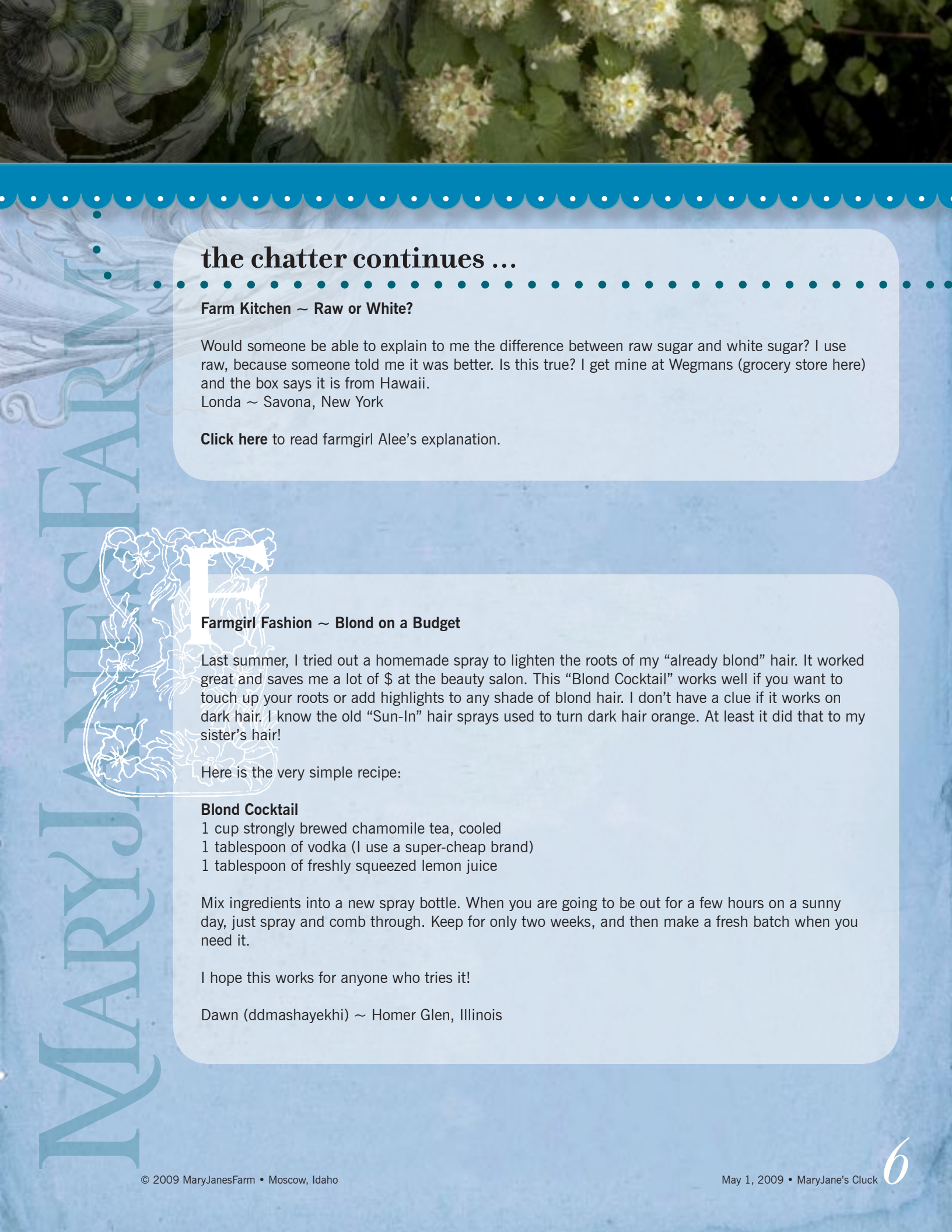
## the chatter continues ...

### Farm Kitchen ~ Raw or White?

Would someone be able to explain to me the difference between raw sugar and white sugar? I use raw, because someone told me it was better. Is this true? I get mine at Wegmans (grocery store here) and the box says it is from Hawaii.

Londa ~ Savona, New York

**Click here** to read farmgirl Aleee's explanation.



### Farmgirl Fashion ~ Blond on a Budget

Last summer, I tried out a homemade spray to lighten the roots of my "already blond" hair. It worked great and saves me a lot of \$ at the beauty salon. This "Blond Cocktail" works well if you want to touch up your roots or add highlights to any shade of blond hair. I don't have a clue if it works on dark hair. I know the old "Sun-In" hair sprays used to turn dark hair orange. At least it did that to my sister's hair!

Here is the very simple recipe:

#### Blond Cocktail

- 1 cup strongly brewed chamomile tea, cooled
- 1 tablespoon of vodka (I use a super-cheap brand)
- 1 tablespoon of freshly squeezed lemon juice

Mix ingredients into a new spray bottle. When you are going to be out for a few hours on a sunny day, just spray and comb through. Keep for only two weeks, and then make a fresh batch when you need it.

I hope this works for anyone who tries it!

Dawn (ddmashayekhi) ~ Homer Glen, Illinois





## even more chatter ...

### Outpost ~ Earn a Master's Degree on Where You Live

We've been inspired by *MaryJane's Outpost* book to get out and explore our surroundings. I wrote this story for our scrapbook and thought that I would share it with y'all.

While hiking down to Peavine Falls yesterday afternoon, Oakley and I ran across some scat on the trail. I noted aloud that if we were Native Americans we would know what kind of animal it came from, when it left it, where it went, and probably what it had for breakfast.

"They knew a lot of things, like how to find water, what plants are edible, where the animals live and the mushrooms grow." I said, "They learned all of that from their parents and from just observing and living in the moment."

"But they didn't know how to read," countered Oakley.

"No, they didn't have a written language, but that doesn't mean that they were stupid. Right now, all of our education and the fact that we can read wouldn't add up to a hill of beans if we were trying to survive in these woods. Out here, we're the ones who can't read!"

You can call me Nikki (NikkiBeaumont) ~ Small Town, Alabama

To read more of Nikki's story, please **click here**.



## Featured Recipe

From *MaryJanesFarm* Magazine:  
No Place Like Home

### Honeybun ChillOver

- 1 15-ounce can pears in natural juice
  - 1/4 cup sugar
  - 3 tablespoons fresh lemon juice
  - 3 packets ChillOver Powder
  - 1/2 cup pecans, chopped
  - 1/3 cup heavy whipping cream, whipped to soft peaks
  - 1/2 cup sour cream
  - 1/2 cup cottage cheese
  - 1/2 cup finely grated cheddar cheese
- Optional: cottage cheese, lemon zest, and caramelized pears for garnish



1. Drain pears and reserve juice. Cut pears into 1/4-inch pieces and set aside.
2. Blend together reserved pear juice, sugar and lemon juice and bring to a boil. Reduce heat to medium, sprinkle and stir ChillOver Powder into liquid and cook for 3 minutes, stirring frequently. Remove from heat. Pour into a large bowl.
3. Fold in pears and pecans, and set aside for 5 minutes to cool.
4. Fold in remaining ingredients. Spoon into a 4-cup mold (if you want to unmold this ChillOver, you'll need to use a flex mold) or serving dish, and follow basic ChillOver instructions at left. Garnish as desired.

Yield: eight servings

You can pick up a stash of  
ChillOver Powder at our website:  
**[Click Here!](#)**







## Farmgirl Sisterhood News

### Woo-Hoo Sisters!

A Woo-Hoo Sister is, by all definitions, a Farmgirl that goes deeper, challenging herself and others to accomplish more than each had ever dreamed. She wears the “badge” of sisterhood proudly, giving back to her family and her farmgirl community. She is easily defined by her actions. She is indeed a farmgirl, mastering all the tasks a farmgirl must know in order to keep the farmgirl movement alive. She is indeed a special gift, as she has taken up the cause and will be ready to pass on her knowledge as she is called upon to do so.

Earning badges this issue are:

#### Marcy Piggott

Each Other – Families Forever – Beginner Badge  
Each Other – Entrepreneurial Spirit – Beginner Badge  
Farm Kitchen – Know Your Food – Intermediate Badge  
Farm Kitchen – Organics on a Budget – Intermediate Badge  
Farm Kitchen – Bustin’ Out – Expert Badge  
Stitching and Crafting – Aprons – Expert Badge  
Garden Gate – What’s your Beef – Beginner Badge  
Cleaning Up – Shopping Green – Beginner Badge  
Cleaning Up – Shopping Green – Beginner Badge  
Stitching & Crafting – Aprons – Beginner Badge  
Stitching & Crafting – Button Up – Intermediate Badge  
Stitching & Crafting – Knitting – Beginner Badge  
Cleaning Up – Shopping Green – Beginner Badge

#### Sharon Stout Merry Amann

#### Tasha-Rose Mirick

Cleaning Up – Shopping Green – Beginner Badge  
Cleaning Up – Shopping Green – Intermediate Badge  
Cleaning Up – Shopping Green – Expert Badge  
Cleaning Up – Going Green – Intermediate Badge  
Garden Gate – Back Yard Farming – Beginner Badge  
Garden Gate – Back Yard Farming – Expert Badge

#### Cheryl Severeide

Stitching & Crafting – Sew Wonderful – Beginner Badge  
Stitching & Crafting – Button Up – Beginner Badge  
Garden Gate – Heirlooms Forever – Beginner Badge  
Garden Gate – Back Yard Farming – Beginner Badge

#### Dawn McKinney

Each Other – Lend a Helping Hand – Beginner Badge  
Each Other – Public Service – Beginner Badge  
Each Other – Farmgirl Gratitude – Beginner Badge  
Farm Kitchen – Know Your Food – Beginner Badge

One more Woo-Hoo Sister on the next page!

## the clucking continues ...

### Dawn McKinney

Farm Kitchen – ChillOver/ComeOver – Beginner Badge  
Farm Kitchen – Organic on a Budget – Beginner Badge  
Farm Kitchen – Bustin' Out – Beginner Badge  
Farm Kitchen – Get it Together – Beginner Badge  
Farm Kitchen – Self-Sufficiency – Intermediate Badge  
Garden Gate – Bee Good to Mother Earth – Beginner Badge  
Garden Gate – Gaining Ground – Beginner Badge  
Garden Gate – Back Yard Farming – Beginner Badge  
Outpost – Disconnect to Reconnect – Beginner Badge  
Cleaning Up – Going Green – Intermediate Badge

27 Badges were earned between this issue and the last!

Wondering what badges YOU can earn? Get the low-down: [Click Here](#)

### Farmgirl Chapter Henhouses

Here's where official members of the Farmgirl Sisterhood have set up "henkeeping" in our online "Henhouses." Our Henhouses give chapter members a place to meet online to chat, post photos, share instructions, tutorials, and more just for their own chapter. Each Henhouse has a "Bulletin Board," where a designated "Head Hencho" for that chapter posts chapter announcements and events. Even if you aren't a member, you can view these sites (go directly to the discussions without trying to type in a password at the top), but only official Farmgirl Sisterhood members will have access to post in their chapter's cyber Henhouse.

**Click here** to purchase your Sisterhood membership. If you're already a Sisterhood member and love to display your Sisterhood certificate, you'll really love our second and third-year renewal certificates! In fact, some of our Sisters have even purchased their renewals in advance to get theirs!







## Magazines, Books, and More

### June/July 2009 issue of *MaryJanesFarm*

Our June/July issue, Plum-Easy, will be out in newsstands on May 19 (subscribers will receive theirs earlier). In it, you'll find lots of summer living ideas, plum-easy recipes, our unique 3-bite burger meals, quilty pleasures, square-foot gardening, and more.

[Click here](#) to subscribe to *MaryJanesFarm* magazine.

### MaryJanesFarm 2009 Calendar

There's still time to get your third annual MaryJanesFarm Calendar! Each month's top page features a full-color image from our farm and each calendar page includes dates, holidays, inspirational sayings, lunar phases and fabulous farmgirl culture. This is a Project F.A.R.M. (First-class American Rural Made) product. All 26 pages are printed here at the farm on 8.5"x 11" card stock and are bound



### "MaryJane's Everyday Organic" Newspaper Column

Want to help MaryJane spread the farmgirl spirit? Get in touch with your local newspaper (letter, phone call, visit) and nudge them into carrying her column, "MaryJane's Everyday Organic." Let them know you're on board and why—that you're someone who cares, who dares, and most importantly, who loves to share what MaryJane represents for you; that you want to see more of what MaryJane has put voice to; that her simple solutions for buying less, eating better, and getting more out of life are something you'd like to see them carry.

#### Here's the little bit of info you'll need:

"MaryJane's Everyday Organic" weekly column is distributed by United Feature Syndicate, the same people who bring you features like Miss Manners, Sense & Sensitivity, Animal Doctor, Peanuts, and Dilbert. Newspapers can **e-mail** [lwilson@unitedmedia.com](mailto:lwilson@unitedmedia.com) to find out more. Good luck, and let MaryJane know WHO you contacted and WHEN by **dropping her a line** at [column@maryjanesfarm.org](mailto:column@maryjanesfarm.org).

#### "MaryJane's Everyday Organic" is running in The Salt Lake Tribune!

Check it out online every Thursday. **Click Here**

And you can look at the "More Home News" list on the left side of the page to read past columns.



## Magazines, Books, and More continues ...

### Magazine "Goodies" on the MJF Website

"For those who are looking for the Magazine portion of the website, here is the place to find additional patterns, instructions, recipes and such! Yum!"

~ Alee, Farmgirl Sister #8

To find the goodies, **click here!**



### Gift Items ...

Inspire yourself or inspire a friend with books, journals, note cards, and other gifts from MaryJane. From the kitchen to the campfire, there's something special here for every farmgirl-at-heart.

**Click here** to shop our gift items.

And don't forget to visit our "Product Shop" ... **Click Here**

There, you'll find everything from organic bed sheets to beautiful bed sets to aprons to dolls to candles to chocolate to over 60 instant or quick-prep meals and desserts to much, much more!



René Groom, Sisterhood Coordinator

MaryJanesFarm • Moscow, Idaho

You can contact René on her cell 509-778-1494

or her office phone 509-786-2887

or **e-mail her** at [rene@maryjanesfarm.org](mailto:rene@maryjanesfarm.org).

**Over 773 Farmgirl Chapters in 48 states and 7 countries  
and 28 Henhouses with 557 Sisterhood members ~  
growing stronger every day!**