

MaryJane's Cluck™

Monthly Sisterhood Newsletter ... where the braggin' begins!

2011

April

Life made us FRIENDS, MaryJanesFarm made us SISTERS!

CONTENTS (click on titles)

Hello from Sister #1	1
Each Other	4
Farm Kitchen	6
Garden Gate	8
Stitching & Crafting	10
Make It Easy	12
Outpost	16
Cleaning Up	18
The Farm Scoop	20
Farmgirl Chatter	22
Sisterhood News	28
Merit Badge Awardees	32
Farmerettes & Young Cultivators ..	40
Sisterhood Special	43
Magazines, Books & More	46

{HELLO FROM SISTER #1} with MaryJane

Won't You Be My Neighbor?

Head into the country for a little peace and quiet and you'll notice that everybody knows everybody who's anybody, and you can kiss your dream of anonymity goodbye. But if country folk can't exactly drop into obscurity, then city people have the opposite problem—often they don't know their neighbors, and don't know *how* to know them, either. But no matter how independent you city dwellers are, you need your neighbors. How else do you find out which tamale man's the best (the one on 5th, who's always fined for not having a license), which train is out of service (the Red Line—again!), or who could use a homemade coffeecake (Mrs. Cunningham on the 8th floor—her kitty has the flu)? Second only to family, neighbors are a built-in security system, support network, and information pipeline.

But what if you live in an apartment building where everyone tends to keep to themselves? Well, chances are good, you're not the only one craving neighbors. It just may be time for an old-fashioned meet-n-greet. Pick an idea, choose a location (like your own apartment, a common area, or a nearby picnic area), and post flyers near entrances, stairwells, elevators, and on each floor a few weeks in advance. Then just sit back and let the howdys roll! Here are a few ideas to get you started:

1. **Nothing brings people together like food.** And when everyone is invited to flaunt their kitchen know-how, good grub and even better, gab, are a sure thing. But if you've been to one generic potluck, you've been to a thousand, so keep things interesting. Set a theme, like Havana Nights, Going Green, or Margaritaville—the options are endless. Or throw a pasta party where you supply the noodles and

continued ...



“ Spring has returned. The Earth is like a child that knows poems. ”

– Rainer Maria Rilke



continued ...

each neighbor brings a sauce. How about a Friday night pizza party where you take care of the dough, sauce, and cheese, and your guests bring fun toppings? Make the pasta or pizza dough from scratch and you'll have 'em fainting in their boots in no time flat.

2. **Knock on some doors and see if you can't wrangle up a few others for an old-fashioned progressive dinner.** You'll start in one apartment for drinks and move to a different home for each course of the meal. Progressive parties were big in the fifties, when casual home entertaining was all the rage and thrifty housewives were looking to spread out the work and expense of hosting. With the current recession hitting entertainment budgets hard, progressive dinners are popular once again. Host one in your building for a party on the cheap that still feels like eating "out."

3. Like to stoke the mental fires a bit, get a fresh outlook on the world, and learn about the city you call home? **Start a book club that reads local-interest books.** While you can certainly host meetings in your own home, having them in a local coffeehouse or bar is a great way to support small business owners and learn more about your neighborhood. Letting each member make book suggestions will keep the list well-rounded and stimulating for everyone. Feel like you know enough about where you live? Pick books set in exotic locales instead. No time for extra reading? Try a foreign film club for an intellectual kick with less time invested.

4. I have a hunch that there are some crafty types in your building. Knitting is an ancient homesteading skill turned trendy-urban-pastime, and for good reason. **A knitting circle is a great way to work on neglected projects and squeeze in a little chitchat at the same time.** Invite people of all skill levels, supply a pot of coffee or tea and a batch of cookies, and enjoy learning from one another. Before you know it, recipes will be exchanged, stuck projects will be unstuck, and you're darn near certain to have 10 new yarn samples and just as many opinions about your love life. Behold the power of fiber.

5. Truth be told, you don't even need to throw a party to keep the neighborly mojo flowin'. **Form a welcome committee with two or three others, and ask building management to let you know when there's a new tenant.** Then simply leave a welcome package and a note to make *new* so-and-so feel at home. Get creative with the package: a loaf of banana bread, a keychain for apartment keys, an online map with the nearest grocery stores pegged, a list of the best local delivery joints, or the names of a few good watering holes. And don't forget to include your contact info in case you're needed for the proverbial cup of sugar. Remember—no matter where you live, the surest way to *have* a neighbor is to *be* a neighbor.

MaryJane 

Howdy, Neighbor!

{Hello from Sister #1} with MaryJane

Perfect for sharing with neighbors ...

farmgirl saturday cake

- 2 cups flour
- 1½ cups sugar
- 1 t sea salt
- 1 t baking soda
- 1 large egg
- 1 cup buttermilk
- 1 t vanilla
- ½ cup butter, melted
- 2 cups fresh blueberries
(or any other fresh or partially frozen berry)

Topping:

- ½ cup sugar
- 1 T cinnamon
- 1 T butter

1. Preheat oven to 350°F. Lightly oil a 9" x 13" baking dish and dust with flour.
2. In a large bowl, mix together flour, sugar, salt, and soda.
3. In a separate bowl, whisk the egg, buttermilk, vanilla, and butter.
4. Add the liquid ingredients to the flour mixture and stir until blended.
5. Fold in the blueberries. Pour into baking dish.
6. Topping: Mix together the sugar and cinnamon. With a pastry blender or fork, cut the butter into the mixture and sprinkle over top of cake.
7. Bake for 30–35 minutes.



“The fence that makes good neighbors
needs a gate to make good friends.”

– Author Unknown

Each Other

In the Shelter of Each Other



According to MaryJane, the seven aspects for living the farmgirl life are:

EACH OTHER | FARM KITCHEN | GARDEN GATE | STITCHING & CRAFTING ROOM | MAKE IT EASY | OUTPOST | CLEANING UP

{EACH OTHER} with Megan Rae | to earn a Sisterhood badge in our **{EACH OTHER}** category, [CLICK HERE](#)



Megan Rae (Sister #2) grew up “on the farm”—MaryJanesFarm. She attended Gonzaga University and received a bachelor’s degree in Journalism. After marrying her college sweetheart, they moved to Kansas and bought their first home on a cobblestone street. Her love for writing, editing, and well, her Mom, finally brought her back to the farm. Raising her 4-year-old and 2-year-old farmgirls and working alongside her husband, mother, and family is the perfect lifestyle mix for Megan. She rounds it out with travel across the country to visit her five dearest college girlfriends who she loves with all her heart (they’ve all been in each other’s weddings), and one of her favorite farmgirls that she met when she lived in Kansas (scheduled around working the cows, of course).

Gather Up!

When Mom first proposed I write the Each Other section of *MaryJane’s Cluck* a few years ago, I couldn’t have been happier. There are a lot of things we can do in life to improve our time on Planet Earth. Eating well and taking care of our environment are high on my list. But higher—no, highest—on my list is the concept of Each Other. In fact, I am pretty certain most of us cannot survive without a little love and human support. For me, it’s right up there with shelter and nutrients.

When the going gets rough, a simple hello or howdy—even a smiley face via a text on my cell phone—can pull me through. But the funny thing about it is this: I also often find myself putting friendship and gatherings on the back burner. Maybe it’s because I let providing shelter and food for my family take on too much importance.

But what amazes me most is how inspired, energized, and renewed I am after just a few short days of intentional Each Other—how a good dose can completely refresh my outlook on life.

“ A good friend is a connection to life—a tie to the past, a road to the future, the key to sanity in a totally insane world. ”

– Lois Wyse





{EACH OTHER} with Megan Rae | to earn a Sisterhood badge in our {EACH OTHER} category, [CLICK HERE](#)

MARYJANES FARM

When my husband and I first began dating, I'll admit I fell head over heels in love with ... his mother. The women in his extended family are very loving, but they also put a lot of effort and time into Each Other.

Every year, they gather for a matriarchal weekend on the beach. I was nervous the first time I attended. It's a lot of pressure to spend the weekend with a new family. But I have never felt so supported and loved. I left with an entire new set of girlfriends, and it just so happens, I also get to call them "family."

I caught a plane to the west coast last weekend for yet another Goddess weekend. We shopped, ate marvelous seafood, played board games, read, laughed, and cried.

I came home ready to tackle life head on, reminded again that the concept of Each Other is mandatory. Laughter, smiles, and tears with girlfriends are a must!



A HUGE thank you to everyone that participated in our Japan disaster relief drive. We are sending a check for \$4,485 to the Japanese Red Cross!!!! My brother, his wife, and their infant son, who live in Tokyo, said the Red Cross is handing out bottled water, and that's what is most needed right now. \$4,485 will provide bottled water and first aid to MANY families. As odd as it seems, my brother is getting mail deliveries, so we're mailing bottled water for use in their home from our farm here in Idaho. Awesome job everyone!!!! We just knew we could make an impact, but we didn't know you'd come through in such a VERY big way. Thank you so much. Proud to call you customers, friends, and sisters... – Meg



According to MaryJane, the seven aspects for living the farmgirl life are:
EACH OTHER | **FARM KITCHEN** | GARDEN GATE | STITCHING & CRAFTING ROOM | MAKE IT EASY | OUTPOST | CLEANING UP

{**FARM KITCHEN**} with Alyson Oüten | to earn a Sisterhood badge in our {**FARM KITCHEN**} category, [CLICK HERE](#)



Alyson Oüten (Sister #100) is a farmgirl, trapped in a city-girl career. A two-time Emmy-award-winning reporter, Alyson spent 20 years in the hustle and bustle of television news. Alyson recently hung up her microphone and parlayed her professional experiences into a new career as Corporate Communication Strategist for the international semiconductor company, Micron Technology. Alyson lives in a 1910 Craftsman-style bungalow in downtown Boise. She spends as much time as possible cooking for friends and preening and pruning her cottage garden. Alyson is a regular guest at our wall-tent bed and breakfast, where she soaks up our little piece of paradise in a bath under the stars. "It's my happy place!" she says.

Tea for Two

There is something so charming and sophisticated about an afternoon Spring tea. There's also something intimidating to many who consider hosting one. I'm here to demystify, simplify, and redefine "afternoon tea."

Let's begin with the definition ... not Webster's, but mine:

Afternoon Tea [n. af-ter-noon · tee] –
an opportunity to eat, drink and be merry with your friends.
(Note: nothing said about hand-writing invitations, buying a fancy hat, or spending all day making petit fours ... although you certainly can.)

Here's a little proof that I practice what I preach.

Invitations:

I recently hosted a spontaneous tea at my house. Please don't report me to Emily Post, but the invitations consisted of me randomly texting a group of girlfriends late one Saturday night asking if they were free the following afternoon. Several of them were ... so it was tea time.

Dress code:

Jeans and T-shirts!

Table toppings:

As I've stressed in earlier articles ... presentation is everything. I pulled out and dusted off my grandmother's beautiful Ming Temple china set. This took virtually no effort, cost me no money, and formed the visual foundation for my tea party. Also, use linens! I nearly always do, but this is highly recommended if you're going for faux fancy.

Menu:

I am totally unapologetic about going to my favorite bakery and buying a gorgeous variety of pastries and tiny tarts. Next to the china, this is what gets the gasps of guests as they walk in. Instead of spending days making desserts, I spent a few brief minutes making one small savory selection—my super-simple version of tea sandwiches.



Featured Recipe

Tea:

Along with tea, I serve coffee and sparkling wine! The tea and coffee are accompanied by cream (the real stuff) in a ceramic pitcher. I always use sugar cubes because, again, the ratio of effort vs. impact is off the charts. Before my guests arrived, I also plopped a frozen raspberry in the bottom of each champagne glass.

Results:

Aside from a quick trip to the store to pick up sparkling wine and my recipe ingredients, this whole set-up took me about 30 minutes ... and produced an unpretentious afternoon of conversation and camaraderie.

Simple Tea Sandwiches:

- 1 dense baguette, sliced
- 1 package of soft, spreadable cheese, such as cream cheese or goat cheese
- 1 cucumber, peeled and sliced into thin rounds
- cherry tomatoes, sliced in half
- salt & pepper

1. Spread cheese onto bread slices, top with 1 cucumber slice.
2. Sprinkle cucumber with salt and pepper.
3. Top with tomato half, cut side down.
4. Put on a pretty platter and serve with pride.





Garden

Bloom Where You're Planted

Gate



According to MaryJane, the seven aspects for living the farmgirl life are:
EACH OTHER | FARM KITCHEN | **GARDEN GATE** | STITCHING & CRAFTING ROOM | MAKE IT EASY | OUTPOST | CLEANING UP

{ **GARDEN GATE** } with Mary Ann Newcomer | to earn a Sisterhood badge in our { **GARDEN GATE** } category, [CLICK HERE](#)



Mary Ann Newcomer, (Sister #246) is a MaryJane Farmgirl, living in Boise, the capital of Idaho. Her great grandparents' homestead was established in 1899 on the Palouse prairie and is still in the family. She learned to cook, garden, can, and sew with her grandmother. Never without a garden or, at the very least, a shelf of plants in an apartment, she followed her passion to become an Advanced Master Gardener, a director of the Idaho Botanical Gardens, and a scribe, scout, and speaker for all things gardening.

“ It's spring fever. That is what the name of it is. And when you've got it, you want—oh, you don't quite know what it is you do want, but it just fairly makes your heart ache, you want it so! ”

— Mark Twain

Everything Old is New Again

I used to have this foolish, FOOLISH notion that I needed a special place for my “sentimental” heirloom plants. You know the ones—the gorgeous old peonies that bloom on cue for Mother's Day or Memorial Day. The same with lilacs and the grape-bubble-gum-scented bearded iris, lilies of the valley, bleeding hearts (ladies in the bathtub), day lilies, and columbines. All relegated to a special part of the garden because I had to have them, but didn't think they fit in with my sustainably, hip, clever, low-water-style landscape.

I had to think again.

I've come to understand these are the very same plants that survived the Oregon Trail, the Trail of Tears, the Gold Rush, the western migration across the country. They made up the backbone of the homesteader's garden. These are the plants that were watered with only the rain that fell or the leftover bath and kitchen water. That would, in fact, make them the foundation plants of the original sustainable, water-wise gardens, right? Oh, and they have incredible staying power and fragrances that could transport you to another place and time.

Heirloom gardens often contained local native plants, making do with what worked where they were planted. Heirloom gardens were made of pass-along plants from families, friends, and neighbors. Promiscuous reseeding annuals such as dame's rocket, cosmos, signet marigolds, four o'clocks, and painted tongue were everywhere. Rhubarb was divided and generously passed along to friends. Cuttings from lilacs were lovingly nurtured into hedges and windbreaks.



{GARDEN GATE} with Mary Ann Newcomer | to earn a Sisterhood badge in our {GARDEN GATE} category, [CLICK HERE](#)

Ditch lilies or daylilies or tiger lilies still grace the foundations of many an old barn in out-of-the-way places. And don't forget the hollyhocks—they make darling dolls with flouncy skirts.

Did you know a well-planted peony can live for more than 100 years? Alright, then. It's a plan. I'll rustle up some more heirlooms: more bearded iris (my grandmother collected them) and as many peonies as I can squeeze in under the lilacs. I do think I can find room for a few more bleeding hearts, so I'll have lots of blossoms for making "ladies in the bathtub."

Stop on by www.gardensofthewildwildwest.com. Leave a note. I'd love to hear which heirloom plants are in your garden.



Stitching & Crafting Room

Stitches of Fun & Laughter!



According to MaryJane, the seven aspects for living the farmgirl life are:
EACH OTHER | FARM KITCHEN | GARDEN GATE | **STITCHING & CRAFTING ROOM** | MAKE IT EASY | OUTPOST | CLEANING UP

{STITCHING & CRAFTING} with Rebekka Boysen-Taylor | to earn a Sisterhood badge in this category, [CLICK HERE](#)



Rebekka Boysen-Taylor, (Sister #40) was born in Spokane, Washington, right around the time Mount St. Helens blew her top. She studied Geography at Portland State University and taught grade school in the Bronx and inner-city Los Angeles. She lives with her family on the Palouse. As a stay-at-home mama to two organically growing little ones, Rebekka rounds out her organic lifestyle by volunteering at the Moscow Food Co-op, working as an instructor for MaryJane's Pay Dirt Farm School, embracing a DIY ethic, winning blue ribbons at the county fair, and living simply.

Recycled Office

Recently, my work life became a bit fuller—for the first time in a long time, I have an office outside my home. After settling into my new role as the reading teacher at my daughter's school, I realized that my generic desk supplies lacked a certain something. My jobs for the past seven years have been largely creative, and when I looked at the purple vinyl cover of my desk planner, I knew I could do better. I grabbed a grocery bag, a few pages from a discarded botany textbook, an egg carton, a tin can, and a sheet of decorative paper. My first step was to make a cover for my desk planner with the grocery bag. There was a great illustration of a sunflower in cross section that I cut out and added to the front of my planner. Using a set of decorative letter stamps, I added my name to the front of the book. Then I took a page from the botany textbook and wrapped the can to hold pencils and scissors, securing the page with some glue and a piece of adhesive ribbon. I decorated the egg carton to hold my paperclips, lip balm, erasers, and other small supplies. A discarded Brie box became a place to store markers.

“ I think, at a child's birth, if a mother could ask a fairy godmother to endow it with the most useful gift, that gift would be curiosity. ”

– Eleanor Roosevelt





{STITCHING & CRAFTING} with Rebekka Boysen-Taylor | to earn a Sisterhood badge in this category, [CLICK HERE](#)

MARYJANES FARM

Make a Grocer's Bag Book Cover

Any book can benefit from a protective cover. Start by laying your open book on the grocery bag and cut around it, leaving a 2" margin. Add a 2" slit the width of the spine of the book from both the top and bottom of the cover to the edge of the book's spine. Now begin folding the top edges of the paper down, followed by the bottom edges, and finally the sides. Tape them first to each other and then to the inside of your book with enough tape to secure them.

It is easy enough to infuse a bit of your personal style into whatever it is that you do. Each afternoon when I come in to work and reach for my planner, I am inspired by its simple beauty and practicality.



Make it Easy

Happy Hearts
Make Light Work

According to MaryJane, the seven aspects for living the farmgirl life are:
EACH OTHER | FARM KITCHEN | GARDEN GATE | STITCHING & CRAFTING ROOM | **MAKE IT EASY** | OUTPOST | CLEANING UP

{ **MAKE IT EASY** } with Shery Jespersen | to earn a Sisterhood badge in our { **MAKE IT EASY** } category, [CLICK HERE](#)



Shery Jespersen (Sister #753) is a Wyoming cattle rancher who's been horse-crazy all of her life. Shery is a leather and lace cowgirl. Her other interests include "junktiques," creating eclectic "make do" arts and crafts, collecting antique china, and cultivating mirth.

Ephemera Banners

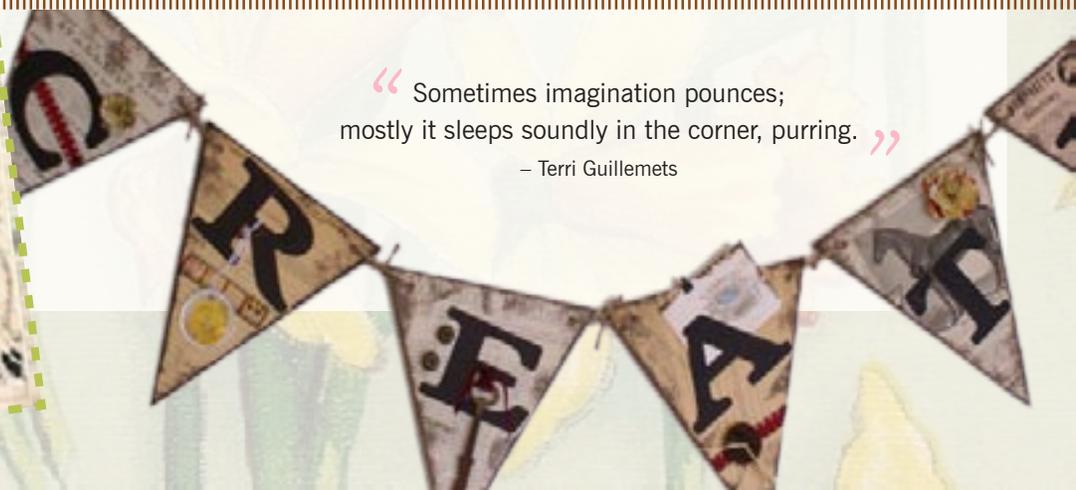
The definition of ephemera comes to us through Latin from the Greek *epi* (about), and *hemeris* (day). Ephemera is pronounced "efem'mera." The contemporary definition of ephemera is "something short-lived," especially all types of paper documents, both printed and handwritten, produced for a specific purpose and originally intended for the trash bin.

Some examples are lavishly illustrated, antique trade cards; livestock auction bulletin sheets; old theatre programs; tickets to baseball games; picture ads for a circus; etc. These are but a few examples of the thousands of ephemeral paper documents known to exist. How fortunate for us that folks down through the years have a hard time throwing stuff away. We can learn much about ordinary life from historic "junk mail" and other assorted paper goods. Lately, one of the hot craft trends is mixed media art, and it can be found in many forms. Vintage paper reproductions often serve as a backdrop for projects, and other vintage goodies are then added for embellishment. Ephemera paper goods are enjoying a renaissance.

Our farmgirl chapter of five hens holds a meeting once a month. We "graze" on homemade edibles and later make something we call "make & take." The project this time around was paper banners. Two in our group are expert paper artisans (Jennie and Lisa), while the remaining three (me, Michele, Anita) were first-timers. It had been a long time since I embarked on a craft journey that found me 100% NOT in the know. Lisa would tell you that I was whiney and given to fits of anxiety while in the first stages of making my first triangle. What a fuss I made ... and over nothing. She was absolutely right. Making ephemera banners IS easy! So now that I'm an instant expert, I'll share with you the general methodology.

“ Sometimes imagination pounces; mostly it sleeps soundly in the corner, purring. ”

– Terri Guillemets





{ MAKE IT EASY } with Shery Jespersen | to earn a Sisterhood badge in our { MAKE IT EASY } category, [CLICK HERE](#)

MARYJANES FARM

Supplies:

- Paper triangles (about 4" x 6")—you can make your own out of heavy cardstock or buy them ready to go. Scrapbook companies sell them and many hobby shops do, too.
- Vintage paper or reproduction decorative paper (scrapbook sheets are perfect).
- All the goodies used for scrapbook embellishment work for banners. Things like buttons, keys, string, pins, paper flowers, quilted yo-yos, ribbons, etc. Alphabet letters of a size you think will fit. Rubber stamps and ink-pad. Adhesive strip dispenser (or good old Elmer's glue) and "sticky dots" used for scrapbooking.
- Paper-punch, scissors, jute twine.

How-to:

Planning phase: Decide what word or phrase you want to use and pick out the letters. Examples: Welcome, Peace, Be Merry, Farmgirl, Name, any fun word you want to make a statement with. I chose to make a banner that says "Create" for my workroom (you can see more on my MJF Ranch Farmgirl blog).

Trace around your triangle onto the decorative paper. I used several different pieces. Decorate the paper triangle and then glue it onto the cardstock triangle. Trim as needed. Carefully punch holes in the triangles at each top end (close to the corners). Then, very gently rub fine sandpaper on the edges to "age" the piece. You can also distress the edges with dark brown or black ink to further enhance the old look (if that's what you're after). I rubbed the pad over the edges in a kind of haphazard way. Now, tie the banner triangles together with jute or ribbon. Don't make the loop too tight. Add a tie loop at each end to hang it with.

I caught the banner bug and I'm going to make a few more. This really is an easy craft project, and you'll be so tickled with yourself when it is hanging before your very eyes. The next one I'm making will say Farmgirl ... I'm thinkin' red-gingham-check paper, rick-rack ... ohhhh, imagine the possibilities!





Irene Wolansky (Sister #1144) is the Marketing Director at Mountain Rose Herbs. Born and raised on the Oregon coast, Irene spent her childhood learning about beekeeping, growing and preserving fruits and vegetables, building forts in the forest, and going on adventures with her dog. She has many interests, which include making her own body care products, mushroom harvesting, gardening, arts and crafts projects, nature photography, mead and beer making, camping, herbal medicine, baking, traveling, hiking, and spending time with her boyfriend and friends. **Click here** to visit Mountain Rose Herbs on the Web.

Craft Your Own Lip Balm

Lip balm is truly one of the easiest and most inexpensive products to create. Not only is crafting your own surprisingly simple, you'll have full control over all of the ingredients and the satisfaction of knowing that you're putting pure, natural, and organic elements on your lips! Four recipes are listed below, but feel free to experiment and create your own.

Mandarin Nutmeg Lip Balm

This sweet, citrusy, and warming lip balm has just a hint of spice. Made with Mandarin and Nutmeg essential oils, Mango Butter, Sunflower oil, and other botanical ingredients.

- 1 T Mango Butter
- 2 T Sunflower Oil
- 1 T Olive Oil
- 1 T plus 1 t Beeswax
- 15 drops Mandarin Essential Oil
- 5 drops Nutmeg Essential Oil
- A few drops of Vitamin E Oil (optional, but recommended)

Coarsely chop the beeswax or use beeswax pastilles. Place beeswax, butter, and oils in a small pot or glass Pyrex measuring cup and gently heat in the top of a double boiler until the beeswax and butters have melted. Once melted, remove from the stovetop and add essential oils and Vitamin E oil. Immediately pour the mixture into lip balm containers. You can purchase lip balm tubes and jars on our website (www.mountainroseherbs.com), or you can reuse glass or plastic containers. Allow mixture to cool completely before placing caps onto the lip balm containers. Your lip balm is finished! You can now add labels, ribbons, twine, or any other decorative elements. Makes approximately 1.5 oz of lip balm, enough to fill 10 lip balm tubes, 6 of our 1/4 oz plastic jars, or 3 1/2 oz tins or plastic jars.

Peppermint Cocoa Lip Balm

A refreshing, cooling, and nourishing lip balm with Cocoa Butter and Peppermint for that quintessential fusion of chocolate and mint.

- 1 T Cocoa Butter
- 2 T Sweet Almond Oil
- 1 T Avocado Oil
- 1 T plus 1 t Beeswax
- 12-15 drops Peppermint Essential Oil
- A few drops of Vitamin E Oil (optional, but recommended)

Prepare as Mandarin Nutmeg Lip Balm, above.

Lime Coconut Lip Balm

Reminiscent of tropical places, this blend is perfect for warmer weather or for those who prefer a lightweight and glossy lip balm.

- 1 T Coconut Oil
- 2 T Sunflower Oil
- 1 T plus 1 t Beeswax
- 15 drops Lime Peel Essential Oil
- A few drops of Vitamin E Oil (optional, but recommended)

Prepare as Mandarin Nutmeg Lip Balm, left.

Calendula and Shea Butter Lip Balm

This nourishing lip balm is made from healing ingredients that are perfect for soothing dry or chapped lips.

- 1 T Shea Butter
- 3 T Calendula Herbal Oil
- 1 T plus 1 t Beeswax
- 10-15 drops essential oil of choice
- A few drops of Vitamin E Oil

Prepare as Mandarin Nutmeg Lip Balm, left.



Experimenting with Lip Balm

It's fun to concoct lip balm recipes using your favorite botanical ingredients and essential oils! As a general rule, use 3 parts of carrier oil to 1 part of beeswax (omit butters from your calculations since they are solid at room temperature). If you feel as though your lip balm is too soft, re-melt it and add more beeswax, and if it is too hard, re-melt and add more oil. You can also adjust your recipes with the seasons: harder lip balms are better for warm summer weather and softer lip balms work well during cold fall and winter months. Add essential oils at your discretion, a general amount is 2 drops per container, but this varies depending upon the essential oil used. Less is better when it comes to essential oils; you don't want to end up with lip balm that will sting or irritate your lips.

Happy lip balm making!





According to MaryJane, the seven aspects for living the farmgirl life are:
EACH OTHER | FARM KITCHEN | GARDEN GATE | STITCHING & CRAFTING ROOM | MAKE IT EASY | **OUTPOST** | CLEANING UP

{**OUTPOST**} with Shery Jespersen | to earn a Sisterhood badge in our {**OUTPOST**} category, [CLICK HERE](#)



Shery Jespersen (Sister #753), Wyoming cattle rancher and outpost writer (rider), shares the "view from her saddle." Her longtime love is Apple Pi "Dolly" Rose, a 20-year-old Morgan otherwise known as "The Best Darn Horse in the Universe." In our Make It Easy section, Shery also shares her other love, "make do" arts and crafts.

“ I love spring
anywhere, but if
I could choose,
I would always
greet it
in a garden. ”

– Ruth Stout

“The Queen Of Flowers”

Some of the first offerings to appear at greenhouses this time of year are rose plants. They're usually nothing more than half a dozen short, thorny branches sticking up out of a box. But there is just *something* about roses. The rest of the world agrees.

Since the dawn of recorded history, the rose has been called the “Queen of Flowers.” As time passed, the rose became much more than a fragrant and exotic bloom. It has inspired countless legends around the world and as many artistic renderings. The ethereal rose has been included in poetry and song in every culture where it is found, and it is generally associated with matters of the heart.

Shakespeare made reference to roses no less than 50 times in his writings. The flower most favored by the “gods” and man alike has been an inspiration all by itself or party to inspired works like no other flower. As a symbol, the rose is emblematic of a paragon, one without equal and virtue.

In practical matters, rosewater was used in ancient times to cleanse temples in the middle-east as well as the living quarters of sheik's harems. Cleopatra's palace floors were strewn with a daily carpet of fresh rose petals. Rose hips are consumed even now as a good source of vitamin C. I love to eat them right off the bush while they're still soft. They also make a good tea.

A bouquet of fresh flowers that includes roses imparts a stirring sort of joy or loving comfort. You feel so very special. Whatever the need of the day is, the rose delivers! Roses appeal to us on many levels. The fragrance of a rose must surely be the scent of Heaven. The rose's design is a circle of the petals following one another in polite order and symmetry. Look for the message and a lesson. Nature's sermons are quiet, kind, and thoroughly effective if we but take the time to listen.

Those drawn to serious horticulture sometimes choose the rose as their focus. They're called “Rosarians.” The famous philosopher Confucius had a 600-book library specifically covering the cultivation of roses. Napoleon's wife, Josephine, so adored roses that she grew more than 250 varieties.



{OUTPOST} with Shery Jespersen | to earn a Sisterhood badge in our {OUTPOST} category, [CLICK HERE](#)

Of the many legends and stories that roses play a role in, my family has its own.

Shortly before my grandmother passed away, she told my mother (her only child) that if she could let my mother know that she was okay “on the other side” and if it was allowed, she would find a way to do so. Mom really didn’t give it much thought, but my grandmother was serious and insistent. Grandma left us in October on her 88th birthday. The fact that she left on her birthday made us smile because she had always made a big deal of birthdays.

The following October, my mother glanced out her kitchen window and caught a glimpse of the unthinkable. After her mother’s passing the year before, Mom had moved Grandma’s favorite rose (Peace Rose) to her own rose garden. Long after the garden was mulched and put to bed that following autumn, there stood a single rose in full bloom. Yes, the Peace Rose. Call it coincidence if you want to. I can’t.

There are hundreds of beautiful sayings and snippets of poetry that feature roses. I’ll close with two of my faves. One is lovely, the other is somewhat irreverent, but Eleanor Roosevelt is one of my favorite “great ladies,” and I had to include her dry wit.

“Recalling pleasant memories in old age is like seeing roses bloom in the snow.”

– Author unknown

“I once had a rose named after me and I was very flattered. But I was not so pleased to read the description of it in a garden catalog: ‘No good in a bed, but fine against a wall.’ “

– Eleanor Roosevelt



According to MaryJane, the seven aspects for living the farmgirl life are:
EACH OTHER | FARM KITCHEN | GARDEN GATE | STITCHING & CRAFTING ROOM | MAKE IT EASY | OUTPOST | **CLEANING UP**

{**CLEANING UP**} with Toni Salerno | to earn a Sisterhood badge in our {**CLEANING UP**} category, [CLICK HERE](#)



Born and raised in Florida, Toni Salerno (Sister #197) left her city life as a Theatre Director/Teacher to live a more holistic, serene life in Idaho. Five years ago, she found her dream home in Troy, Idaho, and embraced the Palouse way of life. Now, Toni and her husband, Adam, and their four daughters own Clean Green, an organic cleaning service. This company specializes in chemical-free cleaning using their own line of environmentally safe products. Visit their website at www.cleangreenocs.com.

Spring Cleaning

Spring is the season to remove the cobwebs and clear the dust away. It is a time to open the windows and let the fresh air in. After a long winter season, you begin to get anxious about the traditional spring cleaning, a ritual of clearing away clutter, debris, webs, and dust to bring in cleanliness and clarity.

When you begin your springtime clean, one thing to remember is to keep looking up—not just in your attitude of positive change, but in your focal points as well. Many of us will hurry about cleaning our home without ever glancing upwards at the slew of debris, dust, and webs lurking on our corner moldings, ceiling fans, light fixtures, and artificial plants. And the last thing you want to do after dutifully cleaning your home all day is to do double work by having to clean again after you have removed the dust from high places. Let's face it, cleaning twice is not a very fun task.

I became aware of my own cleaning sins the other day as the sun flooded in and revealed the dust and debris on the large chandelier hanging in our cathedral-ceiling foyer. While I rushed about my home cleaning with my broom and wool duster in hand, I never took the time to look up. However, at that moment, I realized what I had to do: become a dust



Make Mine
GREEN

{CLEANING UP} with Toni Salerno | to earn a Sisterhood badge in our {CLEANING UP} category, [CLICK HERE](#)

buster in high places. I grabbed my wool duster with the extension pole and begin dusting furiously. Then, I hurriedly swept up all the junk that had fallen onto the ground.

In addition to cleaning, you can put an extra shine on your chandeliers and light fixtures by applying a natural glass cleaner. Make sure the lights are turned off and cooled down first, then spritz them with a natural glass cleaner you have made or bought, but be sure to put a towel up under the area to catch the drippings. After 30 minutes of air drying, you will be amazed at how clean your hanging fixtures can look. The same technique can be applied to artificial hanging plants.

Dusting and cleaning was never so easy—here's to Spring cleaning!

Natural Glass Cleaner Recipe

16 oz white vinegar
14 oz distilled water
1 drop Castille soap

Mix together in a 32-oz spray bottle.

*“Spring is when
you feel
like whistling,
even with a
shoe full
of slush.”*

– Doug Larson





The Scoop

MaryJanesFarm News



The Scoop from MaryJanesFarm

Indexes Available!

MaryJanesFarm Magazine Index in pdf form available for searching and downloading! The index covers issues back to MAY/JUNE/JULY 2008 (She's A Keeper). New magazines will be indexed as they are released.

[CLICK HERE](#) to download the *MaryJanesFarm* Magazine Index.

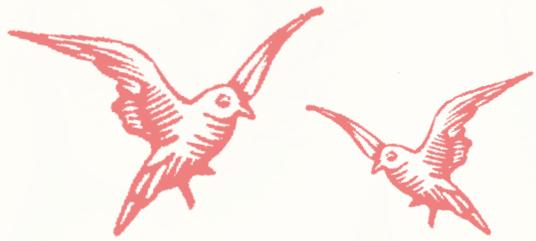
We also now have all the back issues of *MaryJane's Cluck* available for download on our website.

[CLICK HERE](#) to read the back issues of *MaryJane's Cluck*.

[TIP] Use the search/find tool in your browser to look up keywords in the Magazine Index and the back issues of the Cluck.

Farmgirls Unite!

If you are hosting a farmgirl event, open to all farmgirls, send the event description, date, location, and contact info to megan@maryjanesfarm.org. Megan is going to start a calendar to keep Sisters up-to-date on upcoming gatherings. (See p. 22-23 for two upcoming events.)



If you're a Sisterhood member, [click here](#) to download a FREE Farmgirls on the Loose logo!

Enter your Sisterhood number; password is: FGLoose (case-sensitive)

(Fun logo ideas: frame it, use it for transfers on shopping bags, totes, and pillows, or make it into a sticker for your Airstream trailer!)



MARYJANES FARM. TV



the scoop continues ...

MaryJanesFarm.TV

Head on over to www.maryjanesfarm.tv and check out our new Farmgirl "U" (University) Sisterhood Merit Badge videos. (Search through the list for those that are underlined—those are links to completed videos.) Also, our new "DIY Magazine Projects" has a video of paper guru Jaime Whitney demonstrating how to make beautiful paper out of junk mail as a companion to her how-to pages in the April/May 2010 issue of our magazine. And for a bit of escape, enjoy our "Farm Romance" videos.

Farmgirl "U" is for YOU—the gal who still giggles with her girlfriends and craves vine-ripened tomatoes, homemade jams, and healthier living in general. (Let's not forget simple pleasures in particular.) And you were born with enough curiosity that continuing to learn is a must. In can-do, will-do "I can do this!" fashion, we are slowly offering how-to videos that match our written Merit Badge requirements. So take heart, visual learners, we heard you loud and clear! But be patient, our list of videos-yet-to-be-completed tells us we have about a year's worth to shoot. Stay tuned! We're hard at it.

MaryJane ♥

P.S. Don't be shy! If you have a video camera, don't hesitate to put yourself, a Farmerette, or a Young Cultivator in front of it describing how a particular badge was earned. They can be sent to us on a DVD as a .mpeg file for inclusion on our www.maryjanesfarm.tv website (upon approval). Send them to: MaryJanesFarm/Merit Badge Videos, Box 8691, Moscow, ID 83843. Include your e-mail address and the badge earned so we can let you know when it will go live. (You still need to apply online for approval of badges, but don't hesitate to shoot videos of ANY badges you've earned in the past. And sorry, we can't return the DVDs you send.) Think Farmgirl "U" Tube and get those cameras rolling!



Farmgirl Chatter

What are farmgirls chatting about?

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

.....

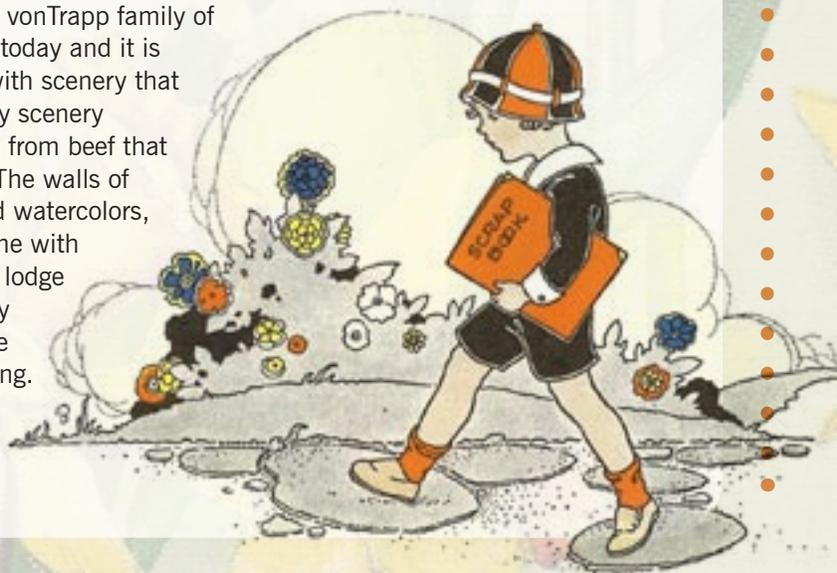
HomeSafeHome: While planning our gardens, what to consider. Submitted by NudeFoodFarm
Our farm specializes in edible flowers and plants. I was curious if anyone had any questions or could suggest/request favorite recipes? Now that it is the season to plan gardens, I thought it might be a great time to talk flower eating. **Post your suggestions/requests here.**

HomeSafeHome: Renew, remake, rejuvenate! Submitted by plantcrazy
This was my New Year's resolution, and in light of that, my newest "ta-da" idea has been pillowcase dresses for my little girl! I have sooo many old pillowcases laying about, and I saw this idea online. Finally, a new thing just in time for spring/summer—cute, dolled-up/laced-up/buttoned-up dresses! I think I may try a few patchwork skirts too! Does anyone else have ideas for reusing old bedding material? Other things I am trying to figure out how to reuse in some way are old towels and cracked china. Any ideas? **Post here.**

Keeping in Touch: Does anyone else live in a barn? Submitted by Sandy Fields
I live in a red and white barn. Thought it might be fun to find out if any other "farmgirls" do too! **Click here** for the story and a fun picture. **Click here** to post your own story.

News from MaryJanesFarm: Farmgirls on the Loose Submitted by Carrie M
The hills are alive with the sound of ... a Farmgirls on the Loose adventure! I am working with the Trapp Family Lodge in Stowe, Vermont, to organize a work gathering for any gals interested in a Farmgirls on the Loose adventure! The tentative date is the week of August 7–12.

This is the lodge that was settled by the vonTrapp family of *The Sound of Music*. I visited the lodge today and it is beautiful! The vonTrapps chose a spot with scenery that is reminiscent of Austria. With this lovely scenery before me, I enjoyed a hamburger made from beef that was grown on the hillside of the lodge. The walls of the lodge are covered with drawings and watercolors, some with scenes from the musical, some with scenes from Maria's autobiography. The lodge plays regular showings of a documentary entitled "The Real Maria" throughout the day, as well as a feature film each evening. They start the day with coffee and tea in the dining hall, and enjoy tea and cookies in the afternoon. A deli/bakery



the chatter continues ...

is on location, as well as an outdoor center, gift shop, and fitness center. They even have a pianist in the lounge come evening.

Please **express your interest here** and I will keep you all updated on the details as we work them out. I assure you all, the view and atmosphere are worth the trip!

Official Farmgirl Sisterhood Members: 2011 Road Trip – Women of the Wild Submitted by Wende (Also posted in Outpost.)

If you have a great idea for a Wild West experience, please submit your thoughts. Last year, we had a great time with the Laura Ingalls Wilder Museum tours, and she is one of the original “Women of the Wild West.” She is listed in the book of the same name. There is so much this farmgirl experience can offer, so stay tuned for upcoming announcements and invitations to the Farmgirls on the Loose events.

- Fort Bridger, Wyoming, in the SW of Wyoming
- The Cowgirl Museum in Fort Worth, Texas, to include the Stockyards
- Moscow, Idaho

These are three ideas so far. Get your GPS out and let's go. [Click here to see post.](#)

A Farm of My Own: Can we survive? Submitted Crystal Koelzer

In about one year, my husband and I will be moving back closer to our family. We will actually be buying some land from my grandparents to start our own little farm. We plan on having a garden, chickens, and honey bees. The more that I talk about what I want to do, the more excited my husband is getting. Now he wants to stay home and farm too. Can we survive this day and age without either of us working? I really want him to do what he loves and want to figure this out. Thanks for any suggestions!

[Join the discussion here.](#)

A Farm of My Own: Montana Advice Submitted by countrymommy85

My husband and I want to move our family to western Montana, although personally, I like the eastern part of the state just as much as the western half. The main problem we have is that, living in Wisconsin, we have not been able to find him a job that would remotely support us. The only job we found for him so far is about \$800–\$1,600 a month.

The other problem we are having is housing/land. I would be fine living in a wall tent until we were able to live in a house (I mean, the pioneers did it, right?). My husband does not want to move his family and live in a wall tent, even though I told him I would be fine with it. We have a horse, two goats, chickens, and a cat. I do not want to sell them in order to move. We would want to bring them with us, so renting in the “city” is not an option. Living off the grid is totally fine with both of us as long as there is a water source on the property. So far, the only property we've found are high-priced lots for city people wanting a vacation home. As of yet, we have not found property for sale for normal people wanting to relocate.

continued ...





{tips, inspiration, &
just plain fun!}



the chatter continues ...

Does anyone have any advice or leads for us for a job or property or both? My husband used to work in the Mission Valley, and I visited him once and fell in love with it out there, too! Alaska is also on our list, but Montana is our first choice. Thanks in advance for any advice on how to finally get out there! **Post comments here.**

Across the Fence: We were green before green was cool. Submitted by Fiddlehead Farm
In the line at the store, the cashier told the older woman that plastic bags weren't good for the environment. The woman apologized to her and explained, "We didn't have the green thing back in my day."

That's right, they didn't have the green thing in her day. Back then, they returned their milk bottles, Coke bottles and beer bottles to the store. The store sent them back to the plant to be washed and sterilized and refilled, using the same bottles over and over. So they really were recycled. But they didn't have the green thing back her day.

In her day, they walked up stairs, because they didn't have an escalator in every store and office building. They walked to the grocery store and didn't climb into a 300-horsepower machine every time they had to go two blocks. But she's right. They didn't have the green thing in her day.

Back then, they washed the baby's diapers because they didn't have the throw-away kind. They dried clothes on a line, not in an energy-gobbling machine burning up 220 volts—"wind and solar power" really did dry the clothes. Kids got hand-me-down clothes from their brothers or sisters, not always brand-new clothing. But that old lady is right, they didn't have the green thing back in her day.

Back then, they had one TV or radio in the house—not a TV in every room. And the TV had a small screen the size of a pizza dish, not a screen the size of the state of Montana. In the kitchen, they blended and stirred by hand because they didn't have electric machines to do everything for you. When they packaged a fragile item to send in the mail, they used wadded up newspaper to cushion it, not styrofoam or plastic bubble wrap.

Back then, they didn't fire up an engine and burn gasoline just to cut the lawn. They used a push mower that ran on human power. They exercised by working so they didn't need to go to a health club to run on treadmills that operate on electricity. But she's right, they didn't have the green thing back then.

They drank from a fountain when they were thirsty instead of using a cup or a plastic bottle every time they had a drink of water. They refilled pens with ink instead of buying a new pen, and they replaced the razor blades in a razor instead of throwing away the whole razor just because the blade got dull ... But they didn't have the green thing back then.

“ In the spring,
at the end of
the day, you
should smell
like dirt. ”

– Margaret Atwood



the chatter continues ...

Back then, people took the streetcar and kids rode their bikes to school or rode the school bus, instead of turning their moms into a 24-hour taxi service. They had one electrical outlet in a room, not an entire bank of sockets to power a dozen appliances. And they didn't need a computerized gadget to receive a signal beamed from satellites 2,000 miles out in space in order to find the nearest pizza joint. But that old lady is right. They didn't have the green thing back in her day.

OMG ... that was MY day too!

Across the Fence: Emergency Preparedness ... What do you do? Submitted HollyMaker

I have been looking into building my emergency supplies for some time. I have been checking prices with different companies as well as locally. I have started with beans, quinoa, and that sort of thing. I am curious as to what you ladies do to prepare for emergencies and protecting your families. I would love to hear from others about this. :) **Reply here.**

Across the Fence: Wanta Learn Somthin' New? Submitted by Shi-anne

If you could learn one new hobby, craft or thing, what would it be? I would love to learn how to make stained glass. It is my dream. How about you?! **Dream with Shi-anne here.**

Across the Fence: Farmgirl Funnies Submitted by Fiddlehead Farm

A place to post your funny stories and jokes. Laughter is the best medicine!

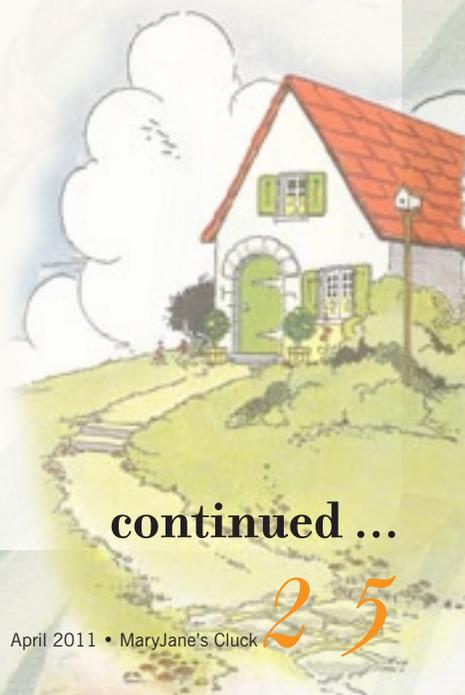
TEXAN FARMER TRAVELS

A Texan farmer goes to Australia for a vacation. There, he meets an Aussie farmer and gets talking. The Aussie shows off his big wheat field and the Texan says, "Oh! We have wheat fields that are at least twice as large." Then they walk around the ranch a little, and the Aussie shows off his herd of cattle. The Texan immediately says, "We have longhorns that are at least twice as large as your cows." The conversation has, meanwhile, almost died when the Texan sees a herd of kangaroos hopping through the field. He asks, "And what are those?" The Aussie asks with an incredulous look, "Don't you have any grasshoppers in Texas?" **Post your funnies here.**

Across the Fence: Any Military Wives/Hens? Submitted by batznthebelfry

My hubby has been in the military for close to 30 years now, and I just sent him off to Afghanistan with his Army Reserve unit. He did a 15-month tour in Iraq back in 2004-05. Now I am not complaining, I am just wondering if there are others out there who have had to do this or are doing it and how they are doing? I seem to get through these times just fine, but I know others don't, and maybe this can be somewhere you can vent or talk. I am a good listener and can try to help ... or some days, I may just whine awhile ... lol ... Michele. **Talk with Michele here.**

continued ...



{tips, inspiration, &
just plain fun!}

the chatter continues ...

Barnyard Buddies: Hogs Submitted by SusieK

Does anyone raise hogs? If so, maybe you can give me some info on raising them. **Advise here.**

Cleaning Up: Open windows to let the house “breathe.” Submitted by plantcarazy

This is just a quick, small thing I do every day, no matter what the weather is ... While I make the beds every morning (I have two small toddlers that cannot make their own yet), I open all the windows in the house for about 15 minutes and let the house refreshen. Sometimes in the afternoon, too. I turn off the furnace first, of course, so I don't heat the great outdoors. It really makes a difference!

Farm Kitchen: What do you forage for? Submitted by chickenjanedoe

Yesterday and this morning, I made an egg and potato casserole/omelet for breakfast, and on top, I added the first wild onion chives of the season. I love them right now when they are still getting hit with frost at night and their tops are all curly. Looks so pretty on things. :) What do you forage for in the spring? **Post your answers here.**

Farm Kitchen: Baking with lard Submitted by Rosemary

My husband and I are reading *Nourishing Traditions*, which recommends baking with lard rather than vegetable shortening for interesting reasons that are part of the writers' rather shocking food philosophy. (It's complicated, so I won't go into it; look for the book and see what you think about it.) Anyway ladies, I'm using this as an excuse to give lard a try for the crusts of the apple pies I plan to bake this weekend. Any tricks of the bygone baking trade from seasoned lard users out there in Farmgirl Land? **Post your tricks here.**

“ In the spring, I have counted one hundred and thirty-six different kinds of weather inside of four and twenty hours. ”

– Mark Twain



the chatter continues ...

Garden Gate: Your Favorite Gardening Book? Submitted by Ninibini

Just wondering, girls ... What is your all-time, hands-down, favorite gardening book ... and why? The one I discovered last year was *The Backyard Homestead*, edited by Carleen Madigan Perkins (GOD BLESS HER!). It has everything from planting fruits and veggies and nuts to raising chickens and goats and sheep (and more) to recipes (the easiest and yummiest strawberry jam recipe ever!) and how-to's like cheese-making and beekeeping. It's an incredible book—just one of those books I keep going to all year long! I actually started to believe I just might be able to grow something—and voila! I DID!

And THEN I found MJF (GOD BLESS MJF!) and all of you (GOD BLESS THE FARMGIRLS!), and now I'm **INVINCIBLE!** LOL! Just kidding ... But I do wear my superheroine farmgirl apron with pride, I can tell you that!!! ;)

So, do tell—what's YOUR favorite??? **Share here.**

Garden Gate: What are you planting this year? Submitted by Alee

I am trying to decide what to plant this year. I know I want carrots and tomatoes, also cabbages. I have a friend that is going to let me dig up a bunch of raspberry plants. What else do you think I should plant? Maybe some potatoes? **Advise Alee here.**

Holidays: How do you celebrate Easter? Submitted by Nancy Dawn

What are some Easter traditions you share with family and friends? Do you let the kids have a new bunny or duck, have an egg hunt, a big family get together, attend Sunrise services at church? **Share your traditions here.**

Nifty Thrifty: Anxiously awaiting garage-sale season ... Submitted by farmmilkmama

Today was the day I sat down with the boys while they tried on all their pants and shoes. We got rid of (passed along to others) three paper bags of things that no longer fit them. I can't believe how fast they grow! My oldest turns 8 in nine days and wears the same size shoes as me. My youngest, who turns 7 a couple weeks later, is right behind him. We used to have people who passed down clothes to us, but since the boys are now so tall, we've passed them up. ;) We are also looking for mud boots for the boys since they outgrew the ones they had last year (imagine that), and my oldest is threatening to steal MY pair ... come on, garage-sale season!!!! I'm awaiting the season for myself, too, because I think I have exactly one shirt that isn't all stained up—which is fine for around the house, but every so often, I DO go out in public. :) **Click here** to respond.



Farmgirl

NEWS

Sisterhood



Join in the fun— join the Farmgirl Sisterhood!

When you add your name to the Farmgirl Sisterhood, you will receive a consecutive number according to when you signed up (for example, Farmgirl Sisterhood Member #750). Once you're officially signed up, we'll mail your official Farmgirl Sisterhood badge depicting an adorable aproned hen, our official logo, ready to wear or embroider, and an official Farmgirl Sisterhood certificate signed by the Queen Bee herself. We also offer for purchase a Sisterhood necklace customized with your unique number (see p. 30). Over on the Farmgirl Connection chatroom, you'll get a special hexagonal Farmgirl Sisterhood designation by your name. In addition, you'll start receiving *The Cluck* newsletter—packed with project ideas, news, and tips—each month; you'll be eligible for "Members Only" special product offers from MaryJanesFarm; and you can start earning Farmgirl Sisterhood Merit Badges right away (think Girl Scouts for grown-ups) and post photos and narratives of your projects on our website (braggin' rights). In other words, you'll be strutting your farmgirl skills for all the world to see! Members are also the only ones permitted to mentor Farmerettes (farmgirls-in-training between the ages 14–18) and Young Cultivators (girls and boys between the ages 6–13) and work with them to earn badges. But if you're not inclined to earn merit badges, there are plenty of other benefits to joining up. Whether it's cooking, stitching, gardening, make-it-yourself projects, going green, cleaning up, or just getting together, you'll gather with other farmgirls for lots of fun! **Click here** to purchase your Sisterhood membership.

and ...

Start or Join a Farmgirl Chapter

If you're yearnin' to meet up face-to-face with other farmgirls in your area, start or join a Farmgirl Chapter. MaryJane is proud to say that 1,222 Farmgirl Chapters have been started, located in all 50 states and 8 countries with 2,912 official Sisterhood members—growing stronger every day!! These groups consist of diversified, talented, caring, creative, like-minded women just like YOU! This is truly the best sisterhood to be found anywhere!

Click here to join in.



Merit Badge Details: Farmgirl Legend

Become a Legend in Your Own Time!

There are now two ways to become a **Farmgirl Legend**. Become a “Schoolmarm” when you complete all the badge requirements in any one category. For example, in Each Other, you would need to complete the beginner, intermediate, and expert levels in Community Service, Community Action, Public Service, Lend a Hand to Families, Lend a Hand to Farm Families, Little Squirts, Plant It Forward, Connecting Growers and Eaters, Farmgirl Gratitude, Get ‘er Done, Farmgirl Spirit, Families Forever, and Entrepreneurial Spirit.

Once you become a “Schoolmarm,” the next step is to become a “Head Mistress” when you obtain the Schoolmarm title in **ALL** categories.

When you become a Schoolmarm or a Headmistress, you will be awarded a certificate and your new lofty title will be applied to your Farmgirl Connection chatroom I.D.



... more Farmgirl Sisterhood News

Sisterhood Necklace

We've partnered with Elaine Tolson of Washington to offer this lovely bit of vintage-style jewelry—for Sisterhood members only. Your necklace will be emblazoned with your own unique Sisterhood number, setting your braggin' rights in stone. Whether you wear it as a secret code for those in-the-know, or as a conversation starter about the Sisterhood, is up to you. **Click here to order yours.**



Hello Elaine!

Hi, my name is Veronica and you made a charm for me. It is a Farmgirl Sisterhood charm necklace and I just had to e-mail you.

First off, I never expected such quality and attention to detail. When I saw my name on the package, I thought it was from someone I knew! Then when I opened the package and saw the little burlap pouch, I smiled and my daughter (who is 3) said, "Mama, what's that?" Then, when I pulled out the necklace, I literally gasped.

It's so beautiful! I knew what it would look like from a photo on the MaryJanestFarm website, but this necklace exceeded my expectations. I loved the length of the chain. I have bought some necklaces on Etsy.com and I'm always disappointed that the ball chains are sooooo short. The charm looks small to me on the website, so when I saw it, I was like, this is the perfect size!

I just wanted to thank you personally for such detail and the obvious love you put into your craft. Are you on Etsy? I'm definitely sharing your website with all of my friends. And I am most definitely going to be buying another charm(s) from you in the future.

Thank you again, and I feel like I got a bargain for this necklace.

Sincerely,
Veronica Laviolette —

JOIN UP TO JOIN IN

EARN MERIT BADGES

(think Girl Scouts for grownups) for stitching, cooking, gardening, carpentry, community service, and more!

What do close to 3,000+ women have in common?

MARYJANE'S FARMGIRL SISTERHOOD

We are Sisters—a sisterhood of farmgirls. We're country, we're city, and every texture and stripe in between. It's not at all about where we live, but how we live. We stay in touch in an active online chatroom, where 500 new posts are added daily, and form in-the-flesh Farmgirl Chapters and even virtual chapters called Henhouses. We love to share stories, to craft, to garden, and to nurture the next generation of Farmerettes and Young Cultivators. And when our work is done, we get together to go camping, fishing, and "glamping" as Farmgirls on the Loose. Learn all about us!

WWW.FARMGIRLSISTERHOOD.ORG

BONUS

Farmgirl Sisterhood members can watch exclusive how-to videos about earning merit badges at www.maryjanesfarm.tv

CASSIE JEAN earned an intermediate Garden Gate merit badge in Backyard Farmer. "I became friends with a woman who keeps dairy cows. She taught our entire 4H group about home dairying and milking. We are supporting her family by purchasing her milk and cream."

ELAINE earned a beginner Cleaning Up merit badge in Shopping Green. "I have collected 15 reusable shopping bags. They are in my car with me at all times. Not only do I use them for grocery shopping, I use them for ALL shopping. You name it—a trip to the mall, farmers' market, flea market, bookstore, wherever—my bags come with me."

"Henrietta" is the Farmgirl Sisterhood's official logo. She symbolizes the "can-do" attitude of being a farmgirl.



I'm not nuts;
I'm a farmgirl!

— Julie, Louisiana

girls on tractor photo courtesy Du Bois Library, University of Massachusetts Amherst

Merit Badge

Woo Hoo!

Awardees

Merit Badge Awardees

Woo-Hoo! This month's Sisterhood Badges go to (drum roll please):

Amanda Henning, mamahenning #2492
Intermediate badge: Get It Together / Farm Kitchen

Amber Allen, funnyfarm #1949
Beginner badge: Bee Good to Your Mother Earth / Garden Gate
Beginner badge: Horse Dreams / Garden Gate

Ann Hughes, msneedlept #1011
Beginner badge: Know Your Roots / Each Other
Intermediate badge: Know Your Roots / Each Other
Expert badge: Know Your Roots / Each Other

April Hager, goldtowngal #1044
Beginner badge: Let's Get Physical / Make It Easy

Barb Delaney, ric-barb #2710
Beginner badge: Quilting / Stitching & Crafting
Beginner badge: Community Service / Each Other
Intermediate badge: Quilting / Stitching & Crafting
Intermediate badge: Community Service / Each Other

Bea Campbell, quiltingbea #2575
Beginner badge: Quilting / Stitching & Crafting
Beginner badge: Backyard Farmer / Garden Gate
Beginner badge: Sew Wonderful / Stitching & Crafting

Becky Garrison, CamelliaCottage #1941
Beginner badge: Buttoned Up / Stitching & Crafting
Intermediate badge: Buttoned Up / Stitching & Crafting

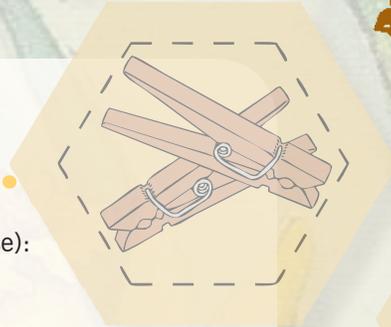
Becky Wietzke, #2673
Intermediate badge: Sew Wonderful / Stitching & Crafting

Belinda Purvis, BPurvis #837
Beginner badge: Unprocessed Kitchen / Farm Kitchen

Beth Lohman, cntybuff #2591
Beginner badge: Crochet / Stitching & Crafting

Breanna Helgesen, Breanna #2507
Beginner badge: Crochet / Stitching & Crafting

Brenda Pidgeon, BrendaLou #2818
Beginner badge: Shopping Green / Cleaning Up



“ I think that no matter how old or infirm I may become,
I will always plant a large garden in the spring. Who can resist the feelings
of hope and joy that one gets from participating in nature’s rebirth? ”

– Edward Giobbi

Merit Badge Awardees

Beginner badge: Woman-at-Arms / Outpost
Beginner badge: BakeOver MakeOver / Farm Kitchen
Beginner badge: Crochet / Stitching & Crafting
Intermediate badge: Shopping Green / Cleaning Up
Expert badge: Shopping Green / Cleaning Up

Brenda Powers, Brenda #2650
Beginner badge: Crochet / Stitching & Crafting

Carla Garner, Phonelady #1168
Beginner badge: Know Your Roots / Each Other

Carol Stover, Gidgitmoom #2559
Beginner badge: Carp-hen-try / Make It Easy

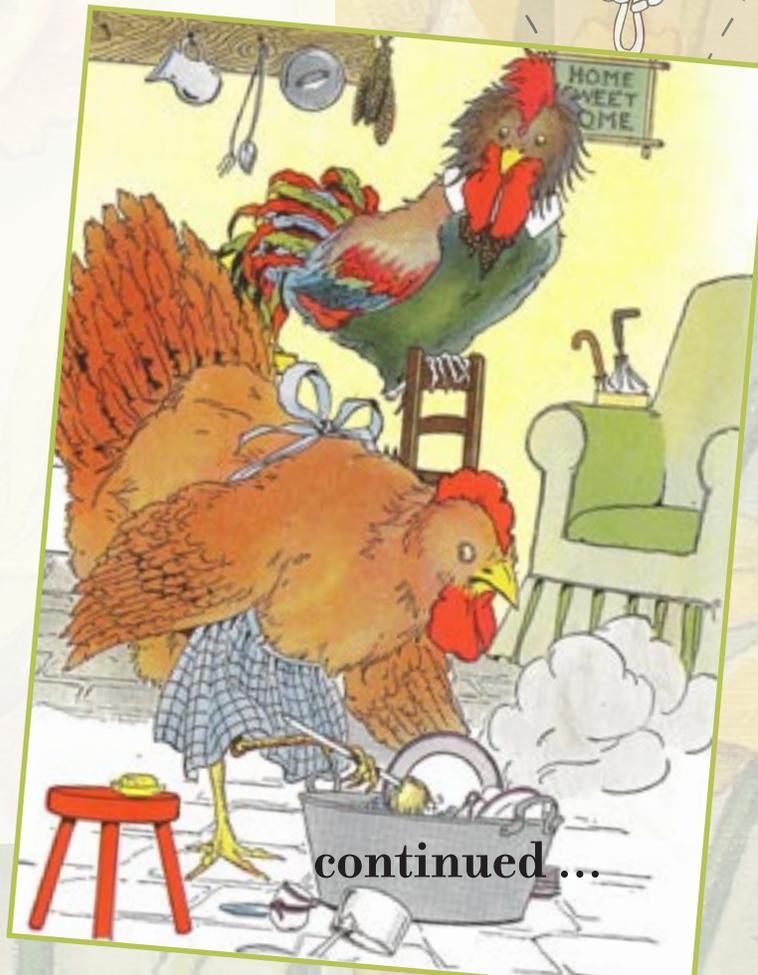
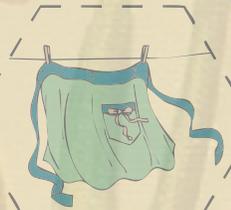
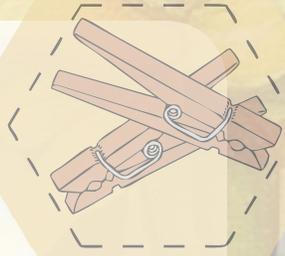
Carrie Meerwarth, Carrie M #147
Beginner badge: Unprocessed Kitchen / Farm Kitchen
Beginner badge: Farmgirl Grammar / Each Other
Beginner badge: Know Your Roots / Each Other
Beginner badge: Scrapbooking / Stitching & Crafting
Beginner badge: Shutterbugs / Each Other
Intermediate badge: Unprocessed Kitchen / Farm Kitchen
Intermediate badge: Farmgirl Grammar / Each Other
Intermediate badge: Know Your Roots / Each Other
Intermediate badge: Scrapbooking / Stitching & Crafting
Expert badge: Unprocessed Kitchen / Farm Kitchen
Expert badge: Farmgirl Grammar / Each Other
Expert badge: Know Your Roots / Each Other
Farmgirl Legends: Schoolmarm / Farm Kitchen

Cassie Jean McClelland, #1356
Beginner badge: Heirlooms Forever! / Garden Gate
Intermediate badge: Backyard Farmer / Garden Gate
Intermediate badge: Heirlooms Forever! / Garden Gate
Expert badge: Backyard Farmer / Garden Gate

Cathy Pearson, Catherine L #2428
Beginner badge: Farmgirl Gratitude / Each Other

Cathy Pyatt, Clevercottagefarmgirl #2355
Beginner badge: Going Green / Cleaning Up

Christine Clark, #2737
Beginner badge: Buttoned Up / Stitching & Crafting
Beginner badge: Shopping Green / Cleaning Up



continued...

A HAPPY EASTER

Merit Badge Awardees

CJ Armstrong, ceejay48 #665

Beginner badge: Unprocessed Kitchen / Farm Kitchen
Beginner badge: Carp-hen-try / Make It Easy
Beginner badge: Know Your Roots / Each Other
Beginner badge: Farmgirl Grammar / Each Other
Intermediate badge: Carp-hen-try / Make It Easy
Intermediate badge: Unprocessed Kitchen / Farm Kitchen
Intermediate badge: Know Your Roots / Each Other
Intermediate badge: Scrapbooking / Stitching & Crafting
Expert badge: Unprocessed Kitchen / Farm Kitchen
Expert badge: Know Your Roots / Each Other
Expert badge: Carp-hen-try / Make It Easy
Expert badge: First Aid / Outpost
Expert badge: Woman-at-Arms / Outpost
Expert badge: Scrapbooking / Stitching & Crafting
Farmgirl Legends: Chapter Leader

Darrellyn Barrett, Alzadamae #2835

Beginner badge: Sew Wonderful / Stitching & Crafting
Beginner badge: Knitting / Stitching & Crafting
Beginner badge: Farmgirl Gratitude / Each Other

Dawn Perry, windswept #2493

Beginner badge: Backyard Farmer / Garden Gate
Intermediate badge: Shopping Green / Cleaning Up
Expert badge: Shopping Green / Cleaning Up

Debbie Brown, rileybrown #2007

Intermediate badge: Horse Dreams / Garden Gate

Debi Chandler, #2515

Beginner badge: Let's Get Physical / Make It Easy

Debi Harney, Debi H #2425

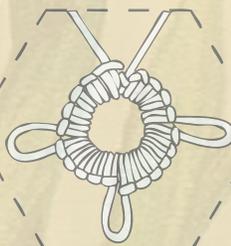
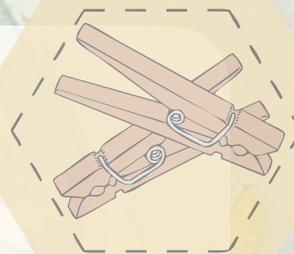
Beginner badge: Sew Wonderful / Stitching & Crafting

Deborah Matthews, debtea2 #1330

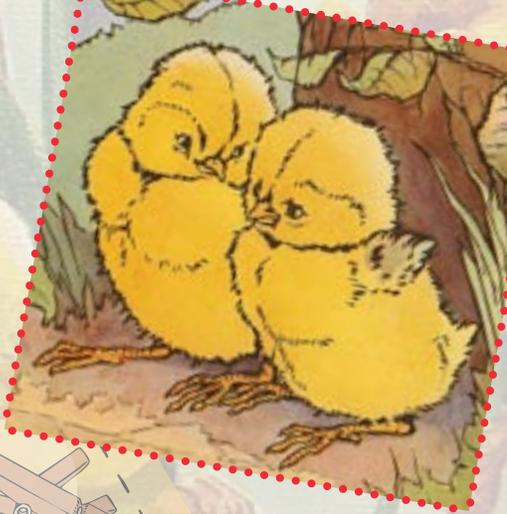
Beginner badge: Public Service / Each Other

Denise Meister, denisemgm #1976

Beginner badge: Buttoned Up / Stitching & Crafting
Beginner badge: Unprocessed Kitchen / Farm Kitchen
Beginner badge: The Secret Life of Bees / Garden Gate
Beginner badge: Aprons / Stitching & Crafting



“ I think of the garden after the rain;
And hope to my heart comes singing,
At morn the cherry-blooms will be white,
And the Easter bells be ringing! ”
– Edna Dean Proctor



Merit Badge Awardees

Diana Vermillion, momofsome #2454

Beginner badge: First Aid / Outpost

Beginner badge: Let's Get Physical / Make It Easy

Beginner badge: Build It Green / Make It Easy

Elaine Berman, #2882

Beginner badge: Shopping Green / Cleaning Up

Beginner badge: Farmgirl Gratitude / Each Other

Beginner badge: Community Service / Each Other

Elisabeth Pierce, Tree Sister #2755

Beginner badge: Get It Together / Farm Kitchen

Intermediate badge: Get It Together / Farm Kitchen

Expert badge: Get It Together / Farm Kitchen

Elizabeth Chamberlain, #1747

Beginner badge: Bustin' Out / Farm Kitchen

Ginger Bayless, #468

Beginner badge: Buttoned Up / Stitching & Crafting

Jennifer Whiteis, mountaineer #1602

Beginner badge: Sew Wonderful / Stitching & Crafting

Beginner badge: Quilting / Stitching & Crafting

Intermediate badge: Sew Wonderful / Stitching & Crafting

Intermediate badge: Quilting / Stitching & Crafting

Expert badge: Quilting / Stitching & Crafting

Joni Lloyd, Joni Lane #873

Beginner badge: Community Service / Each Other

Beginner badge: Community Action / Each Other

Beginner badge: Plant It Forward / Each Other

Beginner badge: Bee Good to Your Mother Earth / Garden Gate

Beginner badge: Gaining Ground / Garden Gate

Beginner badge: Aprons / Stitching & Crafting

Beginner badge: Homespun Christmas / Stitching & Crafting

Intermediate badge: Bustin' Out / Farm Kitchen

Intermediate badge: Get It Together / Farm Kitchen

Jonna Nesbella, Scout #2452

Beginner badge: Let's Get Physical / Make It Easy

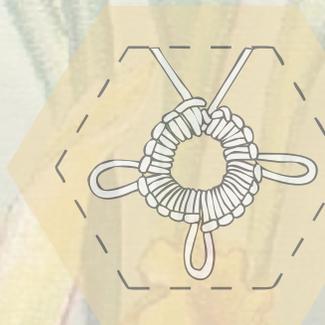
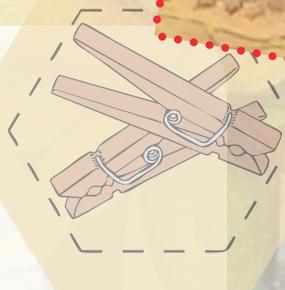
Beginner badge: Buttoned Up / Stitching & Crafting

Beginner badge: Get It Together / Farm Kitchen

Beginner badge: Aprons / Stitching & Crafting

Beginner badge: Scrapbooking / Stitching & Crafting

Beginner badge: What's Your Beef? / Garden Gate



continued ...

Merit Badge Awardees

Karen Wells, Lady Woodworker #2419
Beginner badge: Community Service / Each Other

Kathleen Horton, Kat38 #2695
Beginner badge: Shopping Green / Cleaning Up
Beginner badge: Know Your Food / Farm Kitchen
Beginner badge: Organic On A Budget / Farm Kitchen
Beginner badge: Bustin' Out / Farm Kitchen
Beginner badge: Unprocessed Kitchen / Farm Kitchen
Beginner badge: Gaining Ground / Garden Gate
Intermediate badge: Going Green / Cleaning Up
Intermediate badge: Shopping Green / Cleaning Up

Kathleen Lorentz, KathleenL #1620
Beginner badge: Unprocessed Kitchen / Farm Kitchen
Beginner badge: Grease Chicks / Make It Easy
Beginner badge: Let's Get Physical / Make It Easy

Kelda Reisman, FarmGirlnPark #2886
Beginner badge: Aprons / Stitching & Crafting

Kerry Suit, kербear #975
Beginner badge: Buttoned Up / Stitching & Crafting
Intermediate badge: Shopping Green / Cleaning Up

Kristina Nelson, FieldsofThyme #800
Beginner badge: Carp-hen-try / Make It Easy
Beginner badge: Entrepreneurial Spirit / Each Other
Intermediate badge: Backyard Farmer / Garden Gate

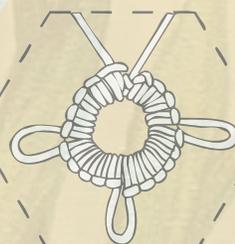
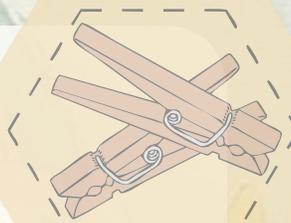
Kyria Baker, Kyria #991
Beginner badge: Backyard Farmer / Garden Gate

Laurie Lemieux, Montrose Girl #1587
Beginner badge: Know Your Roots / Each Other
Beginner badge: Unprocessed Kitchen / Farm Kitchen
Intermediate badge: Know Your Roots / Each Other

Lesla Pickinpaugh, Darla 52 #1929
Beginner badge: Shopping Green / Cleaning Up

Lindsay Troyer, Lindsay Troyer #1548
Beginner badge: Heirlooms Forever! / Garden Gate

Lisa Birkner, Lisa Marie #1196
Beginner badge: Farmgirl Gratitude / Each Other
Beginner badge: Aprons / Stitching & Crafting



“ The first day of spring
is one thing, and the first spring day is another.
The difference between them is sometimes
as great as a month. ”

– Henry Van Dyke

Merit Badge Awardees

Lorrae Moon, moonshines #1649

Beginner badge: Aprons / Stitching & Crafting
Beginner badge: Knitting / Stitching & Crafting
Beginner badge: Backyard Farmer / Garden Gate
Beginner badge: Bee Good to Your Mother Earth / Garden Gate
Intermediate badge: Sew Wonderful / Stitching & Crafting
Intermediate badge: Shopping Green / Cleaning Up
Intermediate badge: Get It Together / Farm Kitchen
Intermediate badge: Aprons / Stitching & Crafting
Intermediate badge: Backyard Farmer / Garden Gate
Expert badge: Backyard Farmer / Garden Gate

Lyn Bleiler, Taos Lyn #2702

Beginner badge: Shopping Green / Cleaning Up
Beginner badge: Buttoned Up / Stitching & Crafting
Beginner badge: Get It Together / Farm Kitchen

Marie Hilliard, horselover #2214

Beginner badge: Know Your Roots / Each Other
Beginner badge: Entrepreneurial Spirit / Each Other
Beginner badge: Pay It Forward / Farm Kitchen

Megan Salter, HondaRebelGirl #1383

Beginner badge: Stargazing Chicks / Outpost
Beginner badge: Grease Chicks / Make It Easy
Beginner badge: Farmgirl Grammar / Each Other

Melissa Bailey, MissLiss #724

Beginner badge: Stargazing Chicks / Outpost
Intermediate badge: Green Energy / Cleaning Up
Expert badge: Green Energy / Cleaning Up
Expert badge: Shopping Green / Cleaning Up
Farmgirl Legends: Schoolmarm / Cleaning Up

Montana Baker, Farmerette of Kyria Baker #991

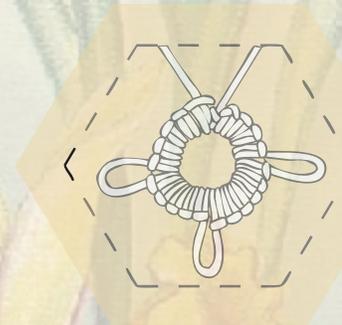
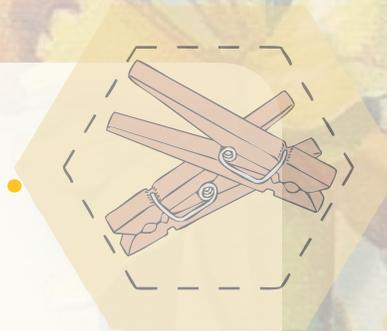
Beginner badge: Backyard Farmer / Garden Gate

Pennie Still, greenbean #2875

Beginner badge: Buttoned Up / Stitching & Crafting
Beginner badge: Know Your Roots / Each Other
Intermediate badge: Buttoned Up / Stitching & Crafting
Intermediate badge: Know Your Roots / Each Other

Rebecca Ashley, rashley1180 #2018

Beginner badge: Shopping Green / Cleaning Up



continued ...

Merit Badge Awardees

Rebecca Harzewski, #2719

Beginner badge: Embroidery / Stitching & Crafting

Rebecca McGinnis, Sister Becky #2598

Beginner badge: Backyard Farmer / Garden Gate

Beginner badge: Buttoned Up / Stitching & Crafting

Beginner badge: Aprons / Stitching & Crafting

Regina Wasson, familygirl #1023

Beginner badge: Know Your Roots / Each Other

Intermediate badge: Know Your Roots / Each Other

Expert badge: Know Your Roots / Each Other

Remi Davis, Cibola #2547

Beginner badge: Stargazing Chicks / Outpost

Robin Armstrong Miller, birdie71 #1301

Beginner badge: Scrapbooking / Stitching & Crafting

Expert badge: Aprons / Stitching & Crafting

Rusty McHale, Rusty #1572

Beginner badge: Know Your Roots / Each Other

Beginner badge: Spinning / Stitching & Crafting

Samantha Turner, Tilin Turner #2859

Beginner badge: Shopping Green / Cleaning Up

Sarah Labrecque, #1655

Beginner badge: Going Green / Cleaning Up

Beginner badge: Shopping Green / Cleaning Up

Scarlett Winters, silver3wings #2044

Beginner badge: Let's Get Physical / Make It Easy

Beginner badge: Know Your Food / Farm Kitchen

Beginner badge: Unprocessed Kitchen / Farm Kitchen

Beginner badge: Going Green / Cleaning Up

Expert badge: Shopping Green / Cleaning Up

Staci Wickard, staci860 #973

Beginner badge: Woman-at-Arms / Outpost

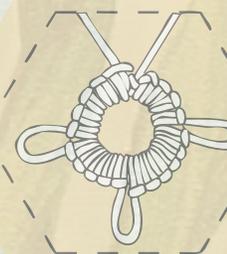
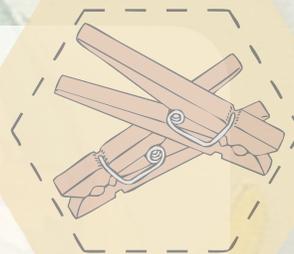
Beginner badge: Entrepreneurial Spirit / Each Other

Intermediate badge: Woman-at-Arms / Outpost

Intermediate badge: Entrepreneurial Spirit / Each Other

Expert badge: Woman-at-Arms / Outpost

Expert badge: Entrepreneurial Spirit / Each Other



“ If I had my life to live over,
I would start barefoot earlier in the spring
and stay that way later in the fall. ”

– Nadine Stair

Merit Badge Awardees

Sue Elseth, Vintage Sue #2647

Beginner badge: The Secret Life of Bees / Garden Gate

Beginner badge: Shopping Green / Cleaning Up

Beginner badge: Buttoned Up / Stitching & Crafting

Susan Chenoweth, Coloquilter #2648

Beginner badge: Shopping Green / Cleaning Up

Beginner badge: Get It Together / Farm Kitchen

Beginner badge: Going Green / Cleaning Up

Beginner badge: Quilting / Stitching & Crafting

Beginner badge: Backyard Farmer / Garden Gate

Susan Domer, #2141

Beginner badge: Community Service / Each Other

Susan Parnell, sparnell #2487

Beginner badge: Farmgirl Grammar / Each Other

Susan Smith, #277

Beginner badge: Embroidery / Stitching & Crafting

Beginner badge: Shopping Green / Cleaning Up

Intermediate badge: Shopping Green / Cleaning Up

Tamara Burger, GrammyTammy #2495

Beginner badge: Get It Together / Farm Kitchen

Beginner badge: ChillOver ComeOver / Farm Kitchen

Beginner badge: Farmgirl Grammar / Each Other

Intermediate badge: The Secret Life of Bees / Garden Gate

Tammy Austin, Tammy Marie #2309

Intermediate badge: Crochet / Stitching & Crafting

Tammy Schneider, Sidetracked Girl #2672

Beginner badge: Shopping Green / Cleaning Up

Beginner badge: Buttoned Up / Stitching & Crafting

Beginner badge: Get It Together / Farm Kitchen

Beginner badge: Horse Dreams / Garden Gate

Beginner badge: Build It Green / Make It Easy

Beginner badge: Embroidery / Stitching & Crafting

Tanya Greenman, threequartershiksa #1681

Beginner badge: Shopping Green / Cleaning Up

Beginner badge: Aprons / Stitching & Crafting

Vicki M Krueger, FG Vicki #2646

Beginner badge: The Secret Life of Bees / Garden Gate





Farmerettes & Young Cultivators

Merit Badge Awardees

Woo-Hoo! This month's **Young Cultivator Badges** go to (drum roll please):

Abby Buswell, Young Cultivator of Sarah Labrecque #1655

Beginner badge: Trash Talk / Cleaning Up

Intermediate badge: Trash Talk / Cleaning Up

Expert badge: Trash Talk / Cleaning Up

Dalton Austin, Young Cultivator of Tammy Austin #2309

Expert badge: Weaving In and Out / Stitching & Crafting

Elizabata Wilber, Young Cultivator of Tammy Burger #2495

Beginner badge: Table Talk / Farm Kitchen

Beginner badge: I Did It My Way / Make It Easy

Isabella Stevens, Young Cultivator of Tammy Austin #2309

Expert badge: Weaving In and Out / Stitching & Crafting

Ivy Grace, Young Cultivator of Monique Gustafson #2800

Beginner badge: Horsing Around / Garden Gate

Beginner badge: All Buttoned Up / Stitching & Crafting

Beginner badge: Weaving In and Out / Stitching & Crafting

Intermediate badge: Horsing Around / Garden Gate

Intermediate badge: All Buttoned Up / Stitching & Crafting

Intermediate badge: Weaving In and Out / Stitching & Crafting

Expert badge: Horsing Around / Garden Gate

Expert badge: Weaving In and Out / Stitching & Crafting

continued ...

What's a Farmerette?

Farmerettes are young farmgirls-in-training between the ages 14-18. They can earn the same Merit Badges as adult Sisters, so long as there is a Farmgirl Sisterhood member nearby to work with them.

Click here to find out more.

What's a Young Cultivator?

Young Cultivators are girls and boys between the ages 6 and 13. They can work with Farmgirl Sisterhood members to earn badges, but have their own unique program. **Click here to find out more.**



“ The mediocre teacher tells.
The good teacher explains.
The superior teacher demonstrates.
The great teacher inspires. ”

– William Arthur Ward

Merit Badge Awardees

.....
Maggie Grace Odle, Young Cultivator of Tammy Austin #2309
Expert badge: Weaving In and Out / Stitching & Crafting

Ramiro Burrell, Young Cultivator of Ginger Bayless #2468
Beginner badge: Weaving In and Out / Stitching & Crafting
Intermediate badge: Weaving In and Out / Stitching & Crafting
Expert badge: Weaving In and Out / Stitching & Crafting

Rebekah Bramblet, Young Cultivator of Lisa Bramblet #2705
Beginner badge: Weaving In and Out / Stitching & Crafting
Intermediate badge: Weaving In and Out / Stitching & Crafting
Expert badge: Weaving In and Out / Stitching & Crafting

Samantha Stevens, Young Cultivator of Tammy Austin #2309
Expert badge: Weaving In and Out / Stitching & Crafting

Tori Stevens, Young Cultivator of Tammy Austin #2309
Expert badge: Weaving In and Out / Stitching & Crafting

Waa-Hoo!



Gratitude

Young Cultivators Group

Rebekka Boysen has started a Young Cultivators group. She'll be reporting on their activities in future issues.

The Gratitude Project

Let me tell you about "The Gratitude Project" the Young Cultivators have started at school. In order to earn the Intermediate Level of the Thank You! badge, the kids set out to show their gratitude for a public servant in our community.

First, we talked as a group about who the girls wanted to thank. After deciding to thank their teachers, we met to create special mailboxes and slips of paper for class members and parents to leave comments on. We talked about how they planned to explain the project to their class, and off they went. I told them I would help spread the word to the others parents, and the project was launched.

Here is an excerpt from their school newsletter ...

The Gratitude Project

Madeline S., Julia B., and Isabella T. are earning merit badges through the MaryJanesFarm Young Cultivators Program, and this project was inspired by the Thank You! badge.

These students have created a mailbox for each teacher and have slips of paper available so that students have a chance to share positive feedback with their teachers. They have shared the idea with their classmates and asked students to use phrases like "You taught me to _____." and "I am thankful for _____." when writing to their teachers.

As a parent at Palouse Prairie School, I am incredibly appreciative of all things my child's teacher does to help her succeed. In the hustle and bustle of our busy schedules, I do not always find time to share this with her, and I am inspired to remedy that by participating in The Gratitude Project. This is a great opportunity for us to cultivate the art of gratitude alongside our children.

Parents—get involved in The Gratitude Project by e-mailing positive feedback to our School Director, and she will put them in the proper teacher's mailbox.

Warmly,
Rebekka Boysen-Taylor

Though this began as a Young Cultivators project, its value goes far beyond the badge. Teaching three little girls to be thankful is a powerful thing with a ripple effect. Through their project and enthusiasm, their classmates and families have been reminded of the impact of a simple thank you.



Farmgirl

APRIL

Sisterhood

SPECIAL

2011



BUY BULK BUDGET MIX
AND GET OUR SPECIAL RECIPE ISSUE

FREE

RETAIL VALUE: \$10.99

MY BUDGET MIX ALL-PURPOSE ORGANIC BAKING MIX COMES IN TWO HANDY BULK SIZES—10 LBS AND 20 LBS—AND IS AVAILABLE IN UNBLEACHED WHITE, WHOLE WHEAT, AND GLUTEN-FREE. THE SPECIAL RECIPE ISSUE OF MARYJANESFARM MAGAZINE GIVES YOU OVER 50 BUDGET MIX RECIPES, COMPLETE WITH MOUTH-WATERING PHOTOS.

MY BUDGET MIX® IS VERSATILE!

IT'S A WAY OF EATING THAT ANYONE (URBAN, SUBURBAN, OR RURAL) CAN BENEFIT FROM. NOT ONLY IS IT A TIME AND MONEY SAVER, IT'S A REPUTATION BUILDER! (MY MOTHER WAS THE BUDGET MIX QUEEN, BAKING HER MAGIC EVERY DAY FROM A 10-GALLON FLOUR TIN BENEATH OUR KITCHEN SINK.) AND YOU'LL FIND MORE THAN 50 ORIGINAL RECIPES USING BUDGET MIX IN MY "FARM KITCHEN" SPECIAL RECIPE ISSUE:

BISCOTTI, BISCUITS, BREADS, BREAKFAST DISHES, BROWNIES, CAKES, CREPES, COOKIES, MUFFINS, PANBREADS, PIE CRUST, QUICHE, AND MORE, INCLUDING MY SIGNATURE FARMGIRL BAKEOVER® AND FOLDOVER™.



**TO PURCHASE,
CLICK HERE**

FARMGIRL SISTERHOOD MEMBERS ONLY
OFFER GOOD THROUGH APRIL, 2011



meet our bloggers

Farmgirls are tapping away at their keyboards to bring you news from the homefront, no matter where you live or what your interests. Rebekah Teal, a former judge, writes about being a farmgirl in the city; Libbie Zenger blogs from the rural perspective; Nicole Christensen gives you the suburban viewpoint; Cathi Belcher shouts-out from her mountain top, Shery Jespersen shares the ranch view from Wyoming, and Debbie Bosworth writes from the beach. You can click to our farmgirl blogs right on our home page (www.maryjanesfarm.org). While you're there, sign up for our e-mail blog alerts and recipe of the week.

city FARMGIRL



Rebekah Teal is a farmgirl who lives in a large metropolitan area and brings you our **City Farmgirl Blog**. She's a lawyer who has worked in both criminal defense and prosecution, and she has been a judge, a business woman, and a stay-at-home mom. She's not only "down-home" citified, she's a true-blue farmgirl ... in a pair of stilettos!

"Mustering up the courage to do the things you dream about," she says, "is the essence of being a farmgirl." Learning to live more organically and closer to nature is Rebekah's current pursuit.

rural FARMGIRL



Libbie Zenger is a small-town farmgirl who writes our **Rural Farmgirl Blog** and lives in the high-desert Sevier Valley of Central Utah with her husband and two little farmboys—as well as 30 ewes, 60 lambs, a handful of rams, a milk cow, an old horse, two dogs, and two cats. She lives on a 140-year-old farm, in a farmhouse built by her great-great-grandfather, and tries to channel her grandmothers.

Libbie says, "When I found MaryJanesFarm, I found a new sort of sisterhood—one in which hard work, 'heart' work and handwork are truly valued, appreciated, and shared."

suburban FARMGIRL



Nicole Christensen, our current **Suburban Farmgirl Blogger**, calls herself a "knitter, jam-maker, and mom extraordinaire". Born and raised in the great state of Texas, she now resides in suburban New England in picturesque Connecticut, just a stone's throw from New York state.

Married for 18 years to her Danish-born sweetheart, Nicole has worked in various fields and has been a world-traveler, entrepreneur, knitting teacher, and homemaker, but considers being a mom her greatest job of all. Loving all things creative and domestic, Nicole considers her life's motto to be "Bloom where you are planted."

mountain FARMGIRL



Cathi Belcher, who pens our **Mountain Farmgirl Blog**, lives in the White Mountains of New Hampshire. As a "lifelong learner," she fiercely values self-reliance, independence, freedom, and fresh mountain air. She's also a multi-media artist, with an obsession for off-grid living and alternative housing. Cathi is married to her childhood sweetheart, and owns and operates a 32-room mountain lodge.

"Mountains speak to my soul, and farming is an important part of my heritage," says Cathi. "I want to pass on my love of these things to others through my writing."

Being a farmgirl isn't *where* you live, but *how* you live!

www.maryjanesfarm.org

NEWS FROM THE HOMEFRONT ...

whether that home is

city, rural, suburban,
mountain, ranch, or beach



ranch

FARMGIRL



Shery Jespersen, Wyoming cattle rancher and outpost writer, shares the view from her saddle in our **Ranch Farmgirl Blog**. Shery is a "leather and lace cowgirl" who's been horse-crazy all of her life. Her longtime love is Apple Pi "Dolly" Rose, a 20-year-old Morgan otherwise known as "The Best Darn Horse in the Universe."

Her other interests include "junktiques," creating eclectic "make do" arts and crafts, collecting antique china, and cultivating mirth.



beach

FARMGIRL



Debbie Bosworth left her lifelong home in the high desert of northern Nevada 10 years ago and washed up on the shore of America's hometown, Plymouth, Massachusetts, where she, her "beach-bum Yankee" husband of 20 years, and her two homeschooled kids are now firmly planted.

"I found a piece of my farmgirl heart when I discovered MaryJanesFarm. Suddenly, everything I loved just made more sense! I enjoy unwinding at the beach, writing, gardening, and turning yard-sale furniture into 'Painted Ladies'! I'm passionate about living a creative life and encouraging others to 'Make Each Day their Masterpiece.'"

Check out our new
BEACH BLOGGER,
• Debbie Bosworth •

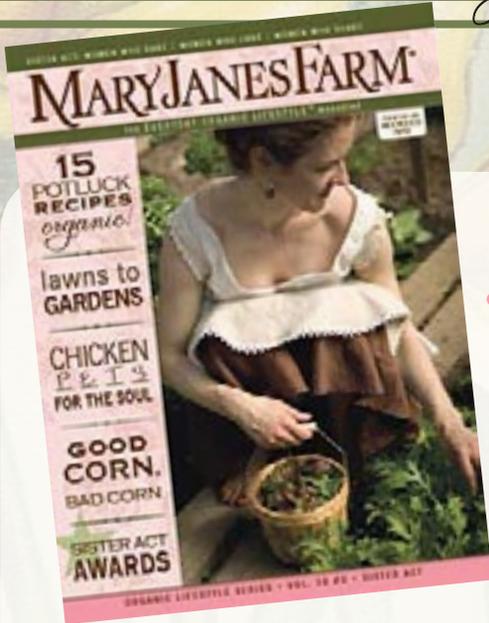
and stay tuned for our brand-new
DESERT BLOGGER,
coming soon!

Happy
SPRING



Magazines, Books,

& More



Our April/May issue, "Sister Act," hit newsstands on March 15. In it, you'll read about raising chickens indoors (think nappies!), organic potluck ideas, unique lamps made from discards, how to convert your lawn to garden space, and more.

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

If you have a subscription, you should have received your magazine by about March 5. (Those of you near postal hubs get faster delivery; rural delivery takes a little longer.) If you don't receive your magazine by this date, you can call our publisher's subscription department at 800-476-4611 to check on your delivery.

MaryJanesFarm 2011 Calendar

Our 2011 Calendar is available for purchase [here!](#) 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 8½" x 11" card stock and are bound with black spiral wire, unfolding to 11" x 17".

Current Holidays:

- April 01 ~ April Fools' Day
- April 07 ~ World Health Day
- April 15 ~ Tax Day
- April 16 ~ Husband Appreciation Day
- April 17 ~ Palm Sunday
- April 18 ~ Passover Begins
- April 18 ~ National Wear Your PJs to Work Day
- April 22 ~ Good Friday
- April 22 ~ Earth Day
- April 24 ~ Easter Sunday
- April 25 ~ Passover Ends
- April 27 ~ Administrative Professionals' Day
- April 29 ~ Arbor Day

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!](#)





Magazines, Books, and More continues ...

SPECIAL: 3-Book Bundle

MaryJane's books are all bundled up for Spring. Buy them together and save \$15! *MaryJane's Ideabook*, *Cookbook*, *Lifeblog*; *MaryJane's Stitching Room*; and *MaryJane's Outpost*. **Click here.**



Gift Items

Inspire yourself or inspire a friend with tote bags, Sisterhood Memberships, candles, dolls, 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.

Product Shop

Don't forget to visit our "Product Shop" ... **Click Here.** You will find everything from beautiful organic bed sheets and bed sets to aprons, chocolate and over 60 organic instant or quick-prep meals and desserts as well as much, much more!



If you know of someone who may be interested in receiving this newsletter, send their e-mail(s) to us at sisterhoodhopeful@maryjanesfarm.org and we'll e-mail them a sample issue.

For other questions or general inquiries, e-mail FarmgirlSisterhood@maryjanesfarm.org.

**Over 1,222 Farmgirl Chapters have been started in all 50 states
and 8 countries with 2,912 Sisterhood members —
growing stronger every day!**