

MaryJane's Cluck™

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

May 2011

Life made us FRIENDS, MaryJanesFarm made us SISTERS!

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{HELLO FROM SISTER #1} with MaryJane

Sisters Together

Whenever I leave my farm, I make sure to meet up with as many of my sisters as I can. If you live anywhere near Brookfield, Wisconsin (Milwaukee), or Lombard, Illinois (Chicago), PLEASE, please come on down, over, up, or across the country for some farmgirl fun.

We can't wait to meet YOU!!!!!! (I'll be traveling with my daughter, Meg, and family.) It'll be the highlight of our trip.

We'll be at the Boston Store in Brookfield, Wisconsin, at NOON on May 20, 2011 (in conjunction with Bon-Ton's customer appreciation week) and the Carson Pirie Scott store in Lombard, Illinois, at NOON on May 21, 2011.

We'll be offering some crafting tips (farmgirl show & tell), plenty of surprises, and because we're farmgirls, we'll have giveaways—not to mention a handsome man (my son-in-law) walking amongst us offering nibbles of chocolate.

Boston Store

Brookfield Square Mall
15875 West Bluemound Road
Brookfield, WI 53005
262.782.6888

Carson Pirie Scott

Yorktown Mall
230 Yorktown Center
Lombard, IL 60148
630.620.2600

See you there!!!!!!

MaryJane



“ Sisters function as safety nets in a chaotic world simply by being there for each other. ”

— Carol Saline



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).

Roller Derby

Exercise. It’s that loaded word. Some people DO love it. “Some” people have actually figured it out, they really have. We’re told there are a thousand reasons why exercise is good for us and a thousand studies that prove it.

Still.

Up until last year, I hadn’t yet mastered “loving” exercise for the sake of exercise. But my second season of roller derby begins this month and I think I may have figured it out once and for all.

My team consists of women from all walks, er, rolls. We are small; we are big, tall, and short. We range in age from 67 to age 4, if you count some of our little ones skating at the far end of the track. We are doctors, professors, small business owners, and stay-at-home moms. I’m sure we represent a wide range of religious and political views, but we check that at the door. For three hours a week, we are all one crazy, smiling mass of women going ‘round and ‘round and ‘round about one thing: exercise.

I think the part I was least stoked about but have ended up getting the most benefit from isn’t so much feeling better physically, but feeling better emotionally after practice. Something about getting my heart rate up and MOVING has affected my brain. If ever there is a cloud over my head when I arrive, it disappears. If I’m worried, stressed, or overwhelmed when I tie my skates up, I am confident, relaxed, and content when I throw them over my shoulder at the end of practice.

Well, get this: It’s all in my noggin. Literally, scientists have been researching exercise and the effects it has on the brain for years. Guess what? They call it “noggin,” a brain protein that increases with exercise. This protein hinders BMP (bone-morphogenetic protein). BMP slows stem cell division in the brain, and that slows our thinking. So, with more noggin in our noggins, we’re happier, we think faster.

However, I will admit that while doing this bit of research, I kept finding mention of neurogenesis, which is a scientific term by which neurons are generated. Well, I am clearly no genius, as I continued to read it as “neurogenius” until my husband pointed out my lack of noggin. Okay, more exercise.



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



photos by Bill Bonner



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{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.

Food and Friendship

One of my best friends is a guy. One of the reasons he's my BFF (best friend forever) is because he shares my love, passion, and obsession for food. More specifically, the creation of really ridiculously flavorful and well-presented dishes. In fact, if we were forced to limit or reduce our conversations to food only, we would notice very little change in our friendship.

Xanti (pronounced SHAWN-tee) and I met a decade ago when we were both in television news. Early on, we identified our common denominator. We would spend hours "on assignment" talking about what we'd each prepared the night before, or what we'd seen in a cookbook or a magazine or on a menu that sparked inspiration. While we no longer work together, our culinary banter continues.

Within the past month alone, Xanti has treated his lovely, hard-working wife to Dijon-crusted Pork with Cream Sauce and Balsamic Potatoes with Onions. Another night, it was Pasta Bolognese (with homemade sauce and homemade pasta). Yet another night, it was Fish Tacos.

In between those divine dishes, he whipped up Boeuf Bourguignon for his beer-drinking buddies. I am not making this up!

Xanti and I engage in a healthy (yet relentless) competition in which we desperately try to impress one another with our latest and greatest kitchen creations. When it comes to food, we are each others' biggest fans and staunchest faux critics.

Yet we are both totally unapologetic about our appreciation for simple fare. In fact, one of my favorite dishes that Xanti makes is, basically, a hamburger. It's his famous (at least in his mind) Olive Burger.

I didn't tell him I was writing this article when I texted him for the recipe. I was expecting the reply to read, "You just add olives to ground beef, dummy!"



Xanti and me covering the Baja 1000 in Mexico.



Featured Recipe

But his unprovoked response perfectly demonstrates the aforementioned passion ... and the reason why we could spend the rest of our days discussing nothing but food!

Alyson: How do I make your Olive Burger?

Xanti: It's a hamburger with ketchup and mustard on the bottom bun, and mayonnaise on the top bun. You press a handful (1/4 cup) of chopped green olives into the mayo. Very important. You want the sweetness of the ketchup to be separate from the creamy/saltiness of the mayo and olives. The meat introduces the two on your tongue. I do not prefer cheese, but that's optional.

And, there you have it ... the secret ingredient to our foodie friendship.



*“Happiness held
is the seed;
happiness shared
is the flower.”*

– Anonymous

Olive Burgers

Serves: 2

- 1 lb ground beef
- 2 Challah buns
- ketchup, mustard, and mayonnaise to taste
- 1/2 cup green olives, chopped

1. Divide ground beef into two hamburger patties. Cook the hamburgers to your preferred doneness.
2. Spread ketchup and mustard on the bottom buns. Spread mayonnaise on the top buns. Divide the olives between the two buns and press into the mayonnaise. Add hamburger patties and serve.





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.

“ Gardening is a labour full of tranquility and satisfaction; natural and instructive, and as such contributes to the most serious contemplation, experience, health, and longevity. ”

– John Evelyn, 1666

Rhubalicious

I just checked over in the Farmgirl Connection chatroom's Garden Gate section. Whew! You all are tearing up the Internet with your lively conversations about gardening. The hottest topics? What winter squash to plant, how to grow strawberries, and the beautiful “What's your view from your kitchen window?” But it was the rhubarb conversation that caught my eye.

Do you know the fabulous seasonal, sunset-colored, vitamin-C-loaded rhubarbtini? My good buddy, David Perry, writer and photographer extraordinaire, taught me all about rhubarb juice and the sensational rhubarbtini concoction. (**Read David's article [here.](#)**) Tigress in a Jam calls the juice “rhubeena.” (**Find her article [here.](#)**) I make up as many batches as possible, begging, buying, and bartering for all the rhubarb I can get my hands on. (My three plants are not quite big enough to keep me in rhubarb juice for a crowd, but I am adding more this season.) My other garden buddy and hostess-with-the-mostess, Lorene, wrote about making a delicious rhubarb simple syrup (**[read it here](#)**). She gives credit for her recipe to another great local eating blog, **Mixed Greens**.



Mixed Greens concocted a refreshing rhubarb margarita that is so pretty to look at, you may not even want to drink it. They also created a cocktail called Rhubarb Thyme Tonic. Essentially, you cut up as much rhubarb as you can fit into your biggest pot. Add a cup or so of water. You want just enough to create some steam and to get the rhubarb to release



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MARYJANES FARM

its own juices. Cover with a tight-fitting lid. I have experimented with adding 1/2 cup of turbinado (raw brown) sugar or about 1/4 cup of cane syrup. I don't add this until the end. Sometimes, you need more sugar, but be careful to add just enough sweetener to make it tasty, but not too sweet. I really scored when I added a few chunks of crystallized ginger to the pot.

I freeze my rhubarb juice in clean pint containers or glass jars. It's absolutely the prettiest-colored juice I've ever seen. It's beautiful mixed with sparkling club soda. Add a sprig of mint or a stem of thyme or float a violet for a sensational seasonal libation. Tip your glass and rejoice in the bounty of another great garden year!



“ Nothing says spring like pink; you can get away with a lot of almost tooth-achingly sweet pink in the garden when the light is drippy dewy pale and we're starved for horticultural sustenance after a long winter. ”

Lorene,
Planted at Home

Stitching & Crafting Room

Stitches of Fun & Laughter!



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{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.

Papel Picado, Farmgirl Style

Leave it to my mom. She showed up last week with a bag full of tissue paper announcing that she had learned to make "papel picado" for a friend's baby shower. When I lived in Los Angeles, I fell in love with papel picado, or perforated paper banners. In our neighborhood, families hung them across courtyards and between avocado trees for parties and holidays. In its most simple form, papel picado is similar to cutting paper snowflakes. A few careful cuts through layers of tissue paper, a length of string and some glue, and you can make elegant banners for any occasion. Traditionally papel picado banners are colorful, but you can also make banners out of white tissue paper. The pattern becomes the centerpiece when you take away the variety of colors. In Mexico, chisels are used to make hundreds of tiny cuts. I use scissors and aim for simple, clean designs. My favorite pair are 3 1/2-inch Gingher stork embroidery scissors.

To create your own papel picado, break out some good-quality tissue paper, small sharp scissors, a ball of twine, and a glue stick. Print out the template on a piece of paper (enlarging or reducing to get the size you want) or create your own using a simple line drawing. Take eight pieces of tissue paper, 6 inches square, and fold them in half. Lay your template on the tissue with the fold line on the folded edge of the tissue. Now carefully cut away the dark parts of your design (or use a utility knife on a protected surface). Cut along the outer line of your template to finish the edges (my mom cuts scallops to edge her banners). When you are done, unfold the tissue to see the full design. Space individual flags about 3 inches apart on a length of twine and fold the top of the flags over the string 1/4 inch or so, securing them with glue. I leave about 4 feet of twine on either side to give me enough string when I go to hang it. You can also tie banners together to make a longer banner.

To get clean designs, you will use a fresh template each time you cut, so make lots of copies of your designs. Kids can try their hands at making papel picado without a pattern by folding a few sheets of tissue up and cutting out shapes as they would to make snowflakes. Unfold and follow the above directions for attaching them to the string. Anyway you try it, making simple tissue banners is a great way to decorate for your next Fiesta.



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



*“My favorite weather is
bird-chirping weather.”*

– Terri Guillemets

Make it Easy

Happy Hearts
Make Light Work

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{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.

Shery's computer had a meltdown this month, so while she's retrieving her files, we'll run her article from May of last year.

Peace & Quiet

Farmgirls find joyful contentment in the little things. Sometimes it is spying the first courageous buttercup or finding the perfect "junktique" accessories for a birdhouse you're making ... or the simple mention of a dear friend's name. Words are usually very little things—pieced together increments of communication that are as much a part of our modern-day daily existence as water and air. We take them in, digest them, and move on. Sometimes, though, we linger so that the words soak in a little deeper ... like soft, slow rain.

The best and most meaningful words are the kind we ought to share frequently—and we shouldn't be stingy with them. This month's "Make It Easy" project conveys a soothing message and a gentle reminder. Stitch up this simple sewing project in a variety of ways. Shown at right is an 8 1/2" x 11" hot pad. Other ideas include 'freestyle' stitching the phrase onto pillowcases by using 'turkey' red embroidery thread. Upsize the scale by adding more Xs to each letter. Or make a pillow front instead of a hot pad and use white muslin and '30s-era fabrics for a wider border and a ruffle. This little "quilt" could hang on the wall of a vintage "glamping" trailer and pull double duty in the itty-bitty kitchen.

Supply List

(Dimensions of the pieces of fabric are larger so that you have plenty of "extra."):

- 10" x 12" piece of Osnaburg or muslin
- 10" x 12" piece of cotton batting
- 12" x 14" piece of print fabric (I used a stripe)
- fabric marking pen or lead pencil
- embroidery needle
- embroidery floss in the colors of your preference (I chose brown, tan, mustard, pale red, and pine green)
- 3" piece of red wool or cotton fabric
- quilting thread
- needle
- leftover coffee or tea (for age staining)

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

1. Pin the Osnaburg fabric, batting, and backing fabric together.
2. Draw your "Peace & Quiet" and cherry branch onto the fabric. I used a dime coin for the cherry pattern. Each letter is 1 1/2" tall. Practice on a sheet of paper until you're happy with the look and scale. It does not have to be perfect. The look is intended to be homemade and a little primitive. Refer to the photo as a guide.
3. Load your embroidery needle with 2-3 strands of embroidery floss and cross-stitch the letters.
4. Do the same for the cherry branch and leaves. Cut out your 'cherries' and stitch them into place.
5. I 'stipple' quilted this piece in rows and filled in the center in random style as needed so that the middle section didn't puff up too much.
6. Trim the border fabric and fold over and inward ... top and bottom, then the sides. Tuck the raw edges in about 1/4". Fold the corners in a mitered fashion (or straight edges if you prefer). Using a blanket stitch or a fancy feather stitch, go around the border edge and hide the knot inside when you're done.
7. If you like a 'loved for a long time' look, immerse the piece in leftover coffee or strong tea, then gently squeeze out the liquid, lay it out flat, and let dry.





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.

Marbled Tea Eggs

I have a new obsession that I just have to tell you about: marbled tea eggs. They are one of the most incredible things that I have discovered in a long time, and I just can't keep them a secret. The truth is that they're not really a secret at all; tea eggs are a traditional Chinese snack food commonly sold by street vendors throughout China. Unfortunately, they're not very well known here in the U.S. – yet.


I absolutely love eggs, but transforming them into marbled tea eggs takes them to a completely different level. Not only are they stunning to look at, but the flavor is indescribable and the texture is amazing. I'm already dreaming of all of the potlucks that I'll be taking these to this summer and have been envisioning ways to make them into the prettiest and tastiest deviled eggs ever. They are delicious when eaten alone, but would also be a perfect addition to salads, ramen soup, or rice dishes.

Making tea eggs is simple, but they do need to simmer for some time. In China, there are many variations since each family makes their tea egg recipe a little bit differently, but they all contain black tea, soy sauce, and spices. I based my recipe on the ones I found online, but couldn't resist the temptation to add Licorice and Eleuthero roots.

Marbled Tea Egg Recipe

- 6 eggs - organic, free-range and/or farm fresh (but, definitely from a place that gives their chickens lots of love)
- $\frac{3}{4}$ cup organic soy sauce
- 1 organic cinnamon stick
- 2 T organic black tea (I used English Breakfast, but you can use any black tea)
- 1 t organic black peppercorns
- 2 organic anise star pods
- 1 T organic eleuthero root
- 1 t organic licorice root





Place the eggs in a medium-sized pot and cover completely with cold water, submerging the eggs by at least 1 inch of water. Bring the water to a boil, then lower the heat and allow the eggs to simmer for 3 minutes. Remove the eggs from the heat and rinse in cold water. Once they are cool enough to handle, gently crack the eggshells using the back of a teaspoon. The more you crack, the more intricate the design will be. Make sure to crack the entire perimeter of the egg while being careful not to break the shell completely off.

Return the cracked eggs to the pot, cover completely with water, and then add the remaining ingredients. Bring to a boil, then lower the heat and simmer for 40 minutes to 3 hours (I simmered mine for 2 hours). The longer they simmer, the more intense the flavor and color will be. Periodically, check on the eggs, turn them over, and add more water if necessary so that the eggs are always partially submerged.

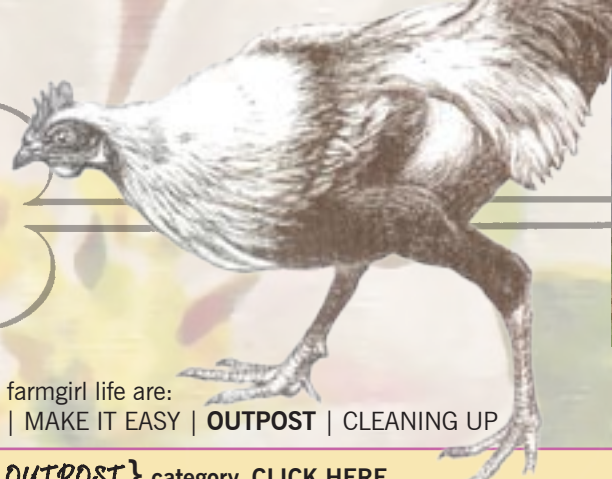
Once they are finished simmering, remove your pot from the heat, cover with a lid, and place it in the refrigerator. Allow the eggs to steep overnight or longer in the marinade. The longer they marinate, the more savory the eggs will be.

Peeling the eggs is one of the most rewarding parts as each one will have a unique web-like pattern. It feels like you are opening little gifts! Not only are the eggs themselves beautiful, but the tea-stained eggshells are gorgeous too. Enjoy!



Outpost

The Work of Our Hands



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

Shery's computer had a meltdown this month, so while she's retrieving her files, we'll run her article from May of last year.

Me & My Hoss

Spring is, without question, the busiest time of year for ranchers. The other day when I was riding, I noticed an anthill that was a busy hub of activity—much more so than late in the summer. The ants were scrambling all over each other. Their activity looked hectic, as if they were lacking a plan. But looks are deceiving. I could relate to the ants. Like them, we have plans too, so many right now that we feel a bit overwhelmed.

In addition to the usual busyness of calving, we're re-siding the house, painting it, adding an addition, and landscaping. Oh, and a large raised-bed garden! The “Make It Easy” project that I stitched up for this edition of *The Cluck* was a timely reminder for the maker!

We're not the only ones who work hard this time of year. Our horses do, too. They're a necessity in our line of work, and they make our job easier and enjoyable. I ride every day out in the clean, crisp air of Wyoming and I get to call it “work.”

“Harley” is the featured steed in this piece (right), and he is a son of my beloved mare, “Dolly.” The curious observer might ask what Harley's typical work day is like? Well, first off, my husband wrangles the horses into the corral. Then, we pick our mounts for the day. Whoever is chosen gets a meal of grain while being brushed and saddled. The bridle comes next, and then we're off to see what the cows have done since we rode the day before.

Our daily ride during calving season consists of riding anywhere from 6–12 miles, depending on several factors. Harley and I look for newborn





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

calves or calving cows that may have problems. If all goes well, it just turns into a pleasant outing. I use the opportunity to look at wildflowers and take photos. Harley stands by and eagerly nibbles on luscious new grass. Would some of you agree that there is something very comforting about listening to herbivores grazing?

When our ride is done, I curry Harley and he loves it since he's shedding heavily now. Then, he saunters off, looking for a place to roll. A good roll with groans of relaxation is as enjoyable for me to watch as it is for the horse. Horses are such remarkable creatures ... noble and funny, a dog you can ride, always amazing, marvels of design, great communicators, simple and yet complex. My life wouldn't be MY life without them. The smell of a horse to me is as sweet as that of a rose.



“No hour of life
is wasted that
is spent in the
saddle.”

– Winston Churchill

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{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.

Make Mine
GREEN

Natural Hair Health

Let's face it, trips to the beauty salon can be expensive. And meanwhile, hair-product prices are on the rise. What's a farmgirl to do? The answer is simple: Take matters into your own hands with a little help from Mother Nature and whip up hair concoctions that will leave your tresses clean and silky. When I lived in the big city years ago, I remember trips to the salon and chemically laden products that only stressed out my hair. After learning about all the harsh chemicals found in hair products, I decided to do a little experimenting with some natural ingredients and found them to work like a charm. Typically, I will use shampoos and conditioners that are certified organic; however, when I am in a pinch and out of the commercial organic products, I've been known to create my own hair products with great results.

For starters, most hair products, even the organic ones, will typically leave some type of residue and/or buildup. This buildup is what tends to weigh down our hair and make it look lifeless or dull. So, I've discovered that with just a couple of ingredients, you can get that volume and shine back in no time. Below are several recipes to save you time and money on hair care.

Clarifying Hair Rinse

(removes buildup and oil)

1/3 cup apple cider vinegar

1 quart water

3 drops of your favorite essential oil (rosemary, lavender, and chamomile are healthy for hair)

Combine in a spray bottle and apply to hair. (You can wet 3 T of baking soda and apply the paste to hair while working the spray solution in also.) Leave on for 3 minutes, then rinse with warm water. If ends need more conditioning, apply a pea-sized amount of coconut oil for a silky effect.





{CLEANING UP} with Toni Salerno | to earn a Sisterhood badge in our {CLEANING UP} category

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Conditioning Hair Rinse

- 1 cup warm water
- 2/3 cup honey
- 1 green tea or herbal tea bag
- 3 drops essential oil

In a small pan, heat mixture to a boil, then remove from heat and let steep for 5 minutes or until cooled enough to apply. Apply mixture to hair, then rinse with warm water.

Chamomile/Beer Conditioner

- 1 can beer (the acid in the beer conditions the hair shaft)
- chamomile leaves (boiled in a glass or ceramic pot and strained*)

Apply mixture to hair, leave on for 3–5 minutes, then rinse with warm water.

Deep Conditioner

- 1 T organic mayonnaise
- 2 t water

Mix together, then work into hair, avoiding the roots. Let sit for 5 minutes; apply more if needed. Rinse with warm water.

Natural Hair Dyes

Brunettes: Strong coffee makes an excellent dye for darker hair and can enhance your natural dark tones. Leave on for 25 minutes, then rinse with cool water.

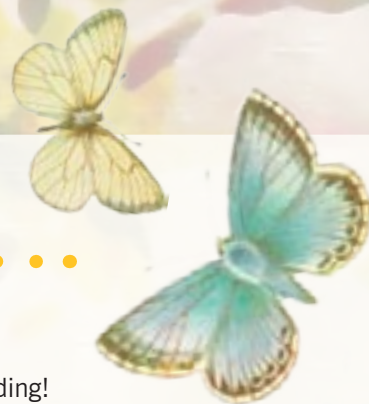
Reds: Steeped black tea mixed with apple-cider vinegar can bring out rich red tones or brighten your natural ones. Leave on for 25 minutes, then rinse with cool water.

Blondes: Simmer chamomile leaves in a glass or ceramic pot* for 10-30 minutes, then strain with non-metal strainer (*metal has a reaction to chamomile and can lessen the lightening effect.) Leave on for 25 minutes, then rinse with cool water and dry in the sunshine for added lightening.



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. 20-21 for 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!)



MARYJANESFARM.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

Share in the fun!

Farmgirl Chatter

What are farmgirls chatting about?

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

.....

News from MaryJanesFarm: Calling all Wisconsin & Illinois Farmgirls! Submitted by Meg

We are coming to visit!! Mom (MaryJane) and I are so excited for our upcoming adventure. Bon-Ton has invited us to host an afternoon of farmgirl fun during their customer appreciation weekend.

We'll be at their **Boston Store in Brookfield, WI at noon on May 20, 2011.**

And their **Carson Pirie Scott store in Lombard, IL at noon on May 21, 2011.**

If you need a new bedset, both stores are offering a **free year's subscription** to our magazine with the purchase of a MaryJane's Home bedset over the weekend.

And, what to do with your old bedset?

Mom and I have some ideas. **We'll be teaching a variety of uses for your well-worn bedding.**

- Fabric-covered boxes and drawer fronts
- Ottoman slipcovers
- House-pet beds
- Euro pillows
- Pillows made using vintage doilies and hankies

And a bit of help on what to do with the packaging the bedsets are sold in too.

Being farmgirls, we will also have quite a few giveaways as well. We are so hoping to take this opportunity to meet some of our fellow farmgirls and sisters. Please holler my way with any questions or post them here. I will also keep ya'll posted with any new news [here](#).

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 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!



the chatter continues ...

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.

HomeSafeHome: Citric Acid to Clean Tubs Submitted by Wildcrafter

A couple of years ago, I moved into a house with a tub that stayed dirty-looking no matter what kind of cleanser was used: Comet, soap, soaking in bleach water ... nothing worked. It was suggested to me to fill the tub, put in a half cup of citric acid, let it sit overnight, drain the tub, and scrub. I did that about a year ago. Clean tub! White, white white. And it has never gone back to the dingy mess it used to be. Click [here](#) to see topic.

Keeping in Touch: Collecting Submitted by Bonnie Ellis

Farmgirls, what do you collect? I collect small barns, small rolling pins (I will post a picture as soon as I figure how to do it), aprons, post holders, fabric, and old postcards. Of course it usually takes a long time to collect just the right stuff for your collection, and it's hard to stop. These are the things I am keeping, as I am clearing the clutter in our home of 49 years. Since they are small, they don't take up too much room. What do you collect ... don't say dust, cuz we don't have to make an effort to collect that (lol). Click [here](#) to respond to topic.

Keeping in Touch: Washing Dishes by Hand Submitted by chickenladycris

Every time I wash dishes, I think of my grandma. I admit, I don't particularly like the chore—which is funny, since I do love eating and cooking, which makes piles of dirty plates and forks forever living in my sink—but it always makes me smile. My grandma was adamant about washing her dishes by hand (ALL of her dishes, even the stack of plates after Thanksgiving supper) in the sink with plenty of scorching-hot water, Palmolive soap, and a sturdy pair of yellow rubber gloves reaching up to her elbows. Dishes were always my chore growing up, and I hated them. My three brothers seemed to be unable to scrape off their plates, and a sudden flotilla of bread, ketchup, and old peanut butter would loom up from the murk and stick to my hands. Yuck! I dreamed of moving away to the big city, finding a little apartment with a windowbox, a cat, and a big steamy dishwasher. When I went away to graduate school, I found all those things, as well as moving closer to my grandma. Over the years I studied, I spent plenty of time over in Grandma's kitchen. She loved to make me dinner, puttering about in her worn house slippers and banging away with pots and pans and that new-fangled microwave oven (which was covered with a

continued ...



{tips, inspiration, & just plain fun!}

the chatter continues ...

plastic custom-sized dust cover when not in use). Every meal concluded with gathering the dishes, a pristine assortment of vintage Corelle-ware and dinged-up forks and knives purchased when she was a new bride, and putting them into a scrubbed sink filled with hot, soapy water. I remember once asking her why she didn't put them into her dishwasher—she had one, a nice big one, and it worked great. I had seen my aunts fill it after many a big gathering! Grandma just looked at me, smiled, and said, "Honey, I AM the best dishwasher!" Then she would wash, and I would dry. Together, we would put everything away and settle back at the table to talk, laugh, and maybe play a game of hearts (she forever won). Now I am here in my little cottage, with its sturdy square kitchen just big enough for a table for friends to gather at, but definitely not able to accommodate a deluxe automatic dishwasher. Sometimes, I dream of a bigger kitchen—I'd love more windows, maybe even south-facing French doors, or a built-in dining nook complete with shelf upon shelf to hold my growing collection of old cookbooks. But then I see the pile of dishes waiting for me in my little worn tin sink, and I pull on my own pair of yellow rubber gloves. A squirt or two of my favorite soap (smells like lemon verbena) and piping hot water, and I am again washing dishes by hand with my grandma. I think she'd be glad that I am now the "best dishwasher," just as she used to be. Click [here](#) to go to topic.

Keeping in Touch: Downsizing Submitted by Columbine

We are in the process of downsizing big time. We are moving from a five-bedroom home that we live in where my husband works and relocating to a one-room (very small, but cozy) cabin up North. Currently, we have put in electricity and indoor water but not a privy, as we still have a two-seater outhouse. Have put in a pole barn to start packing in our "stuff" and are downsizing every day with a huge yard sale in the works! Putting a 14-foot addition on this spring as a temporary measure for a bathroom and laundry room and plan on adding on when we are able. My husband is more anxious about the indoor bathroom than I am. I have found my 21 acres of paradise and can live in it as is. We need to find new jobs, which is exciting and scary, but I'm determined it can be done to live our dream. I plan on selling goat shares once I learn about goats and having chickens and other critters. I am 55 years old and have the enthusiasm of a 20-year-old, and although our first year may be rough, it will happen. I'll be leaving a good job of 13 years and my hubby will leave one of 10 years. We expect to cut our income in half, but increase our quality of life 3X plus. Downsizing is difficult, but so very much needed—I have many things I just don't NEED to live the simple life I want. I will write every day of our challenges and successes once we move. Anyone else out there thinking of doing the same thing? I highly recommend it. I want to live life to the fullest every day because you never know what tomorrow brings. I want to be grateful for what I have, not what I think I want. Wish me luck :) Click [here](#) to see topic.

A Farm of My Own: Adding More Trees to Our Farm Submitted by FieldsofThyme

I purchased redbud seeds (heirloom) from a lady in PA. I am just now starting the first four trees.

“The creation of
a thousand forests
is in one acorn.”

– Ralph Waldo Emerson

the chatter continues ...

I had no idea that I would receive 10 pods, and each pod is filled with about four tree seeds. I hope to bless our farm with these trees, along with adding fruit trees. We have already planted a plum and peach tree.

Are any of you planting trees from seed? Respond to topic [here](#).

Across the Fence: Who would play YOU in a movie? Submitted by Fiddlehead Farm

I am reading the book *Black Heels to Tractor Wheels* by Ree Drummond and heard that they are making a movie about her blog and book that is starring Reese Witherspoon. I was just wondering if there was a movie made about your life, who would you cast as your leading lady and why?

Ok, I will start ... I think I would have Jamie Lee Curtis play me. I think she is funny and tomboyish, but sexy and strong, and she has short hair like me! Now, for my leading man ... I will have to think on that one! Click [here](#) to share.

Across the Fence: Old Crocks Submitted by Nancy Gartenman

No, I don't mean that annoying neighbor. I have several of these from family, different sizes. They can be used for so many things. Glad I have them. If you have any of these, what do you use them for? Share your suggestions [here](#).

Barnyard Buddies: Ponies!!! Submitted by snowberryfarm

I have been looking for a pony for my daughters for over a year. I finally found one, and it came with a baby!!! We just brought them home on Monday. It has been so much fun. I have never owned a horse before, so we will be learning along the way. Respond to topic [here](#).

Barnyard Buddies: Book Recommendation for Raising Jersey Cows? Submitted by FieldsofThyme

I would love to hear book title suggestions for raising a dairy cow. I can't find one at the library for Storey's Guides. Share your suggestions [here](#).

Cleaning Up: Painting Helpers Submitted by greenpaws

I just finished painting some walls and I want to share a couple of ideas I came up with and used. I bought a cheap vinyl tablecloth to use as a dropcloth for furniture or the floor. With the soft backing, it sticks better than the plastic dropcloths, and it has a pretty pattern, besides. I bought mine on a whim at a \$ store, but thrift stores also have used ones for even cheaper. They are easier to re-use than the plastic, and that is a plus! I also bought, for \$1, a turkey-size roasting pan at the \$ store, which I used to hold my paint can, paint stick, extra brush, etc. It worked marvelously! I never know where to lay these things down where I won't make the mistake of stepping on them. This kept any drips contained in the pan. Respond to topic [here](#).

continued ...



{tips, inspiration, &
just plain fun!}

the chatter continues ...

Entrepreneurship: Copyright Protection? Submitted by FieldsofThyme

Where do I go online for copyright protection applications? There are so many, it's a bit confusing. Give your suggestions [here](#).

Entrepreneurship: Selling Produce Straight from the "Farm"

Has anyone had any luck doing this? My lettuce, spinach, radishes, etc., are ready now and our Farmers' Market doesn't start for another three weeks. There is way more than we can eat and I don't want it wasted. I am going to put a sign down by the road: "Garden Fresh Produce & Eggs" and see what happens. I would appreciate any input from anyone else who has tried this. Thanks! Give your input [here](#).

Farm Kitchen: Does anyone make their own cheese? Submitted by urban chickie

I am starting to get into cheese making. I really want to get or make a press for cheeses, but either they are real expensive or require tools I don't have. But I am working on it! I was wondering who else loves cheese and makes their own? Please share your stories!! Share your stories [here](#).

Garden Gate: Manure tea, anyone? Submitted by kristin sherrill

I have had a 5-gallon bucket of goat poop for a long time. It's been getting rained on and set here and there. I finally just took it out to the garden and got a glass jar, with rubber gloves, and watered my tomatoes and cabbage and broccoli plants. Also put a little on my grapevines. I just put probably a 1/4 cup on each plant. It's very watered down. I hope it wasn't too much so soon. But I want some cabbage, so I thought this might give them a boost. Does anyone else do this? And what were the results? Did the plants do well? Click [here](#) to respond.

Garden Gate: What winter squash do you plant? Submitted by buffypuff

It is a very cold spring here in the North. And even though it is way too early to plant outside, I have started seeds in the house. So ... I think it will be a short growing season, and I wondered what you planted for squash that might be a shorter time to grow and what were the good points of the squash. Click [here](#) to share your ideas.

Garden Gate: Tomatoes? Submitted by Dorinda

I planted about 20 tomato plants this year. They are big and beautiful plants right now. My problem is they do not have hardly any fruit on them and not too many blooms. I have been putting liquid Miracle Grow on them, which I have never done before. I did this because my neighbor uses this liquid fertilizer and had the most tomatoes last year on his plants. I have not seen too many bees this year, also. I wonder which is the problem. My plants are usually loaded with tomatoes by now. Out of the 20 plants, I have only four tomatoes so far. I wonder should I cut out the liquid fertilizer or be more patient? Share your thoughts [here](#).

“
If we make our
goal to live a life
of compassion
and unconditional
love, then the
world will indeed
become a garden
where all kinds
of flowers can
bloom and grow.”

– Elisabeth Kubler-Ross

the chatter continues ...

Garden Gate: Strawberries Submitted by Ingrid

Yesterday, I worked on my strawberries. We have tiered strawberry boxes on the patio (11 tiers) plus an old double kitchen sink. I took every plant out and then added fresh soil and clipped all the dead stuff off them then replanted them. I ended up with 185 plants. I was amazed. Needless to say I put 85 plants in my veggie garden, as I ran out of room in the boxes and there isn't enough patio room for more boxes. Today, I will mulch them to keep them happy. I have never seen so many strawberry plants—I just hope they give us lots of berries. Yum! Click [here](#) to respond to post.

Garden Gate: Asparagus Submitted by MagnoliaWhisper

Is asparagus an annual or a perennial? If it does come back yearly, how do you do that? Just not pick it all, like you would garlic, onions, chives, and such?

Also, I know rhubarb comes back yearly—how do you cut it to make it come back yearly? Like where on it would you cut? Share your ideas [here](#).

Garden Gate: Dividing Lavender Submitted by Annab

I've had a lavender shrub in a pot for about 3 years now. It's past time to divide it. Do I just take a shovel and slice down the middle? It's just now putting on new green leaves. Respond to topic [here](#).

Nifty Thrifty: Use for ice tea lids? Submitted by erowease

I drink bottled iced tea at work and was looking at the metal lids thinking there must be a way to re-use them, but I need some ideas. Share your ideas [here](#).

Outpost: How to Season a New Dutch Oven Submitted by ChickieMama

Hello sisters, I just bought a new cast-iron Dutch oven for campfire cooking and I'm not sure of the best way to season it. Help please. Oh, and the best way to clean it after cooking with it ... Thank you! Share your helpful suggestions [here](#).

Stitching & Crafting Room: Transfer Paper Submitted by dazed81

I am having a HECK of a time finding transfer paper. I need to check JoAnn Fabric, but the ladies at Hobby Lobby looked at me like I was nuts. I know you can buy it online, but in stores I am not having any luck.

I sure would like to avoid my old lightbox trick if I can. They had t-shirt transfers, but I guess to me transfer paper is different. Can you gals help clarify this for me? I need to print out my badges and I also would like to understand this for future embroidery reference, as I really don't like using the lightbox if I can help it.

Thanks so much! Share your ideas [here](#).

Farmgirl Sisterhood

News

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. 28). 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 1,237 Farmgirl Chapters have been started, located in all 50 states and 8 countries with 3,010 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 MaryJanesFarm 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 soooo 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

CARRIE earned a beginner Outpost merit badge in Woman-at-Arms. "Over the last six weeks, I attended the 4H Shooting Sports program with my daughter and I have successfully earned my hunting certificate with a score of 98 on my certification test! I'll take that Woman-At-Arms badge, please!"

DONA earned a beginner Each Other merit badge in Entrepreneurial Spirit. "One of my dreams is to start a photography business from our farm home. I've been working hard at my photography for the past months/years and decided to get more serious with it this year. I can visualize my dream in the near future as I work harder and harder each day."

"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



Merit Badge

Woo Hoo!

Awardees

Merit Badge Awardees

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

Amanda Henning, mamahenning #2492
Beginner badge: Bustin' Out / Farm Kitchen

Bea Campbell, quiltingbea #2575
Beginner badge: Gaining Ground / Garden Gate
Beginner badge: The Secret Life of Bees / Garden Gate

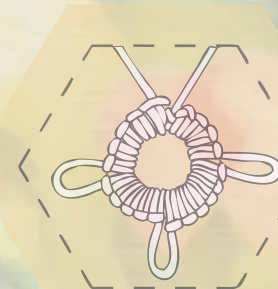
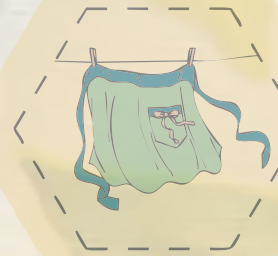
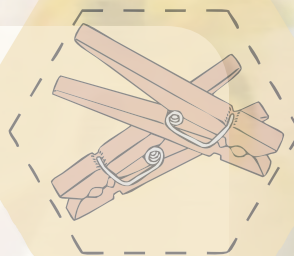
Becca Goodman, goodmanmom #2889
Beginner badge: Woman-at-Arms / Outpost
Beginner badge: Shopping Green / Cleaning Up
Beginner badge: Aprons / Stitching & Crafting

Beckyann Robison, #2868
Beginner badge: Aprons / Stitching & Crafting

Breanna Helgesen, Breanna #2507
Beginner badge: Horse Dreams / Garden Gate
Beginner badge: Farmgirl Gratitude / Each Other

Carol Grant, #1458
Beginner badge: Knitting / Stitching & Crafting

Carrie Meerwarth, Carrie M #147
Beginner badge: Carp-hen-try / Make It Easy
Beginner badge: Woman-at-Arms / Outpost
Beginner badge: Let's Get Physical / Make It Easy
Beginner badge: First Aid / Outpost
Beginner badge: Dyeing for Color / Stitching & Crafting
Intermediate badge: Shutterbugs / Each Other
Intermediate badge: Carp-hen-try / Make It Easy
Intermediate badge: Woman-at-Arms / Outpost
Intermediate badge: First Aid / Outpost
Intermediate badge: Let's Get Physical / Make It Easy
Intermediate badge: Dyeing for Color / Stitching & Crafting
Expert badge: Shutterbugs / Each Other
Expert badge: Carp-hen-try / Make It Easy
Expert badge: Let's Get Physical / Make It Easy
Expert badge: Dyeing for Color / Stitching & Crafting



“... Charms strike the sight,
but merit wins the soul.”

– Alexander Pope

Merit Badge Awardees

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

CJ Armstrong, ceejay48 #665
Intermediate badge: Farmgirl Grammar / Each Other
Expert badge: Let's Get Physical / Make It Easy
Expert badge: Farmgirl Grammar / Each Other

Crystal Casto, nursekat424 #2218
Beginner badge: Aprons / Stitching & Crafting

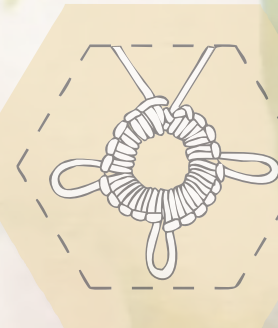
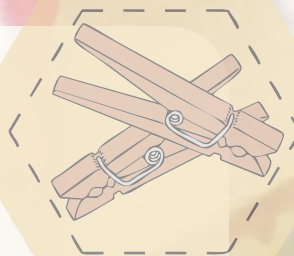
Debbie Bosworth, dandelionhouse #1199
Beginner badge: Farmgirl Spirit / Each Other

Debbie Brown, rileybrown #2007
Beginner badge: What's Your Beef? / Garden Gate
Beginner badge: The Secret Life of Bees / Garden Gate
Intermediate badge: Let's Get Physical / Make It Easy

Denise Meister, denisemgm #1976
Beginner badge: Nellie Will-do / Stitching & Crafting
Beginner badge: Let's Get Physical / Make It Easy

Diana Vermillion, momofsome #2454
Beginner badge: Bustin' Out / Farm Kitchen
Beginner badge: Scrapbooking / Stitching & Crafting
Beginner badge: ChillOver ComeOver / Farm Kitchen
Beginner badge: Forage for Food / Farm Kitchen
Beginner badge: Sew Wonderful / Farm Kitchen
Beginner badge: Disconnect to Reconnect / Outpost
Beginner badge: Aprons / Stitching & Crafting
Intermediate badge: Sew Wonderful / Farm Kitchen
Intermediate badge: Get It Together / Farm Kitchen
Intermediate badge: Buttoned Up / Stitching & Crafting
Expert badge: Get It Together / Farm Kitchen

Diane Rathje, Countrypotter #1641
Beginner badge: Get It Together / Farm Kitchen
Beginner badge: Embroidery / Stitching & Crafting
Beginner badge: Knitting / Stitching & Crafting



continued ...



Merit Badge Awardees

Dona Thorsgard, luv2farmnd #2860

Beginner badge: Farmgirl Shutterbugs / Each Other
Beginner badge: Horse Dreams / Garden Gate
Beginner badge: Scrapbooking / Stitching & Crafting
Beginner badge: Entrepreneurial Spirit / Each Other

Elaine Berman, embchicken #2882

Beginner badge: Get It Together / Farm Kitchen
Beginner badge: Little Squirts / Each Other
Beginner badge: Plant It Forward / Each Other
Beginner badge: Homespun Christmas / Stitching & Crafting
Beginner badge: Connecting Growers and Eaters / Each Other

Emily Hack, alterationsbyemily #2951

Beginner badge: Crochet / Stitching & Crafting
Beginner badge: Sew Wonderful / Stitching & Crafting
Beginner badge: Shopping Green / Cleaning Up
Beginner badge: Embroidery / Stitching & Crafting
Intermediate badge: Crochet / Stitching & Crafting
Intermediate badge: Embroidery / Stitching & Crafting

Heike Boehnke-Sharp, GoddessintheGroove #2245

Beginner badge: Shopping Green / Cleaning Up
Beginner badge: Farmgirl Gratitude / Each Other
Intermediate badge: Shopping Green / Cleaning Up

Jackie Thurston, BalancingAct #2851

Beginner badge: Horse Dreams / Garden Gate
Beginner badge: Get It Together / Farm Kitchen
Beginner badge: Nellie Make-do / Stitching & Crafting

Jamie Sweeney, Sunnyjam #2504

Beginner badge: Shopping Green / Cleaning Up

Jennifer Schoener, plantcarazy #2814

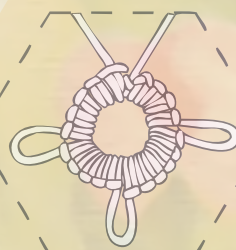
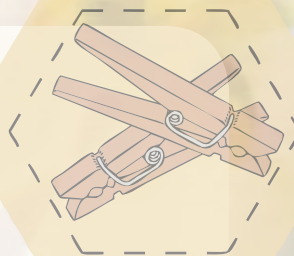
Beginner badge: Sew Wonderful / Stitching & Crafting

Jill Nesheim, 36quilter #2861

Beginner badge: Sew Wonderful / Stitching & Crafting

Judy Bowsher, jubow #2497

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



*“Gardening is the art that
uses flowers and plants as paint,
and the soil and sky as canvas.”*

– Elizabeth Murray

Merit Badge Awardees

Judy King, Patchwork Peace #932

Beginner badge: Shopping Green / Cleaning Up
Beginner badge: Build It Green / Make It Easy
Beginner badge: Sew Wonderful / Stitching & Crafting
Intermediate badge: Sew Wonderful / Stitching & Crafting
Intermediate badge: Quilting / Stitching & Crafting
Expert badge: Aprons / Stitching & Crafting

Justine Thompson, JThomp #2904

Beginner badge: Get It Together / Farm Kitchen
Beginner badge: Aprons / Stitching & Crafting
Beginner badge: Buttoned Up / Stitching & Crafting

Kathleen Horton, Kat38 #2695

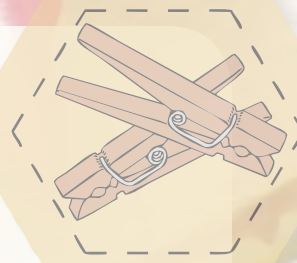
Beginner badge: Backyard Farmer / Garden Gate
Beginner badge: Crochet / Stitching & Crafting
Intermediate badge: Know Your Food / Farm Kitchen
Intermediate badge: Organic on a Budget / Farm Kitchen
Intermediate badge: Horse Dreams / Garden Gate
Expert badge: Horse Dreams / Garden Gate

Kim Wingert, kiminca #2164

Beginner badge: The Secret Life of Bees / Garden Gate
Beginner badge: Let's Get Physical / Make It Easy
Beginner badge: Aprons / Stitching & Crafting
Beginner badge: Sew Wonderful / Stitching & Crafting
Beginner badge: Shopping Green / Cleaning Up
Beginner badge: Get It Together / Farm Kitchen
Beginner badge: Knitting / Stitching & Crafting
Beginner badge: Buttoned Up / Stitching & Crafting
Intermediate badge: Shopping Green / Cleaning Up
Intermediate badge: Get It Together / Farm Kitchen
Expert badge: Get It Together / Farm Kitchen

Kristina Nelson, FieldsofThyme #800

Beginner badge: Farmgirl Spirit / Each Other
Beginner badge: Know Your Roots / Each Other
Intermediate badge: Let's Get Physical / Make It Easy
Intermediate badge: Farmgirl Gratitude / Each Other
Intermediate badge: Farmgirl Spirit / Each Other
Intermediate badge: Sew Wonderful / Stitching & Crafting
Expert badge: Backyard Farmer / Garden Gate



continued ...



Merit Badge Awardees

Expert badge: Shopping Green / Cleaning Up
Expert badge: Disconnect to Reconnect / Outpost
Schoolmarm badge: Cleaning Up / Farmgirl Legends

Krystle Townsend, countrymommy85 #2595

Beginner badge: Families Forever / Each Other
Beginner badge: Know Your Roots / Each Other
Beginner badge: Know Your Food / Farm Kitchen
Beginner badge: Unprocessed Kitchen / Farm Kitchen
Beginner badge: The Secret Life of Bees / Garden Gate
Beginner badge: Build It Green / Make It Easy
Beginner badge: Grease Chicks / Make It Easy
Intermediate badge: Families Forever / Each Other
Intermediate badge: Farmgirl Grammar / Each Other
Intermediate badge: Know Your Roots / Each Other
Intermediate badge: Know Your Food / Farm Kitchen
Intermediate badge: Grease Chicks / Make It Easy
Intermediate badge: Let's Get Physical / Make It Easy
Expert badge: Families Forever / Each Other
Expert badge: Farmgirl Grammar / Each Other
Expert badge: Grease Chicks / Make It Easy

Laura Hughes, morning #1915

Intermediate badge: Families Forever / Each Other

Laurie Dimino, laurentany #1403

Beginner badge: Crochet / Stitching & Crafting

Laurie Lemieux, Montrose Girl #1587

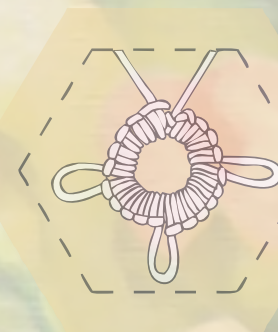
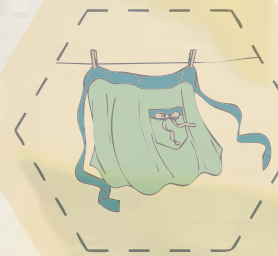
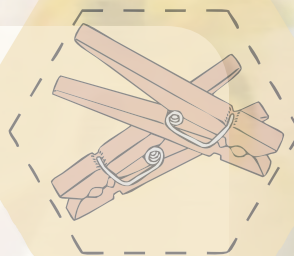
Beginner badge: Let's Get Physical / Make It Easy

Lyn Bleiler, Taos Lyn #2702

Beginner badge: Heirlooms Forever! / Garden Gate
Beginner badge: Crochet / Stitching & Crafting
Beginner badge: Sew Wonderful / Stitching & Crafting
Beginner badge: Gaining Ground / Garden Gate
Intermediate badge: Get It Together / Farm Kitchen
Expert badge: Get It Together / Farm Kitchen

Margaret Taffi, maggiemae #2824

Beginner badge: Knitting / Stitching & Crafting



*“A mother is a person who,
seeing there are only four pieces of pie for five people,
promptly announces she never did care for pie.”*

– Tenneva Jordan

Merit Badge Awardees

Mary Johnson, bag lady #2762

Beginner badge: Crochet / Stitching & Crafting

Meagan Johnson, dazed81 #1255

Beginner badge: Shopping Green / Cleaning Up

Beginner badge: Gaining Ground / Garden Gate

Beginner badge: Backyard Farmer / Garden Gate

Beginner badge: First Aid / Outpost

Beginner badge: Aprons / Stitching & Crafting

Beginner badge: Crochet / Stitching & Crafting

Intermediate badge: Shopping Green / Cleaning Up

Intermediate badge: Crochet / Stitching & Crafting

Melissa Bailey, MissLiss #724

Beginner badge: Grease Chicks / Make It Easy

Beginner badge: Carp-hen-try / Make It Easy

Intermediate badge: Grease Chicks / Make It Easy

Michele Preston, batznthebelfry #2622

Beginner badge: Lend A Hand to Families / Each Other

Morgan Dickerson, greenmama #1654

Beginner badge: Shopping Green / Cleaning Up

Intermediate badge: Shopping Green / Cleaning Up

Nancy Maguire, maguiren #1107

Beginner badge: Sew Wonderful / Stitching & Crafting

Nicole Christensen, texdane #1155

Beginner badge: Homespun Christmas / Stitching & Crafting

Farmgirl Legends: Chapter Leader

Farmgirl Legends: Chapter Guru

Pat Aicken, Columbine #1465

Beginner badge: Going Green / Cleaning Up

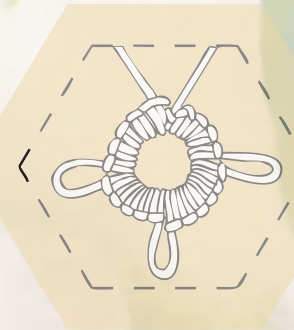
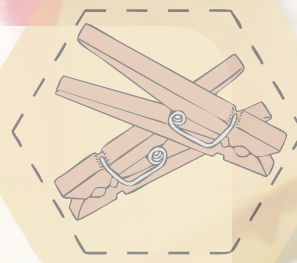
Beginner badge: Sew Wonderful / Stitching & Crafting

Patricia Nickols, #2414

Intermediate badge: Horse Dreams / Garden Gate

Paula Purtteman, Dandylee #2195

Beginner badge: Crochet / Stitching & Crafting



continued ...

Merit Badge Awardees

Beginner badge: Shopping Green / Cleaning Up
Beginner badge: Grease Chicks / Make It Easy

Pilar Stevens, retasos2 #2498

Beginner badge: Know Your Food / Farm Kitchen
Beginner badge: Get It Together / Farm Kitchen
Beginner badge: Aprons / Stitching & Crafting
Beginner badge: Crochet / Stitching & Crafting

Rebecca McGinnis, Sister Becky #2598

Beginner badge: Knitting / Stitching & Crafting

RoDonna Carson, kymomma4 #12361

Beginner badge: Buttoned Up / Stitching & Crafting

Sallyann Dyer-Congdon, #2973

Beginner badge: Know Your Roots / Each Other

Scarlett Winters, silver3wings #2044

Beginner badge: Forage for Food / Farm Kitchen
Beginner badge: First Aid / Outpost

Shasta Forrester, Shastasue #2715

Beginner badge: Aprons / Stitching & Crafting
Intermediate badge: Woman-at-Arms / Outpost

Sherri Reece, slreece #2090

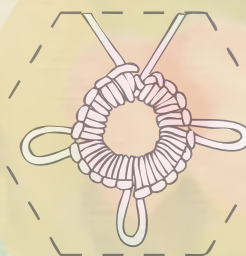
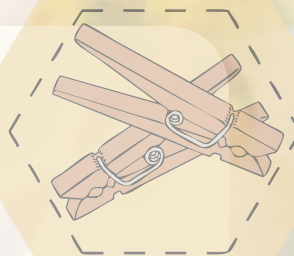
Beginner badge: Backyard Farmer / Garden Gate
Beginner badge: The Secret Life of Bees / Garden Gate

Sherry Buck, sweettea59 #2215

Beginner badge: Shopping Green / Cleaning Up
Beginner badge: Quilting / Stitching & Crafting

Stephanie Hatton, Farmerette of Kristina Nelson #800

Beginner badge: Horse Dreams / Garden Gate
Beginner badge: Farmgirl Gratitude / Each Other
Beginner badge: Disconnect to Reconnect / Outpost
Beginner badge: Outstepping / Outpost
Beginner badge: Backyard Farmer / Garden Gate
Beginner badge: Gaining Ground / Garden Gate



“Let us be grateful to people

who make us happy—they are the charming gardeners

who make our souls blossom.”

– Marcel Proust

Merit Badge Awardees

Stephanie Schaefer, BoPeep214 #2920

Beginner badge: Shopping Green / Cleaning Up

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

Susan Chenoweth, Coloquilter #2648

Beginner badge: Know Your Roots / Each Other

Beginner badge: Build It Green / Make It Easy

Beginner badge: Spinning / Stitching & Crafting

Susan Parnell, sparnell #2487

Beginner badge: Forage for Food / Farm Kitchen

Susan Smithburg, #2122

Intermediate badge: Horse Dreams / Garden Gate

Tara Bisogna, Sweet_tea #2974

Beginner badge: Aprons / Stitching & Crafting

Beginner badge: Woman-at-Arms / Outpost

Intermediate badge: Woman-at-Arms / Outpost

Expert badge: Woman-at-Arms / Outpost

Teresa Julian, TeresaJ25 #1348

Beginner badge: Sew Wonderful / Stitching & Crafting

Beginner badge: Aprons / Stitching & Crafting

Beginner badge: Crochet / Stitching & Crafting

Tommily King, #2165

Beginner badge: Community Service / Each Other

Beginner badge: Aprons / Stitching & Crafting

Beginner badge: Homespun Christmas / Stitching & Crafting

Intermediate badge: Aprons / Stitching & Crafting

Tracy Gilchrist, Camismommy #2883

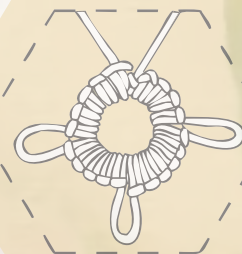
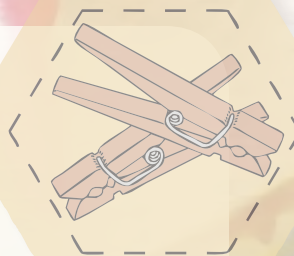
Beginner badge: Shopping Green / Cleaning Up

Intermediate badge: Shopping Green / Cleaning Up

Virginia Zombek, GinnyEllen #2697

Beginner badge: Shopping Green / Cleaning Up

Beginner badge: Sew Wonderful / Stitching & Crafting





Farmerettes & Young Cultivators

Merit Badge Awardees

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

Autumn Hughes, Young Cultivator of Laura Hughes #1915
Beginner badge: Do Your Eyes Light Up? / Make It Easy

Camille Gilchrist, Young Cultivator of Tracy Gilchrist #2883
Beginner badge: All Dried Up / Farm Kitchen
Beginner badge: Weaving In and Out / Stitching & Crafting
Beginner badge: Families Forever / Each Other

Emily Nelson, Young Cultivator of Kristina Nelson #800
Beginner badge: I Am a Survivor / Out There Kids
Beginner badge: Table Talk / Farm Kitchen
Intermediate badge: I Am a Survivor / Out There Kids
Intermediate badge: Table Talk / Farm Kitchen
Expert badge: I Am a Survivor / Out There Kids
Expert badge: Table Talk / Farm Kitchen

Ireland Braudaway, Young Cultivator of Jacqueline Braudaway #2826
Beginner badge: All Buttoned Up / Stitching & Crafting

Woo-Hoo!

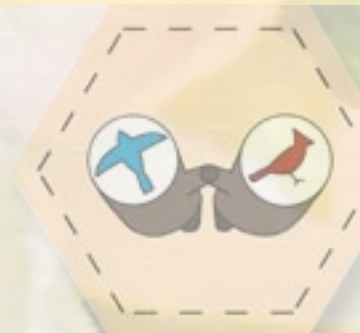
What's a Farmerette?

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.**



“A child can ask questions
that a wise man cannot answer.”

– Author Unknown

Merit Badge Awardees

Kaitlin Nelson, Young Cultivator of Kristina Nelson #800

Beginner badge: Table Talk / Farm Kitchen

Intermediate badge: Table Talk / Farm Kitchen

Trisha Miller, Young Cultivator of Lori Miller #1404

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

Emily Nelson earned
her expert level
Out There Kids
merit badge in
I Am a Survivor.

Emily says:

“Mom and Dad took us for
fall hikes in the woods at
a state park.

We learned to whistle
in an acorn shell, talked
about leaves from
different plants and trees,
and brought home huge
Poor Man’s Banana Tree
leaves. Mom sealed the
leaves for us with waxed
paper.

Mom helps us check
the first-aid pack before
leaving. We also packed
trail snacks and Mom
made Trapper’s Oat
Bread. We took apples,
peanut butter, grapes,
and water.”



Get Out!



Young Cultivators Group

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

Getting the Kids Outdoors

As a mother, spring is my very best season. Gardening and exploring the great outdoors is my family's focus from now until the snow falls. Here are a few ideas from my family to yours. For more outdoor know-how, grab a copy of *MaryJane's Outpost*—it is full of inspiration to get you out the door.

Saturday Night Campouts

We set up a tent in our backyard when we aren't heading to the river and invite friends over to sit by the campfire and roast marshmallows. This is cheap fun and helps us to check out the condition of our gear before big camping trips later in the summer. Try this in spring when it's cold, or even wet—you can always slip into your own bed after a few hours outside. Sleeping under the stars is soothing, and I have to admit, I like popping inside in the morning to make my coffee on the stove. Our kids also have a small tent they put up to play in. That little tent moves around the yard and house all summer and is one of our most-used toys. It also saves wear and tear on our more expensive camping tent.

A Children's Garden

Let your kids or your neighbor kids plant part of your garden and care for it. Weeding and watering are chores that children eagerly do for their own plants. In our yard, we have a small Fairy Garden planted by my daughter for the benefit of butterflies, bugs, and fairies. She chooses all the plants herself, and the result is different from year to year. My son likes using pots, so each spring he plants basil, nasturtiums, and tomatoes. Make a garden journal for the kids and let them draw plants in different stages of growth making notes about the bugs they find—this is great fun to read in the dead of winter. My daughter created a special journal devoted to the spiders she found around our yard.

Choose a Nature Spot

Spend good chunks of time observing one little spot of earth this summer, whether it is a park or your own backyard. Find a tree that appeals to you and visit it often. Take pictures of it as it changes over the year. This is a natural balance to the wonders of technology and the fast pace of modern life. Nothing fancy, just time to watch the clouds roll by.



Farmgirl

MAY

SPECIAL

2011

Sisterhood

10% OFF BUDGET MIX TOTE BAG SPECIAL

REG. PRICE: \$35



WHAT YOU GET:

A PROJECT F.A.R.M. TOTE BAG,
FILLED WITH:

- 2 LBS. OF BUDGET MIX
(UNBLEACHED WHITE OR
WHOLE WHEAT)
- THE SPECIAL "FARM KITCHEN"
RECIPE ISSUE OF OUR MAGAZINE
- THE PATTERN FOR OUR
FARMGIRL FLOUR-SACK APRON



A rose is a rose is a rose is ... Our Project F.A.R.M. (First-class American Rural Made) totebags come in many different colors (our choice—whatever fabric we have on hand), but always with two coordinating floral fabrics, a pillow-ticking pocket, and a hand-embroidered statement that tells the world you're a farmgirl... and proud of it! Whether you're a city chick or a farm chick, this handy little tote—filled with 2 lbs. of Budget Mix (your choice of either unbleached white or whole wheat); the special Farm Kitchen issue of our magazine (heapin' full of Budget Mix recipes); and an extra bonus, the pattern for our Farmgirl Flour-sack Apron—will bring you back to your farmgirl roots. (It also doubles nicely as the perfect tote for your stitchin' projects.)

Debbie (Colorado) wrote on our chatroom:

"I have been married and cooking for my family for almost 37 years. We love homemade biscuits, but you do not get them at my house, as I just cannot make them. I have even tried Bisquick, but that never worked either—they were always hard and flat. Now, living at 9,000 feet, baking is an even bigger challenge ... UNTIL I bought MaryJane's Budget Mix. I surprised hubby with her homemade biscuits for Easter breakfast with mild gravy. Hubby was overjoyed—said they were the best biscuits he had ever eaten! They were not hard and flat—they rose beautifully and were light and fluffy. They were delicious; hubby took a picture and felt I should share them with my farmgirls, so you can see them on my blog." (Click [here](#) to go to Debbie's blog.)

IT'S A WAY OF EATING
THAT ANYONE (URBAN,
SUBURBAN, OR RURAL)
CAN BENEFIT FROM.



TO PURCHASE, CLICK HERE

FARMGIRL SISTERHOOD MEMBERS ONLY
OFFER GOOD THROUGH MAY, 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, a bunch o' chickens 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 June/July issue, “9–5 Inside/Outside,” is being sent to subscribers now and will hit newsstands on May 17. In it, you’ll find recipes for homemade ice-cream sandwiches, camp food on the fly, and simple picnic fare; learn to compost; repurpose a discarded piano; make a dish-drainer quilt, and more!

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

If you have a subscription, you should receive your magazine by about May 10. (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:

- May 01 ~ May Day
- May 03 ~ National Teachers’ Day
- May 05 ~ Cinco de Mayo/International Midwives’ Day/
National Day of Prayer
- May 07 ~ Join Hands Day
- May 08 ~ Mothers’ Day
- May 15 ~ International Day of Families
- May 16 ~ Wear Purple for Peace Day
- May 21 ~ Armed Forces’ Day
- May 29 ~ Rural Life Sunday
- May 30 ~ Memorial 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, Lifebook; 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 1,237 Farmgirl Chapters have been started in all 50 states
and 8 countries with 3,010 Sisterhood members —
growing stronger every day!**