

MaryJane's Cluck™

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

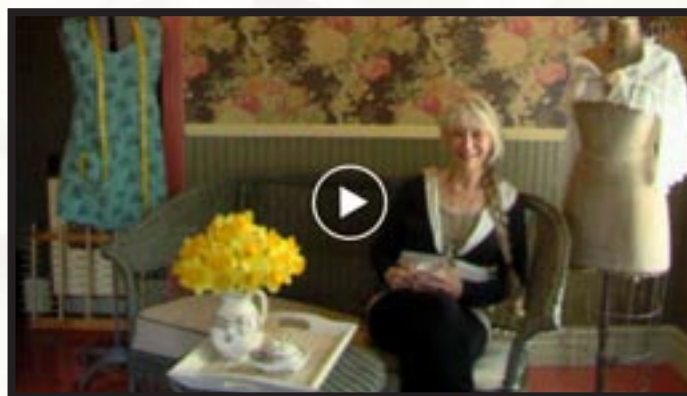
2011
June

Life made us FRIENDS, MaryJanesFarm made us SISTERS!

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{HELLO FROM SISTER #1} with MaryJane



* Listen in as MaryJane gives a shout out to new Sisters and merit badge awardees!

“ And what is so rare as a day
in June? Then, if ever, come
perfect days. ”

— James Russell Lowell

Come
rest upon
these rusty
ribs, this iron
frame pressed
from metal,
this cradle
for summer
night dreams
that grow like
flowers.



MaryJane ♥

June 2011 • MaryJane's Cluck

1

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).

On the Road with Sisters

I am pretty sure you’ve heard me say this before, but it is soooooo wonderful to meet Sisters in person. Last month, Mom (MaryJane) and I traveled to the Midwest to help celebrate Customer Appreciation Week at two stores that carry our bedding and to meet up with Sisters. We had a marvelous trip ... because of you!

Our first flight (leaving Idaho at 5 a.m.) was delayed, so our connecting flight that followed was looking iffy. Picture me running through the SLC airport with my 2-year-old in my arms and my 4-year-old’s flip-flops smacking the ground as she runs along next to me. Mom and my hubby,



Lucas, and a dear friend who is also an employee in our Coeur d’Alene store, Jordan (my kids call her JoJo), are bringing up the rear with our luggage, two teddy bears, and two dollies. We made it to our gate in time, but they’d given our all-in-a-row seats away. Sure enough, some kind souls took pity and moved to make room, and at least each child sat by an adult. Good enough, then. Off we went!



The Milwaukee area is gorgeous. The crew at the Boston Store was super helpful when we arrived. Our meetings went well, and all 16 boxes that we had shipped ahead of time, containing our crafting

and stitching projects for show-and-tell during the events and gift bags for Sisters, arrived safely.

I imagine I’m not the only one, but that little bit of nerves still happens to me every time I’m about to assist with one of our classes. However, as soon as Mom and I rounded the corner and I had a chance to glance at our audience (full of Sisters), any case of the nerves I had went right out the window. What an amazing bunch of women! And aprons galore, of course!



MARYJANES FARM



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



We felt right at home in Wisconsin. Deanna, of the Ab-E-Normal Sisters chapter, even brought her elaborate merit-badge binder, oh so beautifully organized! And “bboopster” was so determined to give us a hug that she snuck away to join us in the midst of opening her new shop, Settlers Park Market

After some good hugs and photos, we hit the road for the Chicago area. Along the way, I had a wonderful conversation with a checker at Office Depot. I turned to my husband and said, “I’m pretty sure I belong in the Midwest.” (I still have amazing friends there from the year I spent in Kansas right after we were married.) Even the grocery store clerks are super friendly.



Again, that little case of nerves as we walked into the Carson Pirie Scott store, but as soon as I saw “shabbyms” jacket, I was in love! She made the cutest darn coat from a vintage tablecloth (that description does not do it justice in the slightest!). The Flour Sack Farmgirls are a talented bunch. We left with big bags of handcrafted goodies. And some yummy teas special made by “the tea lady” herself!

It was a joy to meet all of you. We arrived home safely after a few weather-related delays, inspired and ready to create, craft, and share anew with you! Thank you all so much for coming, and we can’t wait to see where our travels take us next time.

“Last week on Friday, MaryJane and Meg were at the Boston Store in Brookfield, WI. I had seen the announcement in my MJF magazine and was so excited to go. It was wonderful!! I was one of two of the first to arrive, and MaryJane and Meg came over to talk with us. They are sooooo sweet and so down-to-earth. We had a really nice conversation, as if we have been friends for years. What a nice time everyone had ... complete with free samples of chocolate, prizes, goodie bags, and lots of fun ideas. I also ran into a farmgirl that I had met with a few years ago and then lost touch. It was a wonderful day.”

– Owowlady (from our **Farmgirl Connection Chatroom**)





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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.

Historic Evening

After a long, cold winter and an especially rainy spring, my friends Kevin and Miriam jumped at the first sunny, warm-ish day in May to begin their much-anticipated, much-coveted *al fresco* dinners on their glorious porch perch overlooking the foothills and the city below. Little did we know, as the wine was poured and the dinner was prepared, that this would turn into an historic evening ... not just for us, but for the world.

This is one of those fabulous couples where both the husband and wife are equally adept in the kitchen. On this night, Kevin was at the helm while Miriam regaled us with her Brazilian humor.

In their outdoor kitchen, Kevin first prepared a refreshing salad of gingery, minty, caramelized oranges. Then, over the wood-burning stove, he pan-seared tilapia while Miriam assembled the wilted greens and rice. For dessert, we had perfectly poached pears with caramel sauce and roasted nuts. It was divine.

As the sunset and chill crept into the air, I received a text from a friend. It turned an already memorable evening into a night we would never forget.

Where were you the day JFK was shot?
Where were you the day the Shuttle Challenger exploded? Where were you when Princess Diana died?

I will always remember that, on May 1, 2011, I was surrounded by love, peace, and freedom the night Osama Bin Laden met his fate.

GINGER has many medicinal values and has been used for thousands of years by Chinese physicians.

fun
fact





Featured Recipe

Oranges with Caramel & Ginger

Serves 4–6

- 5 seedless oranges
- 2 T crystallized ginger, chopped
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 10 fresh mint leaves, thinly sliced

1. Zest one of the oranges.
2. Cut off the top and bottom of each orange, being sure to cut some of the flesh. Cut the peel off the sides, exposing the flesh by cutting under the pithy membrane. Cut each orange in half vertically, trim out the pithy core, and then slice each piece crosswise into 1/4-inch half moons. Arrange the slices on individual salad plates.
3. Combine the zest and crystallized ginger on a cutting board and chop them together until they're well mixed. Scatter the ginger and zest evenly over the oranges.
4. Put 2 T water in a small heavy saucepan and add the sugar. Bring to a boil over high heat, lower the heat to medium high, and boil without stirring for 5–8 minutes. Watch the pan carefully during the last few minutes, as the caramel can go quickly from brown to burnt.
5. Immediately drizzle the caramel over the oranges, getting a bit of caramel on each slice. Scatter the mint over the oranges.



“I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.”

– Peace Pilgrim



MARYJANESFARM



Garden

Bloom Where You're Planted

Gate



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

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{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.

Inspiration Gardens

I've long been fascinated with the history of gardens and the American homestead. They come together poignantly in the novels of Willa Cather: *My Antonia*, *Death Comes to the Archbishop*, *O Pioneers*, and *Song of the Lark*. In her tales, Cather tells of the struggles of the hardworking Russian, Czech, and Polish homesteaders in the fictional town of Black Hawk, Nebraska. In reality, she was telling of growing up on the Great Plains in Red Cloud, Nebraska.

Then it struck me: The gardens of these homesteaders were the original "sustainable" gardens. They were green before being green was an industry or even cool. Heirloom vegetables are all the rage again today—how on earth did I miss heirloom flowers? Pioneers and farm folks were growing food for their families and flowers for the soul, with nary a drop of pressurized irrigation water and without the aid of the combustion engine. What did they have to work with?

- They used native and local plants.
- They grew pass-along plants from family, neighbors, and friends.
- A large part of the garden was given over to reseeding annuals that don't have to be purchased each year (petunias, poppies, larkspur, marigolds, cockscomb, etc.).
- They planted proven perennials that don't have to be purchased each year—for example, peonies have a life span of more than 100 years.
- All gardens included edible and medicinal plants.
- The flowers were fragrant.
- No grass or lawns.
- Landscapes were functional and didn't get in the way.
- No pesticides were used other than homemade types—in other words, this was "organic gardening."
- Little or no fertilizers other than manure from farm animals/compost from the kitchen.
- No noisy power tools.

A good many of these plants are still in our gardens today, and if they aren't, please add some to your garden. Look for these beauties:

Iris, tall purple with fragrance of grape bubble gum – *Iris germanica*, the paler purple *Iris pallida dalmatica* (pallid=sweet), deeper purple
 Pale yellow iris, *Iris flavescens*
 Rosa "Harrison's Yellow"
 Peony, large white, *Festiva Maxima*

“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

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

Daylily, ditch lily, tiger lily, tawny lily, *Hemerocallis fulva*
Narcissus poeticus, pheasant's eye narcissus
Hollyhocks, *Alcea nigra* and others, black, pink, deep red, and mixed
Lily of the valley, *Convallaria majalis*
Bleeding heart, *Dicentra spectabilis*
Love lies bleeding, *Amaranthus caudatus*
Sweet peas, *Lathyrus odorata*
Morning glories, *Convolvulus tricolor*

Is your farmgirl garden inspired by a book? What heirloom plants do you cherish? Let us know in the Farmgirl Connection chatroom, in **Garden Gate**. I'll post more about pioneer gardens on my blog, [here](#).



all dressed up and no place to go

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.

Wool Laptop Case

One of the many blessings of being a farmgirl is the connection to an abundance of creative women with great ideas. While I was preparing to make this month's project, I ran the idea by my crafty friend Jessica. I originally set out to show you how to make a simple sleeve for you laptop or iPad. I knew I wanted to use wool (cut from an old Pendleton blanket) for the outside and fleece for the inside. Jessica suggested that I reuse a bubble mailer to give it some extra protection. Thanks to the addition of that bubble mailer (one out of a pile of used mailers I have shoved on a shelf waiting for reuse), the laptop sleeve is now a protective case. Farmgirl generosity at its finest.

To make your own laptop case, gather the following: a bubble mailer (slightly bigger than your laptop), fleece, wool, and some wide ribbon. To determine the size of your fabric, measure the length and width of your laptop, then double the length measurement and cut your fleece and bubble mailer 1 inch bigger all the way around. My laptop measures 13 x 9 inches. I cut my fleece to 28 x 11 inches. I cut the bubble mailer open and trimmed it to the same dimensions. Add 3 inches in length to the outer layer of fabric—this will become a flap covering the end of your case. Sandwich your bubble mailer between the wool and fleece layers. Pin it all together and stitch around the edges where all three pieces meet. Use your ribbon as bias tape on the edge without the flap to finish the edge. Fold the rectangle in half and stitch up the sides with the right sides together, leaving your 3-inch flap free on one end. Turn the pouch inside out and add decorative ribbon to the flap. Finally, take two 8-inch lengths of ribbon and stitch them into place so that you can tie them in a bow for the closure. You can go back and embellish your case with embroidery thread or beads if you like or leave it plain like mine. This is a hard-working accessory, and by making it yourself you saved fabric remnants from a landfill and got out of spending a bundle.





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

Using wool for a laptop case provides your laptop with extra protection because wool is flame resistant and able to absorb 30% of its weight in moisture.

**fun
fact**



MARYJANESFARM

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.

Quilted Old Glory

Our "Old Glory" flag can be finished several different ways. It can be made into a hot pad for a large casserole dish (as shown), a pillow cover, a wall hanging, or a flag. If you choose the latter, omit the batting and tack your flag onto a 4-foot tree branch. This folk-art flag will add a touch of outdoorsy country charm to your Independence Day decorating. Our country's flag has graced just about every form of historic Americana folk art, and it is an honorable tradition. Long may she wave!

Supply List:

14 x 21-inch piece of red striped fabric plus another piece of fabric for the backing. If you make a flag, you'll want stripes on the back also.

13 x 20-inch piece of quilt batting

Bits and pieces of lights and darks for the 7 1/4-inch log-cabin block

Mustard gold and black pearl cotton floss

72 inches of bedspread-type fringe (optional)

Quilting thread and needle

The dimensions of this flag project can vary; if you want a larger flag, just increase the size of background piece and batting to the size of your choosing. Then, increase the size of the log cabin block by simply adding more "logs" to the block. If you want fringe on your flag, add inches there also. For added embellishment, make a handmade tassel of mustard colored embroidery floss and tack it onto the top left corner.

How-To:

Make your 7 1/2-inch log-cabin block, beginning with a 2 1/2-inch square of red or navy blue fabric. Use a 1/4-inch seam allowance. If you don't know how to make a log cabin block, there are many free tutorials online. If you want your log cabin block to be more true to color, use a combination of dark blues and light blues rather than my choice of scrappy colors. Also, if you do that, you may want to use cream-colored floss for your embroidered star instead of gold. Cut the log strips 1 1/2 inches wide. Build your block and embroider the star onto the center square (running stitch). See photos for visual aids.

Using a blanket, sew the log-cabin block onto the front of the flag as shown. Next, with wrong sides out, sandwich the batting and fringe between the front and back pieces and pin everything together. Sew around the perimeter and leave a 6-inch opening so that you can turn the flag right side out. Turn the raw edges of the hole inward and hand-stitch it shut. Smooth everything out firmly. Pin from the center of the piece outward and smooth the surface as you go.

Clark's
"MILE-END"
SPOOL COTTON



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

Load your quilting needle with thread and quilt the log-cabin strips down the middle, beginning in the middle of the smallest piece. I chose to quilt rows of waves on the stripes; my rows are 2 inches apart.

If you want to hang your flag quilt as wall decor, stitch two small loop rings onto the back. If you make a flag, tack the front and back together (with thread) by tying little knots here and there about 2 inches apart.



American folk-art flag

“A quilt is a treasure that follows its owner everywhere.”

– Author Unknown



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.

May Wine

May Wine is an old, traditional beverage that originated in Germany and is consumed throughout Europe. Infusing white wine with Sweet Woodruff gives this libation an herbal flavor with green notes that are refreshing and pleasant. Often served on May Day and at spring and early-summer weddings, this beverage is perfect for sharing with friends and family during dinner parties, backyard barbeques, picnics, and at other get-togethers. May Wine was historically brewed during the May and June months when Sweet Woodruff is in flower, but there is no need to restrict consumption to these months. This light and refreshing herbal infused beverage is a perfect treat that can be enjoyed throughout the year!

Not only does May Wine taste delectable, but Sweet Woodruff has a long history of herbal and medicinal use. It has been used throughout the ages to treat ailments including liver problems and jaundice. During the Middle Ages, Sweet Woodruff was widely applied as a poultice for wounds and cuts and taken internally for digestive and liver problems. In modern-day herbalism, infusions of Sweet Woodruff are used for diuretic and anti-inflammatory effects and to ease stomach aches.

This is a classic recipe for May Wine, but feel free to adjust it to your liking. I am already envisioning Chamomile flowers, Rose petals, and Lemon Balm incorporated into future batches! Simply follow the recipe below but substitute the herb(s) of your choice for Sweet Woodruff, and make allowances for herbs that are especially flavorful—like Lavender flowers. One of my co-workers, who is from Germany, makes May Wine throughout the year and substitutes homemade canned peaches or seasonal fruit when Strawberries are not in season. She also recommends using sparkling water instead of the champagne/sparkling wine if you prefer a lighter and non-alcoholic beverage.



MARY JANES FARM

May Wine Recipe

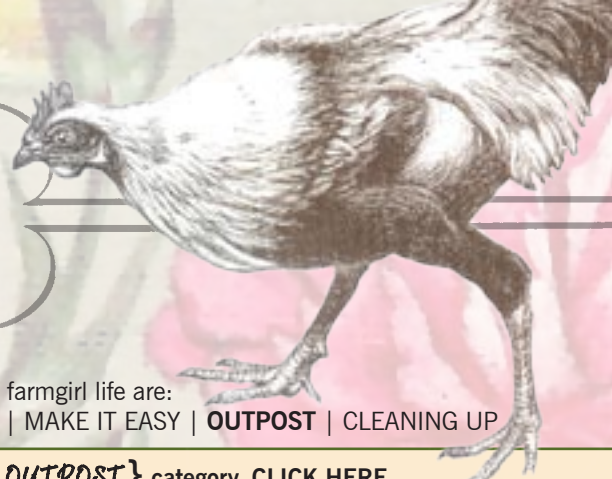
- 1 bottle white wine
- 1 bottle sparkling wine or champagne
- 1/2 cup dried organic Sweet Woodruff (*Galium odoratum*)
- 1/2 cup strawberries, sliced or whole

Combine dried Sweet Woodruff with the bottle of white wine, cover tightly, and place in a refrigerator. Allow to steep overnight. Fresh Sweet Woodruff may be used, but dried is preferable because the flavor and aroma increase when the herb has dried. Before serving, strain out the Sweet Woodruff and pour the infused wine into a punch bowl, carafe, or other glass or ceramic serving vessel. Add the bottle of chilled sparkling wine or champagne and garnish with strawberries. Feel free to further beautify the beverage with fresh Sweet Woodruff or edible and herbal delights from your garden. Fresh Violets, Rose petals, Lemon Balm, or sprigs of Lavender are especially captivating and delicious! Serve in wine glasses or champagne flutes. Ice may be added if desired.

Cheers!

A note of caution: Sweet Woodruff may produce headaches and other toxic effects if high doses are consumed or if it is used long-term.





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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.

Pondering Portals

I've been enamored with doors for quite some time, but I never gave the why of it a passing thought. Exploring the reasoning behind my fascination for portals was a door I never bothered to open. On the surface, there seems to be little to wonder about. But, there is more to doors than I thought. The door has long found use as a metaphor. Philosophers, writers, and "commonfolk" around the world view doors as symbols. Doors help to illustrate a point and tell a story.

Among other things, doors are choices. Every worthwhile opportunity, every lesson learned, every known thing is first presented to us as a door that we can choose to open and then step through. Choosing not to open a door isn't necessarily a wrong choice. Sometimes a door needs to be locked and left that way. A door has but two choices: open or shut. You have three. Walking away is sometimes the right choice.

I am most fond of old, experienced, worn doors. Old doors have stories. Doors know everything about a family. They open wide for new babies brought home from the hospital. They open gently for friends and family that come for a wake. They're propped open for a Christmas tree to be pushed through. They slam shut when herds of children run out to play. They know each and every pet that came and went. They welcome neighbors in need, the milkman, the mailman, and the pastor. Old doors have seen joy and sorrow enter and leave. The worn places on old doors tell not the history of a house, but of those who called it home.

We're adding a large porch onto our house. I didn't want a new door for the porch. I wanted an old door and an old screen door too. Finding an old door that is still in working condition isn't an easy hunt. I mentioned this to my father, and he said that 30 years ago, he sold all the doors from my grandparents' house. He added that it was too bad that their old glass-paned door was long gone. Since this is a very small town, I asked him who bought the doors. *Maybe* it might still be around? Long story short: we tracked down the fellow, and lo and behold, my grandparents' door was stacked with many others in one of his outbuildings. I bought it back for \$40. Can you believe the door on my porch is the same one I used to skip out of as a young girl?! My backdoor in the here and now is the door I sat against while eating Cracker Jacks, the same door that looked out onto my Grandma's flowerbed.

"The doors we open and close each day decide the lives we live."

— Flora Whittemore



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

MARYJANES FARM

My porch door isn't just a door. It is a portal to a place where a million and one memories live. This old door is *more* ... much more than wood, glass, and knob. It has known me for as long as I've lived! There is something comforting about that. Every time I turn the knob, I can see my grandpa's hand in the same place. Somehow I feel as though he's right behind me, opening the door. He opened many doors for me, as I would learn later in life.

I think I know why I love old doors. They represent a long history of opportunities and choices. I suspect old doors know the truth about a lot of things.

The look of an old door makes me feel good. I like to think that more good things than bad passed through it. An optimist's door has a window that faith can see through. I now have such a door ... creaky, worn, and wise.



“May sunshine always find you, may you never want for more, and may angels rest their wings right beside your door.”

– Irish blessing



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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

A Sparkling New Outlook

In the summertime, there's nothing like opening your window draperies and looking out your windows, unless they are dirty. And when windows get dirty, they can look like an intimidating chore ... after all, don't window cleaners make the big bucks nowadays? However, this task does not have to be intimidating or expensive and can actually be effortless with the right tips and tricks. For instance, you have to invest in a good squeegee. You want to avoid the 99-cent kind and opt for a more professional one with a very soft, rubber blade without imperfections. Usually, a good one will cost around \$8. Next, you are going to want to make a good solution of window cleaner. Most people will tell you to use ammonia, but it can be toxic. So I like to make a gallon jug of a very natural and highly efficient window cleaner.

Clean your windows in the morning or on a cool, cloudy day. Avoid the heat at all costs—it will work against you. You want to use a sponge that has a scrubber side to it, but avoid the green ones—they can be too coarse. Wet the window down with the sponge full of your window-cleaning solution and scrub the window until you feel the window is smooth without any rough patches. Use a dry rag to wipe a 1-inch dry strip around the window—this way, when you apply the squeegee to it, it won't streak. Make sure you scrub the windows down first and not skip this step, for it is vital for sparkling windows. Afterwards, take the squeegee and place it at the top of the window in that 1-inch dry strip and pull down smoothly. Make sure to dry your squeegee blade in between each sweep. You can also finish the window by making a sweep with the squeegee from left to right. Then take another dry clean cloth and run with your fingers down each window side and edge to clean and dry them. An extension pole can also be used if you have hard-to-reach windows. Be careful when reaching high windows if you are using a stepladder—make sure to have it on stable ground. You might want to have someone spot you so you do not lose your footing. After you apply these tricks, your windows should be gleaming ... AND you just saved yourself a ton of money. However, I have learned from experience that if you clean your glass windows or doors too well, so that it looks like you are outside with no window in between, you might want to apply a peel-on sticker so you don't walk into them. Here's to chemical-free, clean, shiny windows.



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



Window Cleaner

4 cups white vinegar
4 cups water
1 small bottle of 98% rubbing alcohol (or you can substitute a pea-size amount of Castille soap for the alcohol)

*“Life is denied by
lack of attention,
whether it be
to cleaning windows
or trying to write a
masterpiece.”*

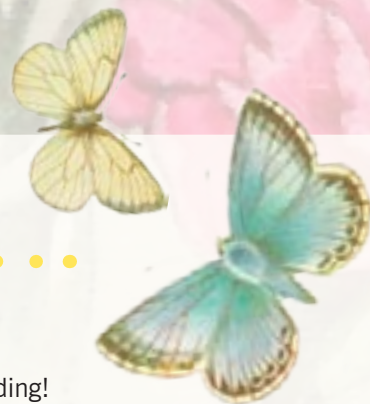
– Nadia Boulanger





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

What are farmgirls chatting about?

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

.....

Women of the Wild West Road Trip Submitted by ceejay48

Look for detailed information for each location at www.farmgirlsontheloose.blogspot.com.

Reservations required.

- “KICK OFF” in Wyoming, Tuesday, JUNE 28 (arriving and settling in), with ALL-DAY FARMGIRL FUN, Wednesday, JUNE 29.
- Thursday, JUNE 30: Camping at the Lava Hot Springs KOA Campground.
- Friday, JULY 1: Camping at the KOA Campground in Butte, Montana.
- Saturday, JULY 2, and Sunday, JULY 3: Moving along the trail and back into Idaho, we head for the home of Farmgirl Kathy O’Hara to camp in her yard for a couple of nights.
- Monday, JULY 4 through Friday, JULY 8: We head off for OROFINO, ID, to the home of Farmgirl Diana Poulton, celebrating the 4th of July along the way.
- Finale: Saturday, JULY 9, 2 p.m.
Tea Party at MaryJanesFarm. Yes, a REAL tea party!!!
Yes, at MaryJanesFarm!!!! See post [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 ...

HomeSafeHome: Reuse of plastic tub covers Submitted by maguiren

I recently found a few uses for the covers to soft-spread or Cool Whip containers. Instead of disposing of them, I cut them in half with scissors and use them for scrapers and scoopers. Holding the flat edge against the counter, I use it to dry-wipe any of my baking ingredients, like flour, off the counter. You need to first snip the corners off at a small angle though, so that the flat surface can lay evenly against the counter. My reused cover also works great for scooping up anything chopped from the cutting board. When I used it to transfer rhubarb into freezer bags, it worked like a charm, much faster than trying to scoop with your hands or using a spatula, and the sides prevented anything from falling off. I have found, too, that a larger version is handy out in the litter box. We don't use scoopable cat litter, so I separate the used from the fresh daily by sifting the poop out with the scoopable litter sifter, tilting the pan and allowing the fresh litter to fall away from the used wet litter, and then using my cover, I scrape the wet into the waste container. See post [here](#).

HomeSafeHome: Recipe for Green Fabric Softener Wanted Submitted by BannBarr

Anyone know of a green alternative to fabric softeners? I read somewhere that plain vinegar works—does it? If so, how much do you need to add to the rinse cycle? Respond to post [here](#).

A Farm of My Own: What animals do you want/have on your dream farm? Submitted by Annika

I've really thought about this lately, so here goes for me. Since I only eat poultry and fish, I think that I'll be sticking to a super-duper fowl farm. I would love to learn beekeeping, and I'm considering a small cow for milk, cream, and butter. I love horses to pieces, but my eyesight is too bad to ride anymore. I also love llamas and goats, but don't want to be chasing them down all of the time. In my experience, they both are expert escape artists! I just plain adore pigs, but couldn't bear to eat them, so no pigs.

So, for my farm, it'll be fowl of many kinds, bees, a cow, and maybe a donkey to help me pull a cart or something =)

How about you girls? What do you want/have for critters on your dream farm???

Respond to post [here](#).

A Farm of My Own: Oogling Hobby Farms Submitted by Dusky Beauty

So I'm following hobby farms for sale in Missouri, even though I can't move just yet. Thought I'd share a couple of my favorite farms listed, especially since I'm in no danger of being able to buy one of 'em this year :P

The house on this one isn't too fancy, but it has a lot of purty acreage, outbuildings, and lots of bedrooms. My hubby doesn't care for it too much though, since he's convinced it has low ceilings and we're tall people. See photograph [here](#).

This one is a bit further west than I wanted to be, and needs a little work, but holey moley, the outbuildings! It'd be a piece of pie to convert the "restaurant" building into my quilt shop, and I really like the house and the balance of field and timbers. See photograph [here](#).

continued ...



{tips, inspiration, &
just plain fun!}

the chatter continues ...

The pasture land on this one is so pretty, sometimes when the Arizona scenery and lack of rain bums me out, I just open up this link to stare at. Even if it has a lot less acreage, I like the area a lot. Ten acres is downright tiny compared to most places I'm checking out, but I like the house—I have a quilt just like the one hanging on the wall in the second picture! My mother and her teenage son will be living with us, so any “in-law quarters” are extra nice. Wish it had pictures of the outbuildings, but like the extras like new pumps. See photograph [here](#).

I love this house. If I could look at any farm right now, it would be this one. Enough acreage, the farm house of my dreams, and an area I really like. All it lacks is a finished building for my store. See photograph [here](#). Respond to post [here](#).

A Farm of My Own: Comfrey? Submitted by paulas party flowers

Does anyone grow it ... is it easy to grow? I would like to. I have a lot of herbal recipes I would like to use it for. Respond to post [here](#).

A Farm of My Own: My Shed Quilt Submitted by OwnSelf

Well, I don't have a barn. And since I am pretty firmly planted in suburbia, I probably never will. But a girl can dream!

We do have a shed in the back yard. After taking me on a driving tour of barn quilts in our area, my DH offered to cut plywood and prime it for me so I could paint my own quilt patch. The shed is on the edge of our garden, so it has a bit of a farm feel to it (ok, not really, but it's all I've got!).

As soon as we get a break in the spring rain, I am going to get this done. I just wish I could decide what block to do!

Has anyone else made a barn quilt, or perhaps a shed quilt if that's all you've got? Respond to topic [here](#).

Across the Fence: Got a hula hoop? Submitted by knitnpickinatune

I actually got one last week, but needed to exchange it when I found out I had gotten one that was too small for me. (Website says it should stand between your tummy and chest in height.) Plan on trying it out tomorrow. See post [here](#).

the chatter continues ...

Across the Fence: Just read about Tasha Tudor Submitted by BalancingAct

Hi everyone! I just read a book about Tasha Tudor called *The Private World of Tasha Tudor*. She was an amazing person! I wish I could have met her. She had such enthusiasm for life. And I love her quote: "What you want is entirely a state of mind." I also learned how to get rid of voles (those nasty little varmints). Tasha gave them Ex-Lax, which "does them in pretty well," according to her. Has anyone else read this book? I know I saw something about Tasha in a recent MJF magazine or The Cluck. Respond to post [here](#).

Barnyard Buddies: Heritage Bourbon Red Turkeys Submitted by Tammyb

I am just so excited I had to share!! I just picked up my Heritage Bourbon Red Turkeys and showed them their new home. :) Does anyone else raise turkeys for meat? We have laying hens for eggs and have raised meat birds for a few years. but finally I was able to get a few turkeys. Respond to post [here](#).

Barnyard Buddies: Broody Hens, Again Submitted by Kristin Sherrill

So the two game hens that have been sharing a nest of eggs for a while now are finished. I have been checking on them every few days, and they were still there. I got to thinking today that the eggs should be hatching, if not already hatched. So I checked them. I lifted each hen up, and there were no eggs under them. I smelled something rotten. I started moving bags of Christmas stuff around. That's when I saw maggots. And that's when I grabbed a dog crate and put them both in it and took them out to the new chicken coop with the Buff hens. They jumped out of the crate and did their little momma strut and then both dove into a dirt pile to fluff up. Then started to eat. Then started to chase the other girls around a little to let them all know who's the boss now. So there's two game hens caught. And done with egg setting. 'Til they take over the one nest they love to lay eggs in. But I am onto them now.

The other Buff hen who's been setting on five turkey eggs is still at it in the garage. The eggs should have hatched by now. So a few days ago, I stuck six Buff eggs under her. Poor girl. They should hatch June 4. (I am feeding her and she has water right next to her.) These eggs will hatch. I just don't think Harper was doing his job back then. He is now. And I have found eight turkey eggs. I have another little young Buff hen that went broody a few days ago out in the front coop. I may stick these eggs under her and see what happens. We saw Harper on every single hen the other day. So these eggs should be fertile.

Any others with broody hens right now? And any chickies yet? Respond to post [here](#).

Barnyard Buddies: My filly had a blind filly? Submitted by Megan

I need some advice. My old mare, Filly, had a filly on Friday. All seemed well, but now the filly acts like it can't see. I found a horse vet in the area that I'm going to call, but my dad says to put it down. I'm trying to decide if keeping a blind horse is a good idea; I know that it will be a lot of work and money. Has anyone had anything like this? Any thoughts would be nice. Respond to post [here](#).

continued ...



{tips, inspiration, &
just plain fun!}



the chatter continues ...



Cleaning Up: Your Favorite Cleaning "Recipes" Submitted by TeresaJ25

We just started a new Chapter, and as a welcome for new members, we wanted to put together a basket filled with homemade cleansers. I have my own favorites, but I was curious to see what I might be missing! I would love it if you all could share some of your favorites. We are also crocheting dishcloths to put in there as well! Click [here](#) to share.

Farm Kitchen: Gluten-free Store Bread? Submitted by ddmashayekhi

I was wondering if anyone can recommend a really good-tasting, gluten-free bread. My youngest son is ADHD and mildly autistic. I am going to try a gluten-free diet to see if it will help him with his disorders.

My little guy is a very picky eater. He has always had a junk-food-free diet and eats as organic as we can afford. I don't want to waste \$ on heavy tasteless breads if possible. Since I'm new to the gluten-free lifestyle, I need all the suggestions I can get! Share your suggestions [here](#).

Farm Kitchen: Dandelion Jelly Submitted by FieldsofThyme

I just tried my very first dandelion jelly. Yum!

It turned out like syrup, but I reboiled it and added more pectin. This is a great experience for my kids. They helped with the dandelions.

I will definitely make this again. See post [here](#).

Garden Gate: Lavender Know-How Submitted by RuralSuburbia

I have two lavender "bushes" out front, not sure what variety, and since they do so well here, I'd like to plant some in the backyard. I'd also like to harvest and dry it for selling. Is there a tutorial somewhere? Or a farmgirl who knows how to dry the flowers?

I'd love some advice and can barter for your knowledge. Thanks! Share your advice [here](#).

Garden Gate: Wandering Flamingo Submitted by forgetmenot

This is just a little funny ... Last year for Mother's Day, my daughter gave me a pink plastic yard flamingo (last thing in the world I would have known I wanted). This year so far, since Easter, every morning I wake up, it is in a different location in the yard. My dh has such a warped sense of humor. It's pretty cute and makes me smile. See post [here](#).



the chatter continues ...

Herbal Wisdom: Plantain: The Wonder Weed Submitted by Kristin sherrill

I have to talk about this plant. It's great. And it's growing out in your yard right now!

It's great for bee stings. Just grab a few leaves, chew them up and spit them on the sting. I know, it sounds gross, but it works. And fast. Within minutes, you'll not even know you were stung.

It's also good for so many other things. I made a tincture using crushed-up plantain leaves and ACV in a jar. Put it in a dark place and shake once a day for a month. Then strain and use. You can use as an astringent for your face. Also, it's great for poison ivy! I got into some Sat. while using old hay as mulch. I didn't realize there was poison ivy in there 'til the next day. My left forearm was swollen, and I thought it was from a spider bite. But there was another spot near my wrist. So I grabbed some cotton balls and soaked them in the ACV mix and rubbed it on my arm. Already better! Can hardly tell it's there. And no itching at all! I only get a few blister spots, never a breakout rash. But this stuff is great for that.

If you look up plantain, you will find so many good benefits from it. And it's right in your yard. Free for the taking. So go out and look and get some. Keep it on hand for bee stings and poison ivy, to name just a few uses. See topic [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 1,250 Farmgirl Chapters have been started, located in all 50 states and 8 countries with 3,107 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 MaryJanessFarm 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 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):

Badge List

Amberly Barry McGee, RagDollMaker #3033

Beginner badge: Shopping Green / Cleaning Up

Beginner badge: Get It Together / Farm Kitchen

April Hager, goldtowngal #1044

Beginner badge: Shopping Green / Cleaning Up

Intermediate badge: Shopping Green / Cleaning Up

Barbara Roberts, Healthy Eating #2237

Beginner badge: Community Service / Each Other

Beginner badge: Community Action / Each Other

Beginner badge: Public Service / Each Other

Beginner badge: Lend A Hand to Farm Families / Each Other

Beginner badge: Plant It Forward / Each Other

Beginner badge: Connecting Growers and Eaters / Each Other

Beginner badge: Farmgirl Gratitude / Each Other

Beginner badge: Families Forever / Each Other

Intermediate badge: Community Service / Each Other

Candace Hampton, houndsnhives #2638

Beginner badge: Backyard Farmer / Garden Gate

Carrie Meerwarth, Carrie M #147

Beginner badge: Spinning / Stitching & Crafting

Beginner badge: Weaving / Stitching & Crafting

Intermediate badge: Spinning / Stitching & Crafting

Casey Quast, blackfell_farmgirl #2927

Beginner badge: Horse Dreams / Garden Gate

Cassilynn Brown, #2945

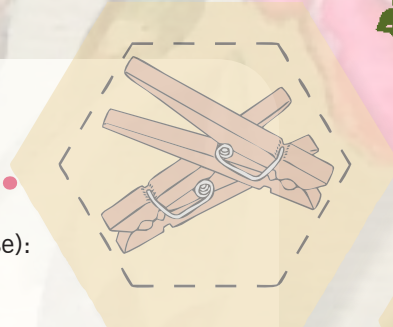
Beginner badge: Nellie Will-do / Stitching & Crafting

Beginner badge: Aprons / Stitching & Crafting

Celeste Rovner, Lesy11 #2977

Beginner badge: Crochet / Stitching & Crafting

Beginner badge: Shopping Green / Cleaning Up



*“Most of the important things
in the world have been accomplished
by people who have kept on trying when there
seemed to be no hope at all.”*

—Dale Carnegie

Merit Badge Awardees

Cheryle Duffy-Lehrer, shabbymys #604

Beginner badge: Gaining Ground / Garden Gate

Beginner badge: Crochet / Stitching & Crafting

CJ Armstrong, ceejay48 #665

Beginner badge: Stargazing Chicks / Outpost

Beginner badge: Knitting / Stitching & Crafting

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

Darcy Toft, mustang rider #1315

Beginner badge: Backyard Farmer / Garden Gate

Beginner badge: The Secret Life of Bees / Garden Gate

Debbie Brown, rileybrown #2007

Beginner badge: Shopping Green / Cleaning Up

Debi Chandler, herb19355 #2515

Beginner badge: Families Forever / Each Other

Beginner badge: Embroidery / Stitching & Crafting

Debra Carr, Debi Carr #1983

Beginner badge: Crochet / Stitching & Crafting

Dena Sawka, dena beans #2989

Intermediate badge: Going Green / Cleaning Up

Elizabeth Baker, woolgirl #1947

Beginner badge: BakeOver MakeOver / Farm Kitchen

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

Emily Hack, alterationsbyemily #2951

Beginner badge: Buttoned Up / Stitching & Crafting

Beginner badge: Quilting / Stitching & Crafting

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

Beginner badge: Know Your Roots / Each Other

Beginner badge: Farmgirl Grammar / Each Other

Beginner badge: Entrepreneurial Spirit / Each Other

Beginner badge: Unprocessed Kitchen / Farm Kitchen

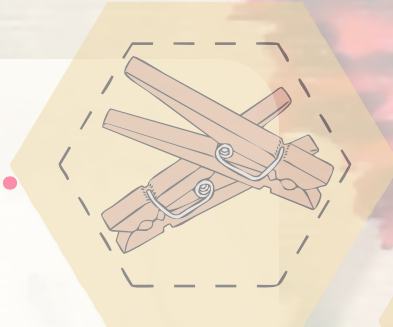
Beginner badge: Horse Dreams / Garden Gate

Beginner badge: Scrapbooking / Stitching & Crafting

Intermediate badge: Shopping Green / Cleaning Up

Intermediate badge: Sew Wonderful / Stitching & Crafting

Intermediate badge: Know Your Roots / Each Other



continued ...

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Merit Badge Awardees

Jamie Sweeney, Sunnyjam #2504

Beginner badge: Buttoned Up / Stitching & Crafting

Jennifer Nino, JenzaLynn #2830

Beginner badge: In the Garden / Make It Easy

Beginner badge: Backyard Farmer / Garden Gate

Jill Nesheim, 36quilter #2861

Beginner badge: Tatting / Stitching & Crafting

Beginner badge: Quilting / Stitching & Crafting

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

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

JoAnn Timmel, mollybee #385

Beginner badge: Entrepreneurial Spirit / Each Other

Intermediate badge: Entrepreneurial Spirit / Each Other

Expert badge: Entrepreneurial Spirit / Each Other

Judy King, Patchwork Peace #932

Beginner badge: Going Green / Cleaning Up

Beginner badge: Unprocessed Kitchen / Farm Kitchen

Beginner badge: Farmgirl Grammar / Each Other

Intermediate badge: Shopping Green / Cleaning Up

Intermediate badge: Families Forever / Each Other

Justine Thompson, JThomp #2904

Intermediate badge: Buttoned Up / Stitching & Crafting

Kate Martin-Moran, chickadoodle_km #2958

Beginner badge: Aprons / Stitching & Crafting

Kim French, french08 #2997

Beginner badge: Homespun Christmas / Stitching & Crafting

Beginner badge: Horse Dreams / Garden Gate

Kristen Morton, kfiles #2596

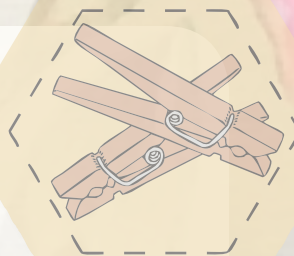
Beginner badge: Entrepreneurial Spirit / Each Other

Beginner badge: Shopping Green / Cleaning Up

Beginner badge: Going Green / Cleaning Up

Kristina Nelson, FieldsofThyme #800

Beginner badge: Farmgirl Grammar / Each Other



*“That some achieve great success,
is proof to all that others can achieve it as well.”*

– Abraham Lincoln

Merit Badge Awardees

Beginner badge: What's Your Beef? / Garden Gate
Beginner badge: Scrapbooking / Stitching & Crafting
Beginner badge: Nellie Will-do / Stitching & Crafting
Beginner badge: Unprocessed Kitchen / Farm Kitchen
Intermediate badge: Embroidery / Stitching & Crafting
Intermediate badge: Farmgirl Grammar / Each Other
Intermediate badge: What's Your Beef? / Garden Gate
Intermediate badge: Farmgirl Shutterbugs / Each Other
Intermediate badge: Unprocessed Kitchen / Farm Kitchen
Expert badge: Unprocessed Kitchen / Farm Kitchen

Krystle Townsend, countrymommy85 #2595

Beginner badge: Forage for Food / Farm Kitchen
Intermediate badge: Going Green / Cleaning Up
Intermediate badge: Forage for Food / Farm Kitchen
Intermediate badge: Unprocessed Kitchen / Farm Kitchen
Expert badge: Know Your Food / Farm Kitchen

Laura Hughes, morning #1915

Beginner badge: Buttoned Up / Stitching & Crafting

Lauren Smith, RagDollMaker #3033

Beginner badge: Sew Wonderful / Stitching & Crafting
Intermediate badge: Sew Wonderful / Stitching & Crafting

Laurie Conner, Montrose Girl #1587

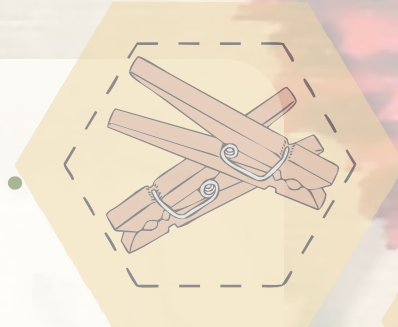
Expert badge: Know Your Roots / Each Other

Linda Mericle, bakermom #2064

Beginner badge: Backyard Farmer / Garden Gate
Beginner badge: Entrepreneurial Spirit / Each Other
Beginner badge: Quilting / Stitching & Crafting
Intermediate badge: Quilting / Stitching & Crafting

Lyn Bleiler, Taos Lyn #2702

Beginner badge: Safe Toys / Stitching & Crafting
Beginner badge: Carp-hen-try / Make It Easy
Intermediate badge: Safe Toys / Stitching & Crafting
Intermediate badge: Carp-hen-try / Make It Easy
Intermediate badge: Embroidery / Stitching & Crafting
Expert badge: Carp-hen-try / Make It Easy



continued ...



Merit Badge Awardees

Marie Hilliard, horselover #2214

Beginner badge: Farmgirl Spirit / Each Other

Beginner badge: Going Green / Cleaning Up

Beginner badge: Connecting Growers and Eaters / Each Other

Beginner badge: Backyard Farmer / Garden Gate

Mari-lyn Lobinsky, lucylobo511 #2571

Beginner badge: Buttoned Up / Stitching & Crafting

Nancy Boyd, NancyOH1 #2508

Beginner badge: Buttoned Up / Stitching & Crafting

Nancy Maguire, maguiren #1107

Beginner badge: Shopping Green / Cleaning Up

Nancy Smith, minismith #1991

Beginner badge: Embroidery / Stitching & Crafting

Paula Black, Sheepless in Seattle #2953

Beginner badge: Get It Together / Farm Kitchen

Pilar Stevens, retasos2 #2498

Beginner badge: Going Green / Cleaning Up

Beginner badge: Light the Way / Make It Easy

Beginner badge: Community Action / Each Other

Beginner badge: Connecting Growers and Eaters / Each Other

Beginner badge: Bustin' Out / Farm Kitchen

Robin Luich, duckmama #1720

Beginner badge: Aprons / Stitching & Crafting

Intermediate badge: Aprons / Stitching & Crafting

Rebekah Jamison, rebekahj #2173

Beginner badge: Going Green / Cleaning Up

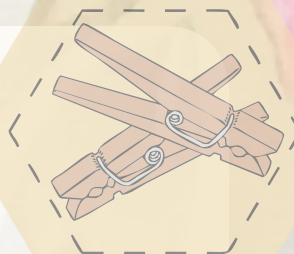
Beginner badge: Bustin' Out / Farm Kitchen

Beginner badge: Get It Together / Farm Kitchen

Beginner badge: Gaining Ground / Garden Gate

Susan Smithburg, #2122

Beginner badge: The Secret Life of Bees / Garden Gate



“A bird doesn't sing because it has
an answer, it sings because
it has a song.”

– Lou Holtz

Merit Badge Awardees

.....

Sherry Buck, sweettea59 #2215

Beginner badge: Buttoned Up / Stitching & Crafting

Beginner badge: Homespun Christmas / Stitching & Crafting

Intermediate badge: Quilting / Stitching & Crafting

Expert badge: Quilting / Stitching & Crafting

Stephanie Hatton, Farmerette of Kristina Nelson #800

Beginner badge: Nellie Will-do / Stitching & Crafting

Susan Chenoweth, Coloquilter #2648

Beginner badge: Farmgirl Gratitude / Each Other

Beginner badge: Aprons / Stitching & Crafting

Tanya Murphy, Turtlemoon #1737

Beginner badge: 'Out There' Women / Outpost

Beginner badge: Disconnect to Reconnect / Outpost

Beginner badge: First Aid / Outpost

Beginner badge: Unprocessed Kitchen / Farm Kitchen

Intermediate badge: 'Out There' Women / Outpost

Intermediate badge: Disconnect to Reconnect / Outpost

Intermediate badge: First Aid / Outpost

Intermediate badge: Green Energy / Cleaning Up

Expert badge: 'Out There' Women / Outpost

Expert badge: First Aid / Outpost

Expert badge: Green Energy / Cleaning Up

Tara Bisogna, Sweet_tea #2974

Beginner badge: Self-sufficiency / Farm Kitchen

Intermediate badge: Self-sufficiency / Farm Kitchen

Expert badge: Self-sufficiency / Farm Kitchen

Teresa Julian, TeresaJ25 #1348

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

Beginner badge: Light the Way / Make It Easy

Beginner badge: Going Green / Cleaning Up

Tracy Gilchrist, Camismommy #2883

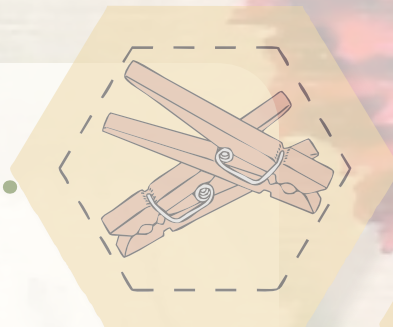
Beginner badge: Sew Wonderful / Stitching & Crafting

Valerie Oliver, valgirl #2356

Beginner badge: Shopping Green / Cleaning Up

Intermediate badge: Shopping Green / Cleaning Up

Expert badge: Shopping Green / Cleaning Up





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: All Dried Up / Farm Kitchen
Beginner badge: All Buttoned Up / Stitching & Crafting

Emily Nelson, Young Cultivator of Kristina Nelson #800
Beginner badge: Whistle While You Work / Out There Kids

“A child seldom needs a good talking to as a good listening to.”

– Robert Brault



What's a Farmerette?

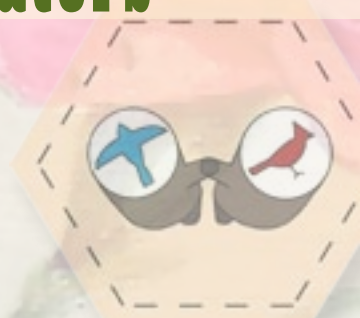
Farmerettes are young farmgirls-in-training between the ages 14–18. They can earn the same Merit Badges as adult Sisters, so long as there is a Farmgirl Sisterhood member nearby to work with them.

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.**

Woo-Hoo!



Stars in the sky

Young Cultivators Group

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

Make it Easy: Do Your Eyes Light Up?

I get the feeling that the Young Cultivators badges were written for the benefit of children and adults alike. The badge my daughter completed this month is a great example. The "Make it Easy—Do your eyes light up?" badge fit right into our spring-cleaning routine. My daughter was thrilled to use real tools. She was able to make a punched-tin luminary, and I put my tools in order as an added bonus. Pinch me—this is the very best kind of multi-tasking! Our first step was to pull the tools out of our shed. As we cleaned and oiled the tools, Bella and I talked about what each one was used for. She helped cut back some rose bushes with pruning shears and hammered nails into an old tree stump (this is great fun for kids and it improves eye-hand coordination). While we put the tools back, we talked about why certain tools are kept together and made sure everything had a place that makes sense. I now have a child who knows where our tools are kept and what they are used for. I can holler for a wrench and my little helper comes running with the correct tool. My kids are so very proud when they are entrusted with real work. This project is a nice start, and it reminds me that there are many jobs around the house that my children can help with. As a busy parent, I often feel that I have to check items off my list quickly, but in my rush, I know I miss great opportunities to let my kids help me.

The final step of this badge is making a punched-tin luminary using a hammer and a nail. Any design will do—you can create a shape, a straight line, or make random punches. Star shapes always work, since the light shining through the punched tin looks just like stars in the sky. When your child is done hammering away, pop a candle inside and enjoy. And while you're at it, why not make a few extras to use and give as gifts?

Beginner Level

- Working with your mentoring Sister or an adult, identify tools commonly used around the house and the yard.
- Learn what they're used for.
- Choose a tool and, with adult guidance, put it to work! Make sure to use it safely and properly.

Intermediate Level

- Help your mentoring Sister or an adult organize their tools in such a way that they will always know where they are. This will help you memorize their newly learned names. Plus, you'll know where to find them when helping on a project.

Expert Level

- Using a nail and a hammer, pliers, and whatever other tools you need for the job, put your new-found knowledge to use. Create a luminary out of recycled materials such as tin cans, pop cans, or plastic bottles. You might create your unique luminary by pounding holes into the sides of a can, and then putting a candle inside. You could make the project more fun by making extras to give as gifts, and by thinking about creative designs for your luminary (like the person's name or initials) that would make use of the tools you learned about.

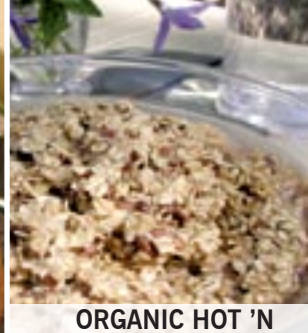




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– Roch Horton, Rockies Patagonia Sales



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– MaryJane Butters, backcountry ranger turned organic farmer



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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

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 •

Happy SUMMER



Magazines, Books, & More



Our June/July issue, "9-5 Inside/Outside," 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 have received 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:

- June 01 ~ International Childrens' Day
- June 05 ~ World Environment Day
- June 11 ~ Corn on the Cob Day
- June 14 ~ Family History Day/Flag Day
- June 19 ~ Fathers' Day
- June 21 ~ Summer Solstice/First Day of Summer
- June 25 ~ Great American Backyard Campout
- June 26 ~ Log Cabin 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 1,250 Farmgirl Chapters have been started in all 50 states and 8 countries with 3,107 Sisterhood members — growing stronger every day!