

MaryJane's Cluck™

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

October 2011

Life made us FRIENDS, MaryJanesFarm made us SISTERS!

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{HELLO FROM SISTER #1} with MaryJane

Farmgirls Build a Library

Here's a story that has Sisterhood written all over it. When it showed up in Carol's inbox, it put a BIG smile on our day. Actually, we're *still* smiling.

We have the story's photos and text laid out for the upcoming Dec/Jan issue of our magazine, but I just have to share this with my Sisters first because you are **AMAZINGLY** generous, and this demonstrates how well you all live up to our creed of what defines a true-blue farmgirl.

In our Aug/Sept 2010 issue (Lay of the Land), we published a "readers write" article from Aimee Steiner, a farmgirl living on a tropical isle over 6,000 miles from our farm. The tiny island of Rota, inhabited by only 3,000 people (and one true-blue farmgirl) is just 3 miles wide and 11 miles long and sits in the middle of the Northern Pacific Ocean atop the Mariana Trench, the deepest part of the world's oceans—1½ miles deeper than the highest mountain in the world. Aimee, who teaches English and lives on the island with her family, asked us for used books to restock the island library destroyed by a super typhoon in 2010. On the following pages, you'll find her account of the magic that happened when our farmgirls rallied to the cause.

We'd like to compile a list of donors—an "honor Rota's donors" roll call of sorts (we're thinking donor names just might make their way onto a quilt). If you sent books or helped in any way, please let us give you a shout-out from every coop-top we can climb. Write to rota@maryjanesfarm.org and *do* tell all!


MaryJane



continued ...



An Island Farmgirl Tale...



by Aimee Steiner

Remotely located in the middle of the Pacific Ocean, surrounded by sharks and whales, Rota is a world apart from modern life, still richly saturated by the island Chamorro culture that has thrived here for 10,000 years. Men still bow to women whenever they meet, and dinner is usually an event for a minimum of 20 people. Meals are prepared outdoors, by hand. Many people live on whatever delicious foods they can hunt in the jungle and fish out of the sea. You would never dream of locking your car or worrying about your children running free here; it's a close-knit world steeped in love.

Our geographic isolation is both a joy and a struggle, as some elements of life are glaringly absent—one of those elements being books. While most people take books for granted, there are almost none on Rota. Sturdy books that survive the trip to our island are passed hand to hand until their covers are nearly destroyed from overuse. In August 2010, I wrote an appeal to *MaryJanesFarm* readers to donate books that would help build a new library on the island. I had no idea that the response would be so extreme.

In the beginning, a small number of boxes trickled in. But soon enough, the stunned postmistress would simply wave her hand toward the back of the post office whenever we rumbled up on the sandy road in our beaten-up, red pickup truck.

Boxes and boxes of books flooded in from every part of the U.S., along with donations of art supplies, clothing, and other materials. (One reader, whose child is autistic, even had her daughter hand-make us hundreds of beautiful bookmarks!) Locals would stare at us wide-eyed and speechless as we loaded 30 or 40 boxes of books into the back of our pickup truck nearly every day for months on end; the customs officials at the tiny airport were overwhelmed. We bought a tarp to accommodate the heavy rains of typhoon season; no books were hurt. Aside from teaching, I had a second full-time job just answering the e-mails that came in from throughout the U.S.

Many *MaryJanesFarm* readers wanted to help us. I kept picturing the scene on the other end in my mind. A farmgirl would read our article; go out and buy or find dozens, and in many cases, hundreds of books; figure out a way to pack them up; and lug them to the post office, filling out the requisite paperwork and paying to ship the books all the way here. I could not believe what was happening. It was incredible that so many people went to such tiring, expensive lengths to help us.

We lived in a tiny cement hut and quickly ran out of spare room. We finally gave up and stacked the books in our main living area until we could no longer walk inside of our house. We built a shed outside to make room for the enormous number of donations, but the books outgrew the shed in a hurry. Desperate, I began to pray for more storage space. Someone magically offered an old shipping container for the books. We filled the entire container. **Ultimately, the donations from *MaryJanesFarm* readers amounted to over 10,000 volumes for an island of 3,000 people—or more than three books for every resident. (And the books are still coming!)**

Islanders quickly gravitated towards the books, eager for a taste of what they witnessed being hauled from the post office to our hut. Shyly, the women asked me about romance novels. Children wanted to know what books they might be permitted to use and when. People inquired excitedly about their favorite writers and titles.

What seemed like a simple enough idea grew puzzling. How was I planning to distribute the books? I had no idea! I certainly had no room in my hut for MaryJane's library. As I tried to make sense out of what happened, it was the readers of *MaryJanesFarm* who not only donated the books, but helped me solve the problem of how to make them available. In particular, a humble Dakota horologist named Linda Davis and an energetic Florida couple, Patricia and Richard Dunn, became absolutely essential to me as I navigated the tsunami of books. I relied upon these wise, devout readers of



MaryJanesFarm to assist me in planning the next phase of our fantasy bookstore. They offered tireless support of every sort as I slowly untangled the aftermath of our gigantic success.

Via literally hundreds of e-mails, my trusted MaryJane allies—especially Richard, Patty, Linda—and I decided to offer to reopen the typhoon-ruined Rota public library. (The last super typhoon heavily damaged the village library, soaking and wrecking all its books.)

One sunny afternoon, Rota's First Lady, Estrella Clitar Mendiola (the mayor's wife), paid me a visit. Butterflies hovered over the fragrant, flowering bushes in my front lawn as I greeted her with a kiss. Having come a long way from humble beginnings herself, she took a quick glance at the 10,000 donated books in the shipping container and began to cry. It was a dream come true for her—she could establish a reading program for island children with the many volunteers who were willing to offer their services. At the emotional ceremony, using English as her second language, she thanked the readers of *MaryJanesFarm*.



Estrella sent mayoral employees over to fetch the books. The men were astonished. Laboring in the hot sun, they kept coming back with a rickety trailer and piling it high with books only to note that there were thousands more. They were as surprised as I was. I watched ebulliently as the men perched precariously on mounds of books, carefully carrying them to their new home, the tropical sun shimmering and dancing on the book covers, seabirds circling the bright air overhead.

Today, thanks to your readers, Rota has a brand new library brimming with beautiful books that are devoured by local children. Other donations were also speedily consumed; nothing was wasted.

In the end, the article and its result is a powerful testimony about the farmgirl's heart. The generosity of *MaryJanesFarm* readers is astonishing. Every single box shipped was a costly labor of love—I floated through the year on clouds of joy as the stunned recipient on the other end. On Rota, we run out of rice when the ship can't get through the weather. We run out of gas when the tanker is delayed. We run out of power when the fragile generator changes its mind about working. But we never run out of books. You can now catch sight of a little child meandering through a sprawling mass of clucking chickens, book clutched tightly in hand, as if carrying a precious baby.

Your gifts created not just a moment of pleasure, but rather a legacy that will be utilized for generations. On behalf of the island of Rota, I thank you for what amounts to a farmgirl-fueled miracle of staggering proportions.



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



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).

Homemade Holidays

I hope to give only handmade gifts this holiday season. I still have a lot of little crafting ideas that my girls can help with, and soon we’ll get started on those, along with some canned goods. Our Christmas is going to be handmade this year.

If I plan to stick with a handmade holiday theme, our very own Farmgirl Marketplace is a great place to start. If I had something specific I was looking for or someone *suggested* their favorite handmade item, that would be even better. I found an old Christmas thread on our Marketplace ([click here](#)), so thought I’d get that going again with this suggestion.

My pick this year is Lollibags! They’re adorable, but wait until you hear about the gal (Sister #1528) behind them!

Prudence Rapozo has five kids, and if she isn’t busy enough with *that* project, she’s doing a “bit” of sewing on the side—actually, a *lot* of sewing on the side.

Growing up, her dad owned his own business and her mom was an artist of many things, even down to the gift tags on the Christmas presents she gifted. As soon as Prudence learned the term *entrepreneur*, she knew that’s what she wanted to be when she grew up.

Three years ago, on a path as a personal party planner, Prudence was diverted by her then 12-year-old daughter, nicknamed Lolli. Prudence found her sewing a bag for school using mismatched fabric and pom-pom trim. Of course, the finished product had to be reproduced—Prudence needed one too. Each new bag was different, with mismatched fabrics, big flowers, bigger in general, better pockets, an inner lining for strength and durability, etc.

“I started off wanting to show my daughter she could do anything to make a living. I wanted to give my daughter the tools to make money so she never had to rely on someone to support her,” Prudence says. “I also wanted to have some spending cash ... *ya know what I mean???* Plus, it feels great when someone loves and buys something I create.”

So Lollibags was created. In 2009, Prudence opened her Etsy shop. Lollibags come in four sizes: Little Lollis for little girls, small, medium, and large. Prudence also enjoys attending a few shows (we met her at **The Creative Connection Event**, in 2010 and again in 2011). She loves watching people’s reactions when they see her bags. However (she emphasized this), she is a MOM first and foremost, but loves that she can be an entrepreneur who works at home.



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

MARYJANES FARM

Mom and I walked away with three Lollibags after meeting Prudence. Well, really, we walked away with 13 of them—I ordered 10 more for our Moscow and Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, brick-and-mortar stores. If you don't live near one of our stores, do not despair, Prudence has a great selection on her Etsy shop (www.lollipookiesoap.etsy.com) and you can follow her blog at www.avintagemom.blogspot.com.

Really, these bags are sturdy, the perfect length, and have a nice thick strap so you don't kill your neck. The across-the-shoulder strap is very "in" right now, besides just being more practical. With two big pockets inside and a main compartment, I'm not always losing my keys in my purse. And drum roll ... her flower Lollibag was even seen on the Emmy Award's red carpet!!!!

Meg





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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.

Gluten-free BLT

It's one of the sheer, unadulterated pleasures of fall ... the BLT.

Bacon, lettuce, tomato (with a nod to my friend, mayonnaise) ... perhaps one of the best flavor combinations ever created.

Due to a wet and cool start to the growing season in my neck of the woods, there has been some seriously delayed gratification for this summer sensation. But last week, while babysitting my neighbor's chickens, I discovered (and thieved) their first ripe tomato of the season.

As I set about frying my bacon, toasting my bread, slicing my tomato, and washing my lettuce, my friend Kim dropped by. A fellow lover of all things vegetable, Kim shared my excitement over this jewel of the garden.

I certainly had enough to share, but there was a problem: Kim, one of my most tolerant friends, cannot tolerate gluten. I was certainly not about to abandon my BLT, but I had to find a way for Kim to enjoy the experience as well.

So I whipped up a gluten-free BLT with a generous dollop of enhanced mayonnaise (which also works great for those watching their carbohydrates). I was sure Kim's level of enjoyment would be compromised, but she proved me wrong on the first bite by dramatically "dying" over the deliciousness. She then further flattered my creation by demanding a second serving.

Gluten-free BLTs

Serves 2

- 1 T olive oil
- 8 cups organic mixed greens
- 2 deliciously ripe, garden-fresh tomatoes, sliced
- 6 slices of bacon, cooked crispy
- 2 T mayonnaise
- 1 garlic clove, minced
- 1 t fresh lemon juice

1. In a large bowl, toss mixed greens and olive oil. Season with salt and pepper. Arrange on two plates. Top with tomato slices and bacon.
2. In a small bowl, mix together mayonnaise, garlic, and lemon juice. Place a dollop of mayonnaise mixture on top of each salad.





Featured Recipe



MARYJANES FARM



Garden

Bloom Where You're Planted

Gate



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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.

A PEACHY-KEEN Pie Trick

I had the good fortune to grow up with a grandmother who taught me how to can. Over the last few decades, when it was considered "old-fashioned" and time consuming, you could find me, every August and September, working my way through bushels of cucumbers, gunny sacks of fresh corn on the cob, and buckets of tomatoes. The kitchen reeked of vinegar and dill, but come winter, my friends were wheedling and canoodling for bread-and-butter pickles, tiny dill pickles, pickled asparagus (for their Bloody Marys), dried tomatoes, tomato preserves, Italian plum chutney, marmalades, corn relish, applesauce, and canned peaches.

This week, I turned 15 pounds of medium-size cucumbers into 18 pints of colorful bread-and-butter pickles. I have plans for some plum chutney, frozen corn, and dill pickles. And peaches.

This frozen peach pie filling is absolutely wonderful to have tucked away for the cold months ahead. Just imagine whipping a warm peach pie out of the oven in January.

I had a half bushel of #2 IdaGold peaches, but Hale and Elberta make delicious preserves, too. I blanched them a few at a time, peeled them, and sliced them into a cling-wrap-lined deep pie dish.

For each whole pie, I mixed up a cup of sugar, cinnamon, freshly grated nutmeg, and about 1 T of tapioca (as a thickening agent). I did a layer of peaches, a sprinkle of the mixture, and repeated the layers till I had a HUGE pie filling.

I covered that with another layer of clear wrap and popped the whole shebang into the freezer. When it was frozen solid, I moved the pie filling into a large Ziploc freezer bag and labeled it. When the time comes, I can pull that out, pop it into a prepared crust, top it with another crust, and bake it. I did a couple more packages made to fit different baking dishes so they can be pulled out; put into a baking dish; and topped for cobbler, buckle, or crisp. Clever, eh? I made enough of these to also give a couple away.

Baking instructions:
Preheat oven to 450°F (230°C).

Bake on the bottom rack for 20 minutes. Lower heat to 350°F (175°C) and continue baking for another 30–35 minutes, or until completely warmed through.

Enjoy the harvest!





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MARYJANES FARM



“ Life is better than death,
I believe, if only because it is less
boring and because it has fresh
peaches in it. ”

– Thomas Walker



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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.

Pendant Book Banner

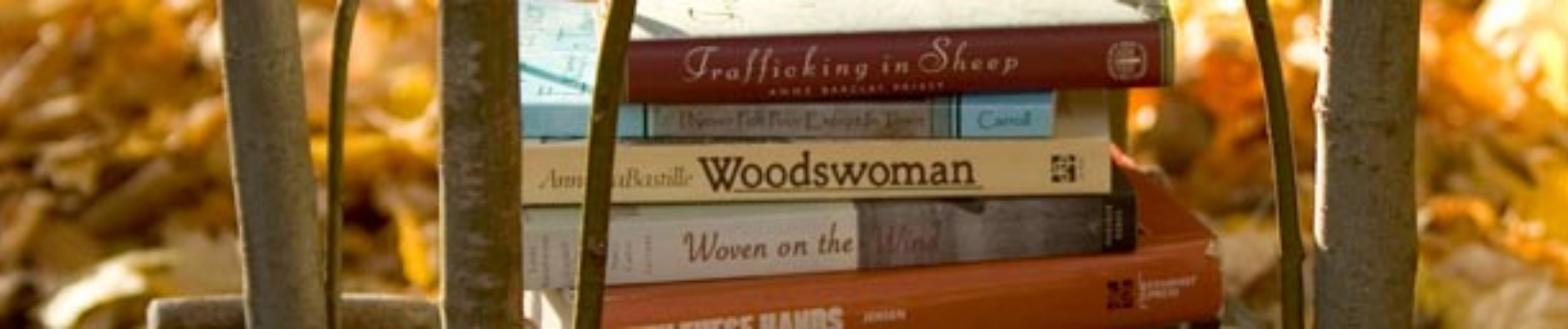
What is it about cracking open a favorite book? Each time I do, I am transported to the time and place when I first read those pages—as a small child, a young woman, or a new mother. I found myself pouring over my bookshelf recently, and when my son asked me which book I was looking for, it hit me. I wasn't looking for a book at all. I was strolling down memory lane. There in front of me were the books I first read in the midst of deaths; travels; and especially peaceful, ordinary moments.

Once an old favorite has worn out its binding, we can still find a good use for its pages. Using books that are old or new, you can create a custom pendant banner that is easy to mail to a friend. I took an old copy of *The Pokey Little Puppy*, removed the spine, and cut all the pages into pendant-style triangles. Grabbing a few 1-inch strips of torn fabric, I cozied up to my sewing machine and attached the triangles to make my banner. To begin, leave about 24 inches free at the end of your fabric strip for easy hanging and start to stitch on your pendants. When there are 12 inches of fabric left on that strip of fabric, stop and begin a new section 12 inches into the next strip. Once you are finished, you can tie a bow to attach the two sections together. This is a quick project and there are many variations. Try one of these:

Weddings: poetry books, sheet music
Kitchens: old cookbooks, recipe cards
Children's rooms: Little Golden Books, Sunday comics
Living Room: maps, encyclopedias, botanical prints

You can stick with using one book per banner or mix and match to create a banner that is all one color. For a birthday party, use a mix of books that showcase the interests of your guest of honor. To create an extra-fancy banner, run a line of glue along the edge of your pendants and sprinkle on some German glass glitter.





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



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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.

Mr. Peter Punkineater

Jack-o-lanterns are no longer exclusively orange. "Lumina" pumpkins wear creamy white skins and add a touch of elegance to fall decorating and an autumn menu. I'm a doll-maker and my favorite season is fall, so creating a portly punkin' man had been occupying my design daydreams. I spied a piece of coarsely woven, cream-colored cotton in my stack of fabric. Then a mellow face came to mind, combining the expressions of an animated harvest moon and an old-timey jack-o-lantern (like those you see on antique postcards).

Well, here he is—easy to make and just in time for fall decorating. Construction goes fast. Most of the "make" time is spent on embroidery (if you make the face as shown), but that part of the process can be greatly minimized by going with optional "simple faces"—like a traditional Jack face. I've included a couple of other options too. Make your little punkin' man just like mine or let your imagination have a little fun. Envision him as primitive in grungy garb or dress him up in a body made from a fancy crazy quilt; add a fluffier neck ruffle of wide voile. Another idea: Omit the body and make just the head as a shelf sitter.

You'll need:

- About 1/3 yard of cotton fabric for head, arms, and feet
- 12" square of fabric for body (I used ticking)
- 4" x 32" strip of fabric for neck ruffle
- Pearl cotton floss or embroidery floss for face
- Heavy-duty button thread, quilting thread
- Polyester stuffing
- Dark brown acrylic paint to "antique" the doll
- Soft sculpture needle, larger eye sewing needle
- Real pumpkin stem or piece of a tree branch
- Hot glue gun
- Assortment of vintage buttons for heart



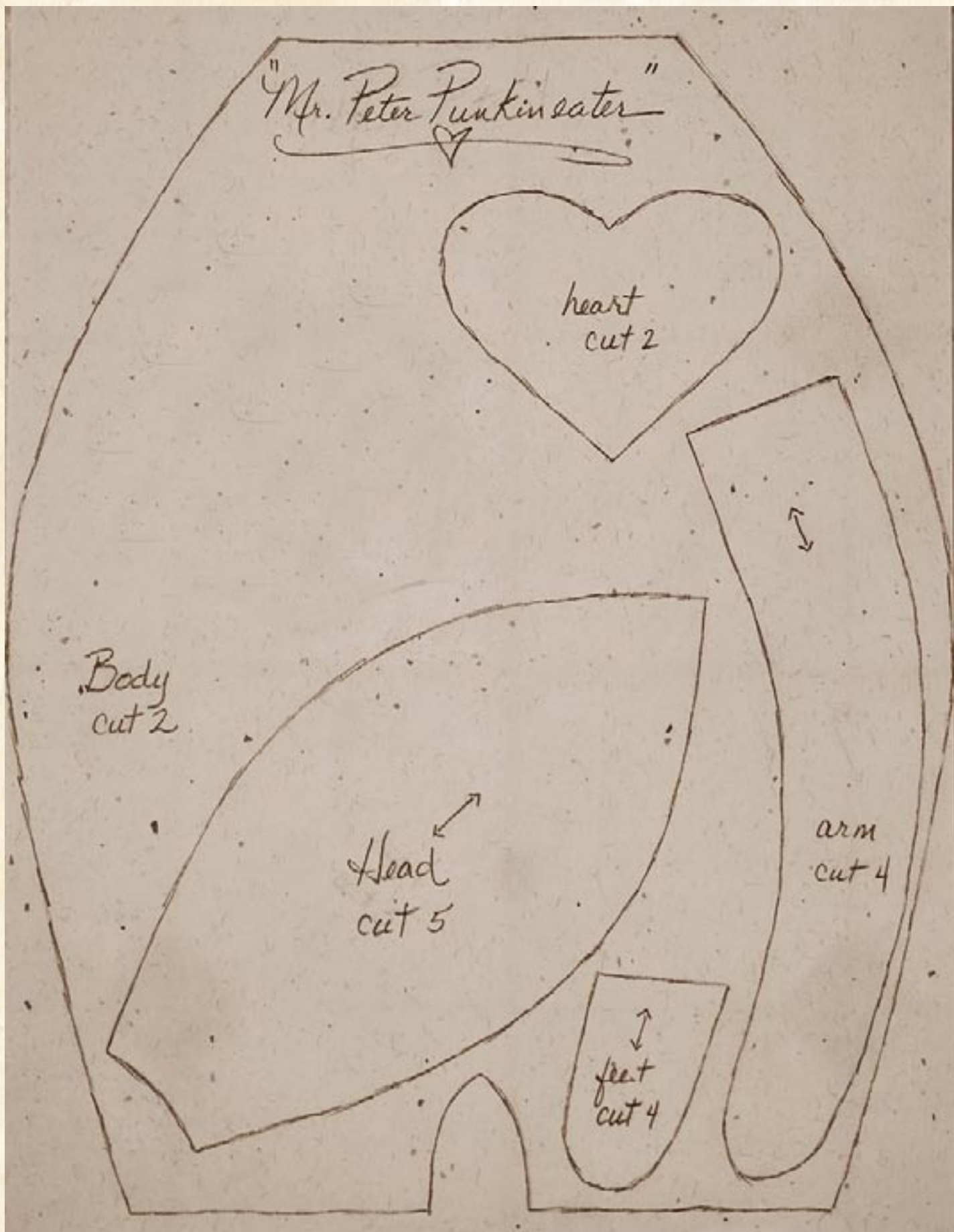
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Directions:

1. Enlarge the pattern on the following page so that it fills an 8 ½" x 11" sheet. This will make your pattern pieces "real size". If you choose to use the optional facial drawings, copy them; the faces should measure about 3" high.
2. Cut out your pattern pieces from the paper pattern and pin all the but the head piece onto double layers of your fabric choices. Cut out five head pattern pieces. Cut or tear a 4" x 32" strip of fabric for the neck ruffle. Pin the pattern pieces to each other, right sides in. Pin the head pieces down one side seam at a time; you'll stitch the first two together and the other pieces as you go until they're all sewn together.
3. Sew the arms and feet, leaving the tops open. Stuff them firmly. Leave 1" of the arm tops unstuffed. Leave about ½" of the feet tops unstuffed. Sew the body together, tuck the feet inside the body cavity, and pin them in place. Finish sewing the body together. When you turn the body right side out, the feet should point in slightly. Remember to clip the curved places on the pattern pieces a tiny bit so that they'll lay nice when turned out.
4. When sewing the head pieces together, start at the top points of the head so that the points meet accurately and the top of the head is sewn shut. Turn the head right side out. Draw the face onto the fabric (or trace one of my patterns on the following pages) with a water erasable pen or lightly with a plain pencil. Don't worry about it looking exactly like mine. These faces are *supposed* to look UN-perfect and primitive. Using pearl cotton floss or embroidery floss, embroider the face on using plain straight stitches. On the mouth and eyebrows, I went back and wove my way through the straight stitches. I like to layer thread, so I added three vertical stitches of green and gold thread on each eye under the last layer of black thread. The nose has about three layers of black and rusty brown thread. The mouth uses black, tan, and mustard gold thread. The eyebrows are black and rusty brown. The circles around the eyes are black and I just stitched in "willy-nilly" fashion (irregular). When you're done embroidering, stuff the head firmly. Using the soft sculpture needle and button thread, take a few deep stitches from the bottom of the head to the top, tugging the top down a bit so that there is a slight indentation on top of the head (for the stem). "Massage" the head and body parts as you



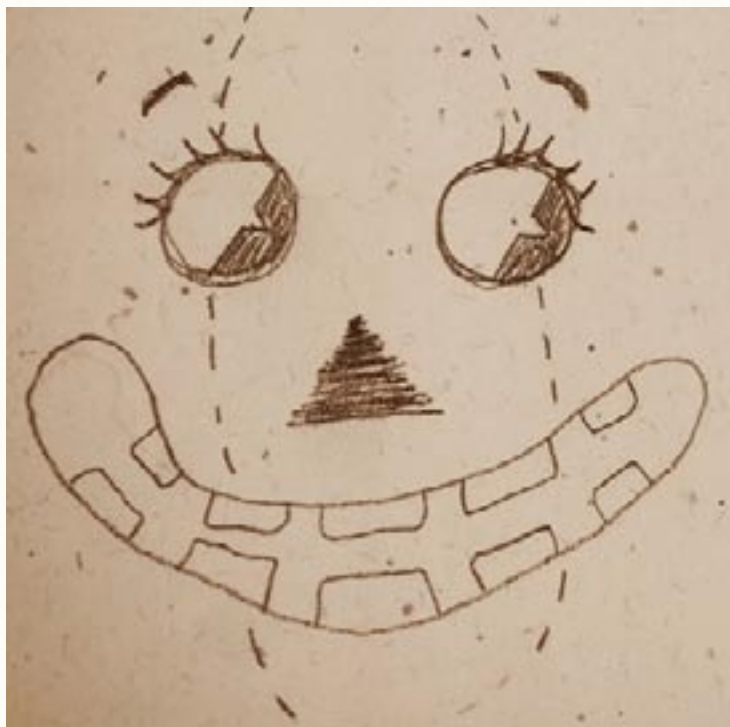
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stuff so that the surfaces are smooth. Sew the heart pieces together, leaving a 1" opening so that you can stuff it, then stitch it closed. Stitch on lots of buttons and set it aside.

5. Using heavy-duty button thread, sew the head opening and top of the body shut. Using button thread, gather one edge of the ruffle and tie it closed. Set it aside.
6. Sew the arms to the body close to the top; be sure that they lay on the sides, curving to the inside. Hot glue the head onto the center of the ruffle. Using heavy-duty button thread, sew the head onto the body, going round and round until the head sits securely. Make "antique" smudges with one part brown acrylic paint to one part water. Rub the doll lightly with it, using a paper towel or a sponge. Squeeze most of the liquid out before rubbing the doll with it and test it on a piece of scrap cloth. Let your doll dry.
7. Stitch the button-heart onto the ends of the hands. Or, if you want something different, use a tiny grapevine wreath instead. Hot-glue the pumpkin stem securely onto the head. If your pumpkin stem looks a little dry, give it a spritz of clear acrylic sealant. Enjoy!





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

Bonus Project: Black-eyed Susan Hat

Materials:

Red Heart Super Saver yarn: coffee and gold, one skein of each
Size 8 circular knitting needle 16 inches and set of 4 double-pointed size 8 needles
Size J (6.0) crochet hook and darning needle

Hat (knitted):

Cast on 40 (48, 56, 72) for 0-6 months (6-12 months, 1-2 years, 2 years and up)
Place a marker and join to beginning of knitting in the round. Main hat is in the coffee-colored yarn or any worsted-weight, four-ply yarn that you choose.

Round one: knit round

Round two: purl round

Repeat rounds and continue with this garter stitch pattern (knit and purl) for 5 (5½, 6, 6½) inches from beginning, ending on a purl round.

Decreasing (change to double-pointed needles)

Round one: knit 6, K2tog repeat to the end of the round.

Round two: purl this round and each even round repeat to the end.

Round three: knit 5, k2tog repeat to the end of the round.

Round five: knit 4, k2tog repeat to the end of the round.

Round seven: knit 3, k2tog repeat to the end of the round.

Round nine: knit 2, k2tog repeat to the end of the round.

Round eleven: knit 1, k2tog repeat to the end of the round.

Round twelve: P2tog repeat to the end of the round.

Finish by making two rounds through the remaining stitches and weave in the ends with a darning needle.

Petals (crocheted)

Start at the back of the hat. Slip stitch with the gold yarn into the brim of the hat and single crochet.

Step one: Chain seven. Single crochet in the second chain from the end, and then double crochet in the rest of the chain spaces including the initial single crochet.

Join the single crochet in the brim of the hat, skipping one knit space between the beginning of each new petal.

Step two: Chain five. Single crochet in the second chain from the end, then double crochet in the rest of the chain spaces including the initial single crochet.

Repeat steps one and two until the brim of the hat is surrounded with petals.

Weave in all ends.

Wash in cold water and air dry.

Note: You can change the petal color to pink and have an Echinacea hat instead.





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Or make a sunflower hat:

Small sunflowers (crocheted):

Materials:

2.25 mm crochet hook

DMC embroidery floss – colors: 111 variegated gold/brown, 898 brown.

Directions:

Chain 4, make loop with thread. SC 13 singles on the 1st round.

Round 2 – chain 2 (= 1st SC on 2nd round), 2 SC in each chain space, chain 2.

Round 3 – SC in each chain space. Complete round by connecting the beginning and ending stitches with a slip stitch.

Petals: Where you end with brown thread, chain 7, SC in second crochet from the end and double crochet in each chain following, including initial SC. Skip one chain space of center brown for the next petal. Continue until the round is complete and then weave in the ends.





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.

Herbal-Infused Honey

Imagine lavender-laced honey over freshly churned vanilla ice cream, rose-petal-infused honey drizzled on luscious blackberry cobbler, chamomile and vanilla honey atop homemade granola, cinnamon honey stirred into a mug of steaming chamomile tea, or pear slices dipped into star-anise honey.

Honey infused with herbs is pure decadence! Not only is it a simple and delicious way to enjoy the medicinal goodness of herbs, but honey has anti-bacterial properties and it helps soothe irritated and sore throats. By infusing botanicals into honey, you can create delectable medicine that anyone is sure to enjoy.

Herbal Infused Honey

- Fresh or dried organic botanicals: Lavender, Rose Petals, Lemon Balm, Chamomile, Basil, Ginger, Sage, Peppermint, Cinnamon, Vanilla, Star Anise, Rosemary, and Thyme are just a few of the many options.
- Honey, preferably raw honey from a local beekeeper.

Fill a clean Mason jar halfway with fresh herbs or a quarter full with dried herbs. Top with honey, stir, and cap with a tight-fitting lid. Place in a sunny windowsill, and turn the jar over once per day. Add more honey if the herbs swell and rise above the honey. Allow to infuse for a week or longer, then strain once the desired flavor has been achieved. Enjoy drizzled over desserts, fresh fruit, ice cream, oatmeal, on toast with butter, in salad dressings, marinades, sauces, or as a sweetener for tea and lemonade. Yum!



MARYJANES FARM





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

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



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

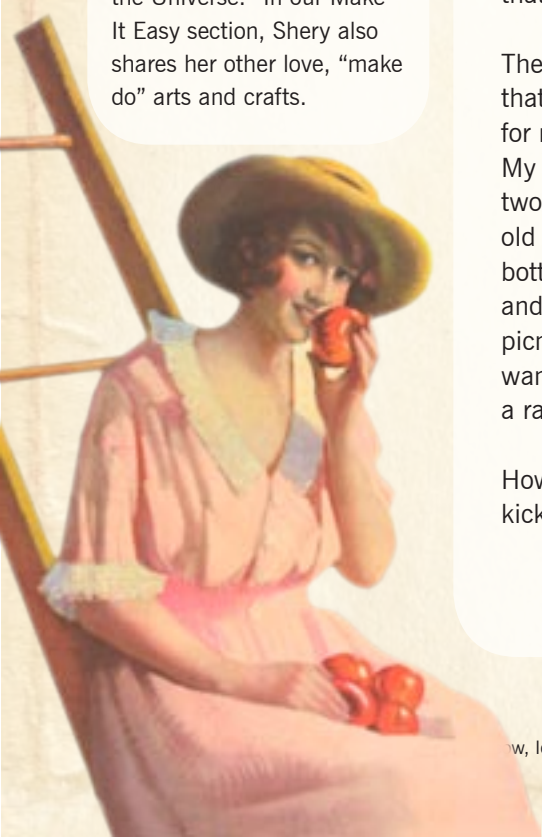
Farmgirl Picnic Gear – Got Mine!

Shery's three favorite books: *The Bible*, *Country Diary of an Edwardian Lady*, and *MaryJane's Outpost*. When I first opened the *Outpost*, the rest of the world ceased to exist for about an hour as I devoured each page. I was transfixed and felt as if my “inner wild” had been reborn and given a new set of dreams. The girl adventurer of my youth had, in fact, not faded into history. She was just dormant, waiting for rain like the wildflowers. If the *Outpost* had a fragrance, it would be “after a rain” or “woodland path.” Every page refreshed my country-loving soul. Oh, how my spirit needed to dance in the rain of rediscovery and go hip-hopping through the puddles!

As a rancher, my work is outside. Not being able to spend time outside wasn't my problem. My problem was that I'd forgotten how to *play* outside. I'd grown up, out of, and away from the very thing that was so precious to me as a child and young adult. The great outdoors was very much a part of the fabric of who I was—as in past tense. How does a person lose an essential ingredient of their make-up? I have no answer, but it happened to me. I didn't fill the hole with something else; the hole just sat there empty. But, one magical day, I opened a heaven-sent book that jerked my inner child awake.

The first thing I did to nurture my “inner wild” was to dine outside. Please note that I didn't say *eat*. Dining involves creative preparation: china and silver, a log for my table, and a barn-wood Adirondack chair. Now, there was no going back! My next plan of attack was requisitioning farmgirl picnic gear. I referred to chapter two: “The Art of the Picnic” ... and the hunt was on! An old suitcase that stored old linens was called back to active duty. Then came other details: vintage thermos bottles, an old camp blanket, enamelware dishes, a '50s-era cowboy tablecloth, and more. It took a bit of a shopping safari to put together my MaryJane-style picnic set, but once my list was complete, I was ready for outdoor dining anywhere wanderlust would take me. Next on my 2011 picnic agenda: apple-picking day in a ranch pasture off an old highway with farmgirl friends.

How about you? Have you unleashed *your* “inner wild”? If not, buy the *Outpost*, kick off your heels, and turn the wild child loose!





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

MARYJANES FARM



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

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



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

Make Mine
GREEN

Detox Foot Baths

As the heart of fall is underway, I find I spend less time in my flip-flops and more time lacing up. When it comes to my feet, like a child or true farmgirl, I would rather be barefoot than anything else. However, walking around barefoot outdoors on the rocks, dirt, and debris can sometimes wreak havoc on delicate feet. In Chinese medicine, it is believed that all of our stored toxins are eliminated through our feet. Therefore, it is important to have our feet soft and supple in order for the toxins to be removed. Not to mention, most people don't find scaly, hard feet attractive or desirable. What I have found to be the best remedy for over-worked, callused feet is partaking in regular detox foot baths, followed by some routine care. There is no need to spend large amounts of money to have your feet cared for. With a simple regimen, your feet will be back to normal in no time. For starters, you will need a small foot-soaking bath, found at your local drug store, but you can also substitute a small basin if a foot-bath is not available.

Items you will need:

- Foot bath or basin
- Epsom salt
- Small foot brush
- Pumice stone
- Coconut oil or butter
- Socks



Begin by filling your foot bath or basin with warm water mixed with 1/2 cup of Epsom salt. The salt is used to draw out toxins and soften calluses. Soak your feet in this bath for about 15 minutes. Take the small foot brush and gently brush one foot at a time to remove some dead skin. Carefully use the pumice stone to slough off more rough spots, usually found near your heels. After you are finished using the pumice stone, dip your feet in the water again to remove the residue from the stone. Then towel dry your feet and immediately apply the coconut oil or butter to them. Put on heavy socks to keep the oil on your skin and wait an hour or two. It is best if this treatment is performed at night so you can sleep with the socks on. The next morning, you should see a tremendous improvement in your feet. You can make this a weekly habit. To learn more about the benefits of foot baths and soaks, visit www.livestrong.com/article/101291-benefits-soaking-feet-epsom-salt



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

MARYJANES FARM





The

MaryJanesFarm News

Scoop

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.

Farmgirls on the Loose in Texas Campout 2011

We are having our 2nd annual Campout Oct 14–16 at my farm in lola, TX. We would love to have you join us. Sisterhood membership not required, but encouraged. We had such a great time last year that everyone is looking forward to it again. We had some trailers, lots of tents, a ton of food, guest speakers, a homemade swap, a hayride, and some fishing (not this year, as we have had no rain and now no ponds). I have decided to do a theme each year from here on out, and this year the theme is BEES. I am trying to get our local apiary to help out with giving us some pointers on keeping bees. So please e-mail me if you have any questions and I will update you as the time gets closer. Hope ya'll can make it! Farmgirl Hugs, Jennifer [Join up here](#).

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!](#)

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HomeSafeHome: Disaster Preparedness, Submitted by brightmeadow

I don't know if this has been posted here before, but it's worth mentioning again, even if it is an old topic.

The American Red Cross has a lot of information on their **website** on how to prepare your home for emergencies, including power blackouts, thunderstorms, mudslides, tornadoes, and hurricanes, as well as terrorist attacks. You probably know which types of disasters are most likely for your area, but there are basics that apply to all types of disasters. The basic plan consists of a family communication plan, an evacuation plan, and a supplies kit. They have suggestions for each of these. **Check it out today** ... be prepared!

HomeSafeHome: A use for those extra spoons! Submitted by countrymommy85

Take those extra non-matching spoons in your drawer OR find some neat vintage-looking ones from the thrift store, melt some chocolate, dip the spoons in (making sure to cover the entire spoon bottom), and give them as gifts! Classy way to flavor tea, coffee, or give hot chocolate a boost! Sometimes I dip the spoon in regular chocolate and cool, then I dip halfway in white chocolate. I've also sprinkled Andes mint chips and chopped-up candy canes on the spoon. An idea I had for this year's Christmas presents is making a red-nosed reindeer on the bottom of the spoon in chocolate, complete with a cinnamon imperial for a nose!!! Check it out [here](#).

Keeping in Touch: Old Sayings, Submitted by hoosiercountry

Would love it if you would share some of your favorite old sayings. An elderly gentleman told this to me over 40 years ago:

Cold hands.

Warm heart.

Dirty feet.

And no sweetheart.

Click [here](#) for more or to submit your favorites.

A Farm of My Own: What a modern Amish Farm looks like... Submitted by Dusky Beauty

Hey Farmgirls, I've been hitting the listings again. I've seen a few Amish farmsteads listed before, but I thought I'd share this one for ogling, as it's a good example of the modern Amish standard of off-the-grid living. Enjoy! Click [here](#) for more info. See post [here](#).

the chatter continues ...

A Farm of My Own: Farming on my own, Submitted by Debbie Apple

I wondered if there are many women out there farming on their own. Maybe after the death of a spouse or a divorce, did you find yourself having to take over the farm alone? That's what happened in my case, and my two children and I were without a farm but loaded down with farm animals: 60 cows, 55 sheep, 300 chickens, and 4 dogs ... and no land. I would love to talk with others who have been there, done that. I am also more than happy to give assistance to any who find themselves in that place now and need some advice. Discuss this topic [here](#).

Wearing shoes in the house, Submitted by nabrown42

How do you feel about requesting that guests don't wear shoes in your house? Our new house in KY has gorgeous wood floors and we decided that we wouldn't wear shoes inside. I told my best friend about our plan to offer slippers to everyone so that we can maintain the floors. She went ballistic! Said that nobody will tell her when and where she can wear shoes, and if that was the way I felt, she wouldn't be visiting me. I'm hurt and bewildered by her outburst. I figure in my house, my rules go. Would you be offended by such a request? Tell us what you think [here](#).

Across the Fence: "Farm My Life" forum game, Submitted by Dusky Beauty

Welcome to a realm of real-life, down-to-earth problems!!

Format is simple:

Today, I have to make a fast trip to Lowes to pick up fencing in the farm truck I can't shut off, or I won't be able to start it again. Farm, it's my life!

Share your farm problems [here](#).

Barnyard Buddies: Got Rabbits?? Submitted by sherrye

I just bought 15 6-week-old rabbits. These are a mix of meat breeds. I am going to butcher all but three does. I bought an unrelated buck for them. It was a slapped-together home for them last night. Today we will get it better. It is an older barn here. It has a small room with a concrete floor. I have a metal shelf to put their cages on. I learned that how I want to try growing them is called colony breeding. (I think? lol) So I am excited. They have all been held and are fairly calm. The girl said they tolerate cold better than heat. The coop is insulated, but colder in winter because of where it is located on our place. I still need a few feeders for them and one water bottle. She feeds Nutrina rabbit food. Do you girls have any suggestions for books, food, their home???? I would love to have one come in the house to hold. I am allergic to cats. We had one when the boys were young. It pottied in a cat box. Anyway, my brain is a sponge. Anyone know about rabbits??? I am all ears. Happy tails! **Give advice [here](#).**

continued ...



{tips, inspiration, &
just plain fun!}

the chatter continues ...

Barnyard Buddies: Chickens, which to get? Submitted by caitlinsmom

We have had many chickens in the past. Most of them were eaten by a pack of nine dogs that lived across the street. We have since moved (thank heavens!!) and now we are ready to dive into chickens again.

We have had heavy breeds (Bufs, Rocks, etc.) that were all great layers but never seemed to get big enough to butcher out. We've had meat birds that grew quickly and well, but once butchered, were tasteless. We've had a "fryer special" that were supposed to be great meat birds, but take a little longer to grow. They pecked each other to death, literally. The ones that did live turned out to be horrible layers, even though they are known to be fantastic.

We don't want to continue to waste money for chickens that end up being poor layers or taste nasty on the table. So, what breed have you had consistent results with egg production, while being mellow-mannered enough for kids to "love on" regularly? What meat bird has the best taste with a good feed conversion ratio? **Give advice here.**

Barnyard Buddies: Goat teat-wipe recipe? Submitted by FieldsofThyme

I copied down a teat-wipe recipe from another farmgirl here, but I have a question. I finally got my organic oils to make the wipes, but do you use them before and after, or just before? If just before, what do you use for after milking? **Submit answers here.**

Barnyard Buddies: Processing options on beef? Submitted by walkinwalkoutcattle

So, we're sending my steer (unless he makes a magical recovery) to the slaughterhouse on the 4th. I'm looking for advice on how to pick what I want him processed as. What do you all choose? The only thing I'm sure of is that I want my ground beef in 1-lb packages and I want ALL the ribeyes! How do you choose which cuts and whatnot? I guess I need to study the different cuts. **Leave comments here.**

Cleaning Up: Love it, hate it. Submitted by camiesmommy

Thought it would be fun to tell the two-part chores we all do, where we love doing one part, but hate doing the other.

I love hanging out laundry, but hate taking it down. I love having a flower garden, but hate weeding. I love washing dishes by hand, don't mind drying, but hate putting them away. How about you? **Share your thoughts here.**

the chatter continues ...

Cleaning Up: What is your secret motivation method? Submitted by Dusky Beauty

Funny story/strategy time!

What is your secret subliminal way to motivate yourself to clean, or to get other people in the house to clean? Me, I fire up Netflix and put on a rerun of Hoarders. Not only do I get desperate to clean up my house, I have experienced the "collateral damage" when everyone else who happens to see it too, goes on a house- or room-cleaning push without my even mentioning it!! LOL. **Share your stories here.**

Farm Kitchen: Dehydrated Sweet Potatoes, Submitted by Okie Farm Girl

I've been a little busy!! I decided to try dehydrating sweet potatoes because I love the things and this fall time is when they go on sale. When I buy them, they don't last very long in the potato bin and so I decided to see what would happen if I dried them. Oh my. Love them!! I made candied sweet potatoes the other day with some of the dried potatoes and they were great. I bet if you cut them into cubes instead of slices, you could use them for a sweet-potato pie. Anyway, I'm pleased!! If you'd like to see the pictures, I put them up at the blog this morning. **Check out pictures here.**

Farm Kitchen: Peeling Garlic, Submitted by StrawHouseRanch

We've always used minced garlic from the jar for cooking up until I grew my first batch of garlic this year. So, I'm looking for tips and tricks for getting those homegrown cloves peeled. How do you peel your garlic? **Leave comments here.**

Garden Gate: Harvest pictures Submitted by plantcaraz

Maybe it would be fun to see some pictures of all of your hard work in the gardens this year! Please share and celebrate your harvest!! I didn't take many this year, but would love to see other people's ... **Share your pictures here.**

Herbal Wisdom: Uses for lemon balm, Submitted by shunger

I'm growing some lovely and fragrant lemon balm and am wondering how others use this herb. **Leave your comments here.**

Stitching & Crafting Room: Sewing – cheap, fast, easy kitchen towel project, Submitted by FarmDream

I bought a few of these at a market and decided to make one myself. **Check it out here.**



NEW Merit Badges for Farmgirl Sisters!

MAKE IT PRETTY for Make It Easy:

Beginner: Using pencil or colored pencils, reproduce an image by drawing it. Or design a simple collage.

Intermediate: Learn how to paint with watercolors or acrylics and produce at least four paintings. Visit an art museum or participate in an art walk.

Expert: Learn how to paint with oils. Learn how to frame and wire your own paintings. Enter your paintings in a gallery or a show or other public viewing venue.

INK SLINGER for Stitching & Crafting:

Beginner: Read Strunk and White's *The Elements of Style*. Write a two-page story (500 words) utilizing correct grammar, spelling, and punctuation. Have a friend or family member edit the story and return it to you for corrections.

Intermediate: Read two how-to books regarding writing short stories, novels, or poetry. Choose your genre: children's literature, fantasy, mystery, nonfiction, woman's literary fiction, etc.

Expert: Read two books in the genre you chose and write a short human-interest piece in your chosen genre. Then write at least 20 pages in your chosen genre—this could be 20 pages of poetry, a 20-page short story, 20 pages of nonfiction, or the first 20 pages of your novel.

CIVIC HERITAGE for Each Other:

Beginner: Travel to the city in which you were born or raised, or to the city you live in or near now, to tour a local museum. While you are there, think of how life was for those who came before you.

Intermediate: Use your trip to the local museum to inspire you to find a local figure to research. Visit where they lived or where they were active in the community. Give a presentation to your local Farmgirl Chapter about the person you chose. If you don't have a local chapter, share with Sisters on the chatroom or write a letter to the editor about how that person made a difference in your town.

Expert: Visit any re-enactment, or volunteer to be a part of a re-enactment. If there are no re-enactments nearby, find the oldest non-residential building in town. Then go to the public library and search through the microfiche files or old photo archives to find the oldest photo of the building. Compare and contrast the two buildings to see how the years have changed it. If you can go inside the building, make note of the differences, such as ceiling height, doorway size, knobs, and building materials.



ICING ON THE CAKE for Farm Kitchen:

Beginner: Study and learn cake-decorating basics: filling the decorating bag, correct decorating bag position, using couplers, and all other basics (find basics at www.wilton.com/decorating). Using the same website, study and learn all categories under "Decorating Cakes" or read a Wilton cake-decorating beginner's guide or take a cake decorating class.

Intermediate: Create your own basic cake-decorating kit using the techniques you learned in the beginner badge. Use your cake decorating tools to bake and frost one cake for any occasion. This could be a chapter member, family member, or friend's birthday or other special occasion. Make your own frosting and use at least three different frosting tips or designs.

Expert: Enter a cake in your local fair or donate one for a cake auction. (Research the parameters for your local fair before beginning. There are often multiple categories, such as application of icing, difficulty of technique, theme, and flavor.) Get as creative as possible.

CROSS-STITCH for Stitching & Crafting:

Beginner: Learn to cross-stitch. Start with a simple project like a bookmark or a border for a picture frame.

Intermediate: Learn about different fabrics to use for cross-stitching, and determine how many stitches per-inch you would like your project to contain. Cross-stitch a more advanced project like a pillowcase or seat cover.

Expert: Design your own template to cross-stitch for a large project, such as a comforter or wall hanging.

**While it's still a little early, we are brainstorming some new badge ideas for 2012.
What kind of new badges would you like to see?**

Here are a few of the ideas that we have received from you so far:

Wild Game Harvesting
Family Recipes, Traditions
Storing Food for Winter
Music
Basket Weaving

Post your ideas **here**. Thanks for your help! – Chelsea



MaryJane's Bare Burrito mix is October's bare essential necessity!

WHY is it that I have food for you all packed up and ready to go?

It's simple. I want you to have fast food that isn't junk. Organic on the go. Organic when you're tired after a long day. Organic when you're holed up in a motel room and your only option for dinner is a quickie mart. Organic when disaster strikes and your roads or basic services are shut down.



Organic for your teenagers when they need an instant dip for chips.

In just 5–7 minutes, you can have what it takes hours to prepare from scratch. You don't even have to dirty a bowl! You can pour boiling water directly into one of my pouches.

It's easy. It's fast.

Why, just when you need me most, I'm there for you!

And the next time your electricity goes out, my Bare Burrito mix will rehydrate with cold water if need be. (It'll just take a little longer.)

So go ahead. Get ready for whatever lies ahead by getting in a good supply of my best-selling Bare Burrito mix:

*Pinto Bean Flakes, Rice, *White Sharp Cheddar Cheese, *Tomatoes, *Sweet Corn, *Red Bell Peppers, *Onion, *Garlic, Sea Salt, *Herbs & *Spices, and Citric Acid. (*Certified Organic)



AVAILABLE IN:



Pouch
Cook

(shelf life 2 years)

DIY 3#
Bulk

(shelf life 2 years if stored
in airtight container in
cool, dry place)



Emergency 3#
Long-term
Storage

(shelf life 15 years)



Farmgirl
Sisterhood
SPECIAL

Sisters get

**20%
OFF**

all three
options

for the entire
month of October.

Just type in
your Sisterhood
number
on checkout.

CLICK HERE
to order.



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.





Exclusive for Sisters!

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



Merit Badge Awardees

Amanda Cortright, Mandymarie20 #2070

Beginner badge: Farmgirl Grammar / Each Other

Beginner badge: Green Energy / Cleaning Up

Intermediate badge: Green Energy / Cleaning Up

Amanda Henning, Mamahenning #2492

Beginner badge: Gaining Ground / Garden Gate

Amanda McGinnis, #2717

Beginner badge: Sew Wonderful / Stitching & Crafting

Beginner badge: Nellie Will-do / Stitching & Crafting

Beginner badge: Crochet / Stitching & Crafting

Angela Neikirk, #2043

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

Beginner badge: Backyard Farmer / Garden Gate

Intermediate badge: Backyard Farmer / Garden Gate

Expert badge: Backyard Farmer / Garden Gate

Anneke Penn, Annekepenn #3391

Beginner badge: Going Green / Cleaning Up

Beginner badge: Build It Green / Make It Easy

Beginner badge: Make It Pretty / Make It Easy

Beginner badge: Crochet / Stitching & Crafting

Beginner badge: The Secret Life of Bees Badge / Garden Gate

Barbara Roberts, Healthy Eating #2237

Beginner badge: Grow Where You're Planted / Garden Gate

Beginner badge: Dyeing for Color / Stitching & Crafting

Beginner badge: Knitting / Stitching & Crafting

Intermediate badge: Farmgirl Grammar / Each Other

Intermediate badge: Grow Where You're Planted / Garden Gate

Intermediate badge: Knitting / Stitching & Crafting

Bea Campbell, Quiltingbea #2575

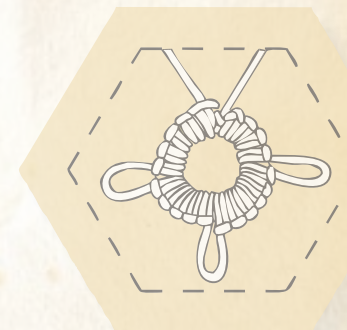
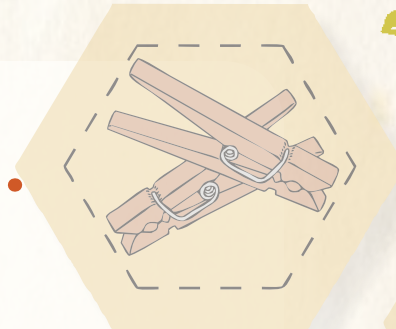
Beginner badge: First Aid / Outpost

Breanna Helgesen, Breanna #2507

Beginner badge: Buttoned Up / Stitching & Crafting

Intermediate badge: Horse Dreams / Garden Gate

Intermediate badge: Buttoned Up / Stitching & Crafting



“And in the end, it's not the years in your life that count. It's the life in your years.”

– Abraham Lincoln

Merit Badge Awardees

Candace Hostetter, Sweettea, #3135

Beginner badge: Shopping Green / Cleaning Up

Beginner badge: Knitting / Stitching & Crafting

Intermediate badge: Aprons / Stitching & Crafting

Carla Crawford, Chappieschick #3366

Beginner badge: Shopping Green / Cleaning Up

Carrie Meerwarth, Carrie M #147

Beginner badge: Icing on the Cake / Farm Kitchen

Beginner badge: Make It Pretty / Make It Easy

Beginner badge: Inkslinger / Stitching & Crafting

Beginner badge: Cross-Stitch / Stitching & Crafting

Beginner badge: Civic Heritage / Each Other

Intermediate badge: Icing on the Cake / Farm Kitchen

Intermediate badge: Make It Pretty / Make It Easy

Intermediate badge: Inkslinger / Stitching & Crafting

Intermediate badge: Cross-Stitch / Stitching & Crafting

Intermediate badge: Civic Heritage / Each Other

Expert badge: Icing on the Cake / Farm Kitchen

Expert badge: Inkslinger / Stitching & Crafting

Expert badge: Make It Pretty / Make It Easy

Expert badge: Civic Heritage / Each Other

Expert badge: Scrapbooking / Stitching & Crafting

Cathy Pyatt, Cottage farmgirl #2655

Beginner badge: Crochet / Stitching & Crafting

Intermediate badge: Crochet / Stitching & Crafting

CJ Armstrong, Ceejay48 #665

Beginner badge: Make It Pretty / Make It Easy

Beginner badge: Inkslinger / Stitching & Crafting

Intermediate badge: Civic Heritage / Each Other

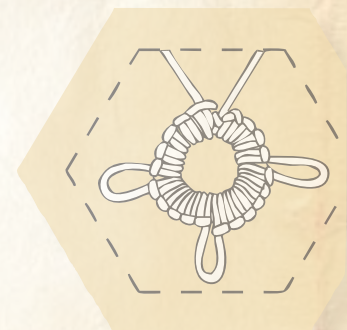
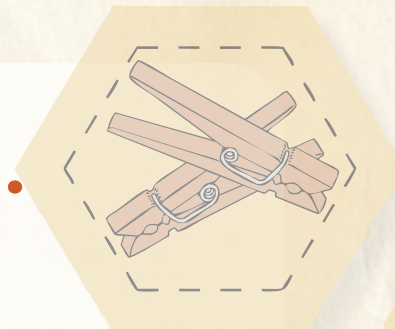
Intermediate badge: Icing on the Cake / Farm Kitchen

Intermediate badge: Inkslinger / Stitching & Crafting

Expert badge: Civic Heritage / Each Other

Expert badge: Cross-Stitch / Stitching & Crafting

Expert badge: Inkslinger / Stitching & Crafting



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Merit Badge Awardees

Dawn Mathews, Thethankfulgoat #3383

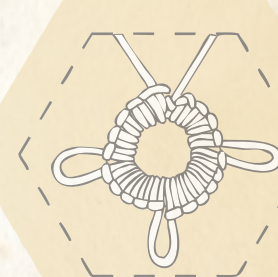
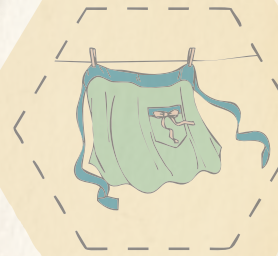
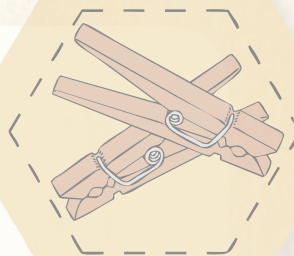
Beginner badge: Civic Heritage / Each Other
Beginner badge: Bee Good to Your Mother Earth / Garden Gate
Beginner badge: Sew Wonderful / Stitching & Crafting
Beginner badge: Outstepping / Outpost
Beginner badge: Buttoned Up / Stitching & Crafting
Beginner badge: Carp-hen-try / Make It Easy
Beginner badge: Let's Get Physical / Make It Easy
Beginner badge: Make It Pretty / Make It Easy
Beginner badge: "Out There" Women / Outpost
Beginner badge: Quilting / Stitching & Crafting
Beginner badge: Scrapbooking / Stitching & Crafting
Intermediate badge: Civic Heritage / Each Other
Intermediate badge: Bustin' Out / Farm Kitchen
Intermediate badge: Self Sufficiency / Farm Kitchen
Intermediate badge: Let's Get Physical / Make It Easy
Intermediate badge: Make It Pretty / Make It Easy
Intermediate badge: Quilting / Stitching & Crafting
Intermediate badge: Get It Together / Farm Kitchen
Intermediate badge: Unprocessed Kitchen / Farm Kitchen
Expert badge: Civic Heritage / Each Other
Expert badge: Let's Get Physical / Make It Easy
Expert badge: Make It Pretty / Make It Easy
Expert badge: Get It Together / Farm Kitchen

Debbie Hughes, Hughes77 #1223

Beginner badge: Going Green / Cleaning Up
Beginner badge: Little Squirts / Each Other
Beginner badge: Community Service / Each Other
Beginner badge: I Should Have Been in the Movies / Each Other
Beginner badge: Cross-stitch / Stitching & Crafting
Beginner badge: Farmgirl Grammar / Each Other

Diana Vermillion, Momofsome #2454

Beginner badge: Icing on the Cake / Farm Kitchen
Beginner badge: Make It Pretty / Make It Easy
Beginner badge: Ink Slinger / Stitching & Crafting
Beginner badge: Cross-Stitch / Stitching & Crafting
Beginner badge: 3 R's Rule (Reuse, Recycle, Revive!) / Garden Gate
Beginner badge: Plant It Forward / Each Other
Beginner badge: Connecting Growers and Eaters / Each Other
Intermediate badge: Icing on the Cake / Farm Kitchen



*“We make a living by what we get, we make
a life by what we give.”*

– Unknown

Merit Badge Awardees

Intermediate badge: Bustin' Out / Farm Kitchen
Expert badge: Buttoned Up / Stitching & Crafting

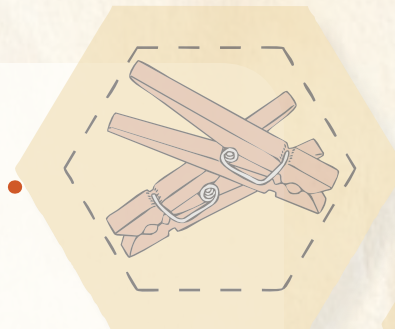
Donna Demaris, Alaska Donna #3186
Beginner badge: Community Service / Each Other

Eileen Eckhardt, Ellimae #3384
Beginner badge: Little Squirts / Each Other
Intermediate badge: Shopping Green / Cleaning Up

Emily Hack, Alterationsbyemily #2951
Beginner badge: Cross-Stitch / Stitching & Crafting
Beginner badge: Civic Heritage / Each Other
Beginner badge: Carp-hen-try / Make It Easy
Beginner badge: Icing on the Cake / Farm Kitchen
Beginner badge: Nellie Make-do / Stitching & Crafting
Beginner badge: Make It Pretty / Make It Easy
Beginner badge: The Secret Life of Bees Badge / Garden Gate
Intermediate badge: I Should Have Been in the Movies / Each Other
Intermediate badge: Self-Sufficiency / Farm Kitchen
Intermediate badge: Bustin' Out / Farm Kitchen
Intermediate badge: Icing on the Cake / Farm Kitchen
Intermediate badge: Going Green / Cleaning Up
Intermediate badge: Farmgirl Grammar / Each Other
Intermediate badge: Horse Dreams / Garden Gate
Expert badge: Aprons / Stitching & Crafting
Expert badge: Buttoned Up / Stitching & Crafting
Expert badge: Self-sufficiency / Farm Kitchen

Janet Ceaglske-Muhich, #3229
Beginner badge: Sew Wonderful / Stitching & Crafting

Janet Doran, Jan49829 #3340
Beginner badge: Plant It Forward / Each Other
Beginner badge: Let's Get Physical / Make It Easy
Beginner badge: Aprons / Stitching & Crafting
Intermediate badge: Aprons / Stitching & Crafting
Expert badge: Aprons / Stitching & Crafting



continued ...



Merit Badge Awardees

Jennifer Morales, Luckilady #3375

Beginner badge: Going Green / Cleaning Up

Beginner badge: Shopping Green / Cleaning Up

Intermediate badge: Shopping Green / Cleaning Up

Kristina Nelson, FieldsofThyme #800

Beginner badge: Inkslinger / Stitching & Crafting

Beginner badge: Grow Where You're Planted / Garden Gate

Beginner badge: Make It Pretty / Make It Easy

Beginner badge: Civic Heritage / Each Other

Intermediate badge: Cross-Stitch / Stitching & Crafting

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

Intermediate badge: Icing on the Cake / Farm Kitchen

Intermediate badge: Civic Heritage / Each Other

Intermediate badge: Stargazing Chicks / Outpost

Expert badge: Entrepreneurial Spirit / Each Other

Expert badge: Icing on the Cake / Farm Kitchen

Expert badge: Civic Heritage / Each Other

Kristi Groth, Kristi #3407

Beginner badge: Forage for Food / Farm Kitchen

Beginner badge: Grease Chicks / Make It Easy

Beginner badge: Get It Together / Farm Kitchen

Intermediate badge: Grease Chicks / Make It Easy

Intermediate badge: Shopping Green / Cleaning Up

Intermediate badge: Farm Kitchen / Get It Together

Expert badge: Grease Chicks / Make It Easy

Krystle Townsend, Countrymommy85 #2595

Beginner badge: Civic Heritage / Each Other

Intermediate badge: Civic Heritage / Each Other

Intermediate badge: Crochet / Stitching & Crafting

Expert badge: Civic Heritage / Each Other

Expert badge: Disconnect to Reconnect / Each Other

Laurie Conner, Montrose Girl #1587

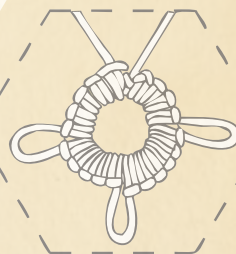
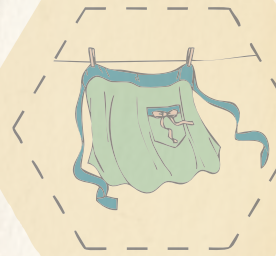
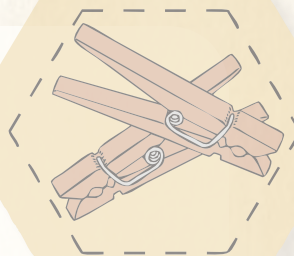
Beginner badge: Nellie Make-do / Stitching & Crafting

Marlene Cryar, Marlee #3127

Intermediate badge: The Secret Life of Bees / Garden Gate

Intermediate badge: Buttoned Up / Stitching & Crafting

Expert badge: The Secret Life of Bees / Garden Gate



“All our dreams can come true, if we have the courage to pursue them.”

– Og Mandino

Merit Badge Awardees

Mari-lyn Lobinsky, Lucylobo511, #2571

Beginner badge: Knitting / Stitching & Crafting

Mary Duffel, Madelena, #3153

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

Beginner badge: Knitting / Stitching & Crafting

Mary Johnson, Bag lady #2647

Beginner badge: Aprons / Stitching & Crafting

Beginner badge: Make It Pretty / Make It Easy

Intermediate badge: Aprons / Stitching & Crafting

Mistianne Guzman, Mirly #3262

Beginner badge: Shopping Green / Cleaning Up

Beginner badge: Backyard Farmer / Garden Gate

Beginner badge: Aprons / Stitching & Crafting

Beginner badge: Quilting / Stitching & Crafting

Beginner badge: Nellie Will-do / Stitching & Crafting

Beginner badge: Nellie Make-do / Stitching & Crafting

Intermediate badge: Aprons / Stitching & Crafting

Intermediate badge: Crochet / Stitching & Crafting

Intermediate badge: Nellie Will-do / Stitching & Crafting

Expert badge: Nellie Will-do / Stitching & Crafting

Nancy Witko, Annielaurel #2301

Beginner badge: Sew Wonderful / Stitching & Crafting

Intermediate: Sew Wonderful / Stitching & Crafting

Paula Black, Sheepless in Seattle #2953

Beginner badge: Cross-Stitch / Stitching & Crafting

Intermediate badge: Bustin' Out / Farm Kitchen

Peggy Smith, Forever Young #1815

Beginner badge: Scrapbooking / Stitching & Crafting

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

Beginner badge: Get It Together / Farm Kitchen

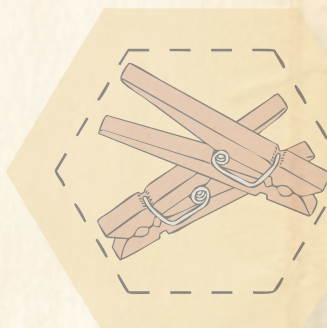
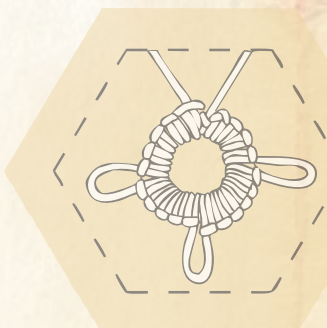
Beginner badge: Buttoned Up / Stitching & Crafting

Beginner badge: Inkslinger / Stitching & Crafting

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

Intermediate badge: Get It Together / Farm Kitchen

Expert badge: Get It Together / Farm Kitchen



continued ...

Merit Badge Awardees

Penny McGee, Acelady02, #3343

Beginner badge: Aprons / Stitching & Crafting

Beginner badge: Buttoned Up / Stitching & Crafting

Beginner badge: Sew Wonderful / Stitching & Crafting

Beginner badge: Cross-Stitch / Stitching & Crafting

Rain Klepper, Rain K #3381

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

Beginner badge: In the Garden / Make It Easy

Beginner badge: Get It Together / Farm Kitchen

Beginner badge: Knitting / Stitching & Crafting

Beginner badge: Self-sufficiency / Farm Kitchen

Beginner badge: Crochet / Stitching & Crafting

Intermediate badge: In the Garden / Make It Easy

Intermediate badge: Get It Together / Farm Kitchen

Intermediate badge: Knitting / Stitching & Crafting

Intermediate badge: Self-sufficiency / Farm Kitchen

Intermediate badge: Crochet / Stitching & Crafting

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

Expert badge: In the Garden / Make It Easy

Expert badge: Get It Together / Farm Kitchen

Expert badge: Self-sufficiency / Farm Kitchen

Expert badge: Knitting / Stitching & Crafting

Rebecca McGinnis, Sister Becky #2598

Beginner badge: Shopping Green / Cleaning Up

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

Beginner badge: The Secret Life of Bees / Garden Gate

Beginner badge: Farmgirl Gratitude / Each Other

Rebecca Whiting, Rwhiting #3405

Beginner badge: Farmgirl Grammar / Each Other

Robin Allen, #3373

Beginner badge: Sew Wonderful / Stitching & Crafting

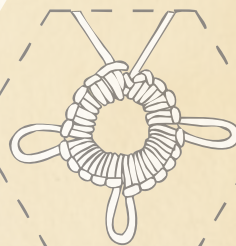
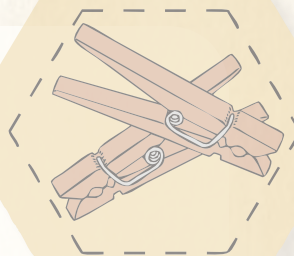
Beginner badge: Buttoned Up / Stitching & Crafting

Ruby Slider, Narjay #1663

Beginner badge: Tatting / Stitching & Crafting

Susan Miller, Smiller #3367

Beginner badge: Farmgirl Grammar / Each Other



“ A #2 pencil and a dream can take you anywhere. ”

– Joyce A. Myers

Merit Badge Awardees

Tamara Burger, GrammyTammy #2495

Beginner badge: What's Your Beef? / Garden Gate
Intermediate badge: Shopping Green / Cleaning Up
Intermediate badge: Farmgirl Spirit / Each Other
Intermediate badge: Quilting / Stitching & Crafting
Intermediate badge: Aprons / Stitching & Crafting
Expert badge: Shopping Green / Cleaning Up
Expert badge: Sew Wonderful / Stitching & Crafting

Tanya Murphy, Turtlemoon #1737

Beginner badge: BakeOver MakeOver / Farm Kitchen
Beginner badge: Forage for Food / Farm Kitchen
Beginner badge: Organic on a Budget / Farm Kitchen
Beginner badge: Let's Get Physical / Make It Easy
Intermediate badge: Let's Get Physical / Make It Easy
Expert badge: Let's Get Physical / Make It Easy

Tiffany Massie, Andwhathaveya #3468

Beginner badge: The Secret Life of Bees / Garden Gate
Beginner badge: Buttoned Up / Stitching & Crafting
Beginner badge: Shopping Green / Cleaning Up
Beginner badge: Little Squirts / Each Other
Intermediate badge: Buttoned Up / Stitching & Crafting

Tina Thompson, Teetee830 #3358

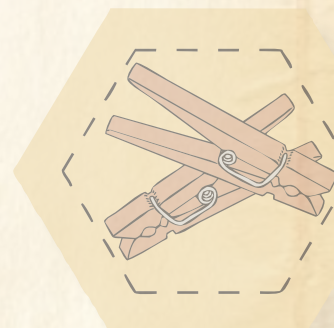
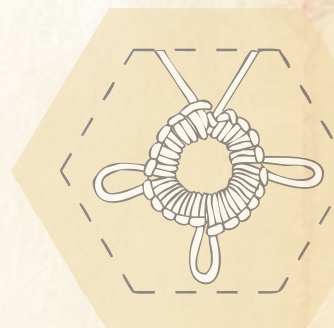
Beginner badge: Going Green / Cleaning up
Beginner badge: Get It Together / Farm Kitchen

Tracy Mooney, 3littlebrds #1766

Beginner badge: Nellie Will-do / Stitching & Crafting
Beginner badge: Going Green / Cleaning Up
Beginner badge: Shopping Green / Cleaning Up
Beginner badge: Self-sufficiency / Farm Kitchen
Intermediate badge: Going Green / Cleaning Up
Intermediate badge: Shopping Green / Cleaning Up

Valerie Oliver, Valgirl #2356

Beginner badge: Cross-Stitch / Stitching & Crafting
Expert badge: Community Service / Each Other





NEW Merit Badges for Young Cultivators!

ENERGIZE ME for Cleaning Up:

Beginner: Count the things in and around your house that rely on energy for use. Make a list of how your food is kept cold, how the car starts, and how you stay warm. Not only do cars and light bulbs need energy, you do too! What gives you energy and keeps you working?

Intermediate: Visit a dam or a wind farm with your mentoring Sister. Take a tour with a guide that can explain the way the power of water supplies electricity.

Expert: Conduct your own energy experiment at home. Some suggestions are: build a model of a dam, make a battery using lemons, or “bend” running water with static electricity. You can find instructions for many science projects at your local library or through the Department of Energy and the Environmental Protection Agency’s websites.

BIG KID NOW for Each Other:

Beginner: Research what you want to be when you grow up. Go to the library and pick out a book that explains what a day-in-the-life of that profession is like.

Intermediate: Dress up as what you want to be when you grow up and give a presentation to your family on what you learned and why it is the best job. (You can keep your costume for Halloween.)

Expert: Shadow a family member, friend, or person that works in the career path you want when you grow up. Hang out with them for a day or visit them with your mentoring Sister to see what they do. Can you see yourself doing their job? What is your favorite part about what they do?

MAKE IT FRUITY for Farm Kitchen:

Beginner: With your mentoring Sister, go berry picking at a local farm or CSA.

Intermediate: Find out how to preserve whole fruit by drying it. Look up ways to store it in airtight containers, and make room in a cool, dry, dark place for storing.

Expert: Make your own fruit leather.





Farmerettes & Young Cultivators

GREEN THUMB KIDS for Garden Gate:

Beginner: Try a fruit or vegetable that you would not normally eat. Talk with your mentoring Sister about why you do or don't like it. Identify your favorite fruit or vegetable.

Intermediate: Visit a local u-pick farm or a farmers' market. Look for your favorite fruit or vegetable. Discuss why it is or isn't there and why the organic version is better for you.

Expert: Plant your favorite fruit or vegetable in a garden or in a container (strawberries, peas, and spinach are all easy to grow). Learn how to take care of your plant organically. Your reward? Yummy, healthy vegetables!

PUT ME IN COACH! for Make It Easy:

Beginner: Cut out TV time by joining a sports team for a season or taking lessons in baseball, soccer, horseback riding, karate, bowling, or tennis.

Intermediate: Go to a game of your favorite sport (high school, college, or professional) with a parent. Discuss the discipline and practice that it takes to get to that level in your sport.

Expert: Continue with your sports team or lessons for a second season and get a friend to join or participate with you.

PARK PLACE for Outpost:

Beginner: Go to a local park and pick up a bag full of trash or weed any areas that need maintenance.

Intermediate: Identify 3–5 indigenous trees or plants in your park by both their common and Latin names.

Expert: Contact your local park service and ask where you could plant a tree in your area. (This would be great activity for Arbor Day or Earth Day.)

LITTLE SCRAPPERS for Stitching & Crafting:

Beginner: Take pictures on a family vacation or a day trip with parents or grandparents and print them out to scrapbook later.

Intermediate: Gather the materials for putting together a scrapbook (minimum of three pages), including your photos, markers, and paper. Include the favorite things you did on your family vacation or day trip.

Expert: Share your scrapbook with the people you went on your trip with. Teach a friend how to scrapbook.

Farmerettes & Young Cultivators

Merit Badge Awardees

Autumn Whiting, Young Cultivator of Rebecca Whiting #3405

Beginner badge: Trash Talk / Cleaning Up

Beginner badge: It's In the Bag / Cleaning Up

Beginner badge: It's Not Easy Being Green / Cleaning Up

Intermediate badge: It's Not Easy Being Green / Cleaning Up

Expert badge: It's Not Easy Being Green / Cleaning Up

Elizabata Wilber, Young Cultivator of Tammy Burger #2495

Beginner badge: Make It Fruity / Farm Kitchen

Intermediate badge: Make It Fruity / Farm Kitchen

Expert badge: Make It Fruity / Farm Kitchen

Evelyn Garard, Young Cultivator of Christine Garard #3133

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

Lily Garard, Young Cultivator of Christine Garard #3133

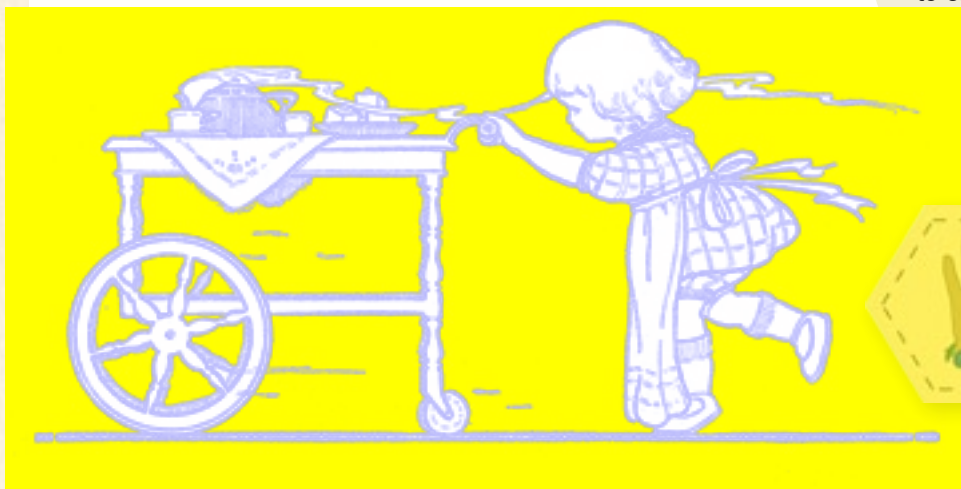
Intermediate badge: I Did It My Way / Make It Easy

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.**



Waa-Hoo!



Young Cultivators Group

Rebekka Boysen coordinates a Young Cultivators group and reports on their activities here and in future issues.

A Homemade Birthday

Honor your child's birthday with a homemade celebration. Though it's easy to buy prepackaged party supplies, I rely on what we have at home, along with a few extras, to create special parties for my little ones. Check out my Stitching and Crafting column this month and learn to make whimsical book banners that make wonderful decorations during the party and afterward in your child's room.

Here is a sketch of the kids' latest birthdays. I keep things *very simple* so that even Mama gets to enjoy the day! Each child spends lots of time talking about what the party will be like, and they pitch in to make decorations and snacks to share.

Bella's 8th Birthday

In the week leading up to Bella's party, we put together simple goodie bags and handmade invitations using blank white cards as our base. The party bags this year were paper lunch sacks that contained homemade mint lip balm, mint tea from Bella's garden, and stretchy beaded rings. We packaged them up in brown lunch bags with little pressed-paper bird decorations. The morning of the party, I picked up some fresh fruit and veggies from the farmers' market to slice up for snacks. At noon, we went to a shady park, where four little friends met us for the party. I tossed out a vintage quilt and filled baskets with drinks and snacks while the kids played. After an hour or so, we walked across the street to a frozen yogurt shop, where the girls made their own dessert. After our tummies were full, we headed back to the park for a few minutes of play before everyone was picked up at 2 by their parents. The rest of the day was spent with family talking about what year 8 might bring for our sweet girl.

Jack Turns 5

Jack shares his birthday with his buddy, Skylor. Because of our families' opposite schedules, the boys see each other just a few times a year, but so far we can count on birthdays spent together. Each year, we ask the boys if they want to share a party, and each year they say "Yes!" We rent out the art room of our community center, located in the beautiful old Moscow High School, now dubbed the 1912 Center. The low rental fee includes use of all the mugs, plates, and silverware we need, which keeps us from filling trash bags with used paper plates and cups. Since the boys have different sets of friends along with a few in common, we need a really big room. As Skylor's dad says "We live in small houses, and when we need a bigger living room, it is nice to rent this one." Skylor's mama and I bake dozens of cupcakes and muffins, bring carafes of tea and coffee, and spread out art supplies on long tables. The boys get a piñata and everyone laughs and plays for two hours.



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.'"

You may have noticed that our rural farmgirl has been on hiatus. Watch for her return next month.



Happy
AUTUMN

Magazines, Books, & More



Our Oct/Nov issue, "Imagine a Place," hit newsstands on Sept 13. In it, you'll "imagine a business" when you meet the women of Gooseberry Patch, imagine your dream farm, talk turkey, make your first quilt, assemble an emergency preparedness kit, and more.

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

If you have a subscription, you should have received your magazine by about Sept. 5. (Those of you near postal hubs get faster delivery; rural delivery takes a little longer.) If you didn'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 2012 Calendar

COMING SOON! Our 2012 Calendar will be available for purchase in November. 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:

- October 2 ~ World Farm Animals' Day
- October 3 ~ Child Health Day
- October 7 ~ Yom Kipper Begins (at sundown)
National Diversity Day
- October 8 ~ Yom Kippur Ends (at sundown)
- October 9 ~ National School Lunch Week begins
- October 10 ~ Columbus Day
- October 15 ~ Sweetest Day
- October 17 ~ National Cake Decorating Day
Bosses' Day
- October 23 ~ Mother-in-Law Day
- October 24 ~ United Nations' Day
- October 31 ~ Halloween

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 Fall. 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 1,309 Farmgirl Chapters have been started in all 50 states
and 8 countries with 3,532 Sisterhood members —
growing stronger every day!**