

# MaryJane's Cluck™

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

April 2012

Life made us FRIENDS, MaryJanesFarm made us SISTERS!

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## {HELLO FROM SISTER #1} with MaryJane

For this issue of the *Cluck*, I'd like to shine a light on all our new Sisters and Sisters who have renewed their memberships this past month. How do I love thee? Let me count the ways ...

*MaryJane* ♥

Adrienne Wilson	Deborah Heidel-Davis	Kathy Wood	Sharon Thebo
Alexis Vontobel	Deborah Labuda	Kristy Walters	Sherrilyn Askew
Alison Ojanen-Goldsmith	Deborah Matthews	Laila Sunday	Shirley Morlan
Amanda Claerhout	Debra Davis	Laraye Fisher	Silva Diaz
Andrea Furber	Debra Brodie	Laurie Bernbeck	Stefanie Bellano
Andrea Thebo	Diane Malk	Linda Langendorfer	Stephanie Leddon
Anita Kammerdiener	Dianne Seeley	Lisa Steele	Stephanie Schaefer
Anna Muschell	Donna Manner	Lori Korito	Stephanie Stipins
Autumn Day	Donna Stone	Loyce Krogel	Sue Sensenbaugh-Padgett
Barbara Holcomb	Elizabeth Bowling	Margaret Taffi	Susan Dahlem
Barbara Kravich	Elizabeth Leroy	Maria Day	Susan Partlow
Barbara Williams	Elizabeth McMellon	Marianne Houseman	Susan Price
Becky Rolf	Ellen Adams	Marilyn Keurajian	Susan Van Vlack
Breanna Helgesen	Emily Farmer	Marlene Young	Suzanne Steinhiser
Brittany McLaughlin	Faith Butler	Mary Gariepy	Suzy Gardner
Brynn Bate	Faith Dubois	Mary Pellegrino	Swanelle Fowler
Carol Ashley	Fillmay Cowell	Melissa Lang	Sylvia Ekdahl
Carol Farrell	Ginny Reeves	Melissa Osborn	Tabitha Higgins
Carol Lohrenz	Glenda Guidry	Melissa Whitacre	Tamara Bock
Carol-Sue McIlhargey	Glenda Murphy	Melissa Young	Tami Linamen
Christina Butterworth	Heather Robertson	Nancy Claeys	Tammy Beaver
Christine Cantin	Jackie Crockett-Ruholl	Nancy Diercks	Tammy Cummings
Christine Hoffman	Jaylene Huyett	Nancy Lockwood	Teresa Hoover
Christine Jones	Jeannine Barnes	Nancy Marshall	Teresa Julian
Christine Lally	Jennifer Garner	Nina Elliott	Teresa Renaud
Christine Zadlo	Jennifer Matthews	Pamela Bergmann	Terri Stanley
Claudia Gibson	JoAnn Mitchell	Peg Brewer	Theresa Plank
Claudia Ramsey	Judith Hovanec	Penelope Lujan	Tiffany Hausman
Connie Dean	Judy Janice	Phyllis Gentry	Toni Carringer
Cora Jo Ciampi	Julie Mesdag	Rachael Cain	Tosha West
Cortney Buchholz	Justine Thompson	Robin Armstrong Miller	Tracy Gilchrist
Cynthia Durbin	Karen Holderman	Robin Lynn Kendall	Tracy Roop
Dana Tornabene	Karen L. Bates	Roma Horton	Trisha Niswander
Danyelle King	Karen Spires	Romona Thieme	Trisha Sides
Darlene Richardson	Kathleen McIntyre Wiley	Roxanna Phelps	Victoria Montoya
Dawnia Sanborn	Kathleen Baughman	Sandi O'Connor	Virginia Higgins
Deanna Ellsworth	Kathleen Buchanan	Sandra K. Licher	Wendy Lally
Debbie Doughy	Kathy Beachy	Shannon Sumner	Wendy Lehne
Deborah Cornett	Kathy Ransom		





# Each *In the Shelter of Each Other* 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 5-year-old and 3-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).

## Easter Egg Fun

Hosting an Easter brunch this year? Planning to hide dozens of eggs for hunting? I am. And I plan on sending the majority of the hard-boiled eggs home with my guests.

I am coloring four dozen eggs for a hunt in our backyard, but my family can only eat so many hard-boiled eggs, so I’ve come up with a cute way to send plenty home with my guests when they leave.

Because everyone’s favorite way to eat an Easter egg is simple—with just salt and pepper—I’ve decided to make salt and pepper shakers for my guests to take home along with their many eggs.

Using 4-oz canning jars, you’ll also need a hammer, nail, and an old rag or washcloth (something soft so that you don’t hammer the nail into your table). I prefer to have less salt, so I hammered just one hole for the salt and two for the pepper.

If you’d like to cover the shakers with decorative fabric, you’ll need fabric and scissors. (The bottom of the 26-oz bulk salt container is the perfect size for measuring the fabric piece.)

Happy Easter. Happy egg eating!

*Meg*





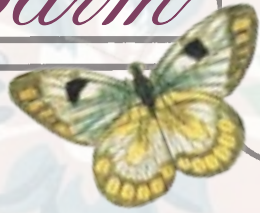


{EACH OTHER} with Megan Rae | to earn a Sisterhood badge in our {EACH OTHER} category, [CLICK HERE](#)

# MARYJANES FARM







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

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



Ashley Ogle (Sister #2222) was born and raised in northern Idaho, and has always had an intense interest in anything kitchen. Shortly after marrying MaryJane's son, Brian, at the historic one-room schoolhouse his grandfather attended, Brian and Ashley moved back to the farm and began renovating the 1890 farmhouse that both Brian and his grandmother grew up in. And in keeping with tradition, they've begun to raise a family in the same house—their daughter just turned 2.

Whether it was watching her mother cook while she was a baby or simply growing up learning that good food nurtures not just people, but relationships as well, cooking remains an important part of Ashley's life. Last year, she came to work at MaryJanesFarm as a recipe developer/food stylist, and now spends each day inventing and preparing the delicious food you see in our magazines and websites.

## Strawberry-Rhubarb Cake

All it takes is a glimpse of sunshine and the slightest smell of dirt in the air to get me excited about the prospect of spring. Before long, I am thinking about where we will plant everything in our garden, and craving all of the produce that it will yield. This ultimately leads to a craving for one of my favorite cakes. This is not just a cake, it was THE cake that I could always count on my Nanna having in her fridge as soon as her rhubarb came on. I'm not sure if I crave it because of the memories attached to it or simply because it is downright delicious. That being said, I have made some changes to the recipe over the years. Rather than a package of flavored gelatin, I use MaryJane's ChillOver Powder, and in lieu of boxed cake, I make my own from MaryJane's Budget Mix. This cake is most certainly a guilty pleasure, but I have made an effort to make it a little less guilty. Enjoy!

### STRAWBERRY-RHUBARB CAKE

PREP TIME: 30 MINUTES PLUS 5 HOURS CHILLING

COOK TIME: 35 MINUTES

MAKES: 18 SERVINGS

#### Fruit Filling

3 cups halved and sliced strawberries  
2 cups 1/2"-thick rhubarb slices  
3/4 cup sugar, divided  
1 1/4 t MaryJane's ChillOver Powder  
2 cups mini marshmallows (try Dandies vegan gelatin-free marshmallows ([www.welovesoy.com/](http://www.welovesoy.com/) dandies\_vegan\_marshmallows))

#### Cake

3/4 cup butter, softened  
3/4 cup sugar  
2 eggs  
1 t vanilla  
2 cups MaryJanes's Budget Mix  
1 cup whole milk

1. Preheat oven to 375°F. Lightly butter a 9" x 13" cake pan.
2. In a medium bowl, combine strawberries and rhubarb. In a small bowl, mix together sugar and ChillOver Powder. Pour sugar mixture over the strawberries and rhubarb and stir to combine.
3. Pour fruit mixture into the bottom of the cake pan and scatter the marshmallows over the top.
4. To prepare the cake batter, beat sugar and butter together in a medium bowl or stand mixer, occasionally scraping the bowl. Add eggs, one at a time, mixing well after each addition. Mix in vanilla.
5. Alternate adding Budget Mix and milk, beginning and ending with Budget Mix.
6. Pour cake batter over the fruit and marshmallows. Bake at 375°F for 35 minutes, or until a toothpick inserted into the center comes out clean.
7. Let the cake cool on a wire rack for about 2 hours, and then place in the refrigerator and cool for an additional 3 hours. Serve with vanilla bean ice cream.





## Featured Recipe







# Garden

Bloom Where You're Planted

# Gate

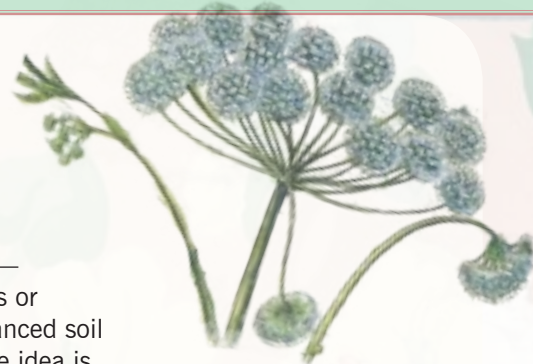


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**{GARDEN GATE}** with MaryJanesFarm | to earn a Sisterhood badge in our **{GARDEN GATE}** category, [CLICK HERE](#)



## Grow Your Garden Green



It's getting to be that time again, isn't it? Suddenly, gardening is no longer a far-off winter fantasy. It's here, it's now. Time to get growing! As you know, I am a firm believer in growing anything—and everything—organically. No synthetic pesticides or fertilizers. Organic farming is all about creating balanced soil that supports good bugs, worms, and microbes. The idea is that healthy soil leads to healthy, productive plants. And healthier plants produce the best food imaginable.

### Fertilizer Facts

So, what's wrong with synthetic fertilizers? There are a couple of different ways in which chemical growth-boosters do more harm than good. First of all, they often contain ammonium and unbalanced levels of other minerals, all of which are toxic to beneficial soil organisms. Such fertilizers also tend to leach away and pollute water systems.

What's more, synthetic mixes leave out nutrients and trace elements that plants need for optimal growth. High levels of nitrogen and low levels of trace minerals force fast growth that results in weak plants. Ultimately, the weak structure of the synthetically fertilized plant and the imbalance of the soil invite no-good insects and disease.

A fertilizer is supposed to enrich the soil and, in turn, stimulate plant growth. Organic fertilizers mimic natural fertilizers (like decaying vegetation). These fertilizers release nutrients more slowly, so plants won't suddenly grow like gangbusters and weaken in the process. Since organic fertilizers provide food for soil organisms that recycle and hold nutrients, plants grow steadily and produce fruits and veggies that are more naturally resistant to pests.

### Nurture Your Garden Naturally

A simple way to fertilize organically is to gather up grass clippings from an unsprayed lawn and scatter them in a layer about one-inch thick throughout your garden. Allow clippings to dry before adding more layers. In addition to feeding the soil as it decomposes, the grass will prevent weed growth and help preserve moisture within the soil.

Another option in "green" fertilizing is a concoction called manure tea. It's liquid fertilizer at its finest, guaranteed to delight your garden. You can buy ready-to-brew manure "tea bags" from Haven Natural Brew ([www.ahavenbrand.com](http://www.ahavenbrand.com)), but if you're a frugal do-it-yourselfer, you can easily brew your own. Here's how ...





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# MARYJANESFARM

## Fertilizer Tea Recipe

### Ingredients:

- 3 to 4 gallons of composted manure. If you don't have your own supply, you can buy organic composted manure like Sup'r Green Chicken Manure ([www.stutzman-environmental.com](http://www.stutzman-environmental.com)).
- 30-gallon garbage can
- Pillowcase
- Rake or broom
- Water

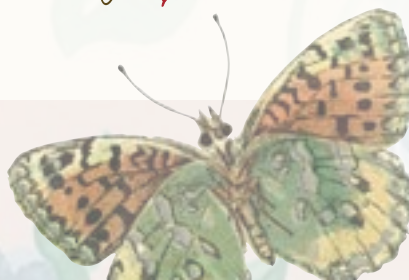
### Directions:

1. Place compost in the pillowcase.
2. Tie the pillowcase to a rake or broom handle, and lay the handle across the mouth of the 30-gallon trash can so that the pillowcase hangs inside. Fill the can with water.
3. Let it sit for seven days. When the water is a dark brown color, your "tea" is finished.
4. Pour a cup of compost tea around the base of your plants every two weeks and put the leftover manure from your pillowcase "tea bag" into your compost heap or spread it around the base of a tree.

Note: When you're shopping for any kind of fertilizer or soil amendment, make sure to read the labels carefully. In the realm of fertilizers, there are more and more companies claiming their fertilizer is organic, but they contain ingredients like urea and bio-solids that are prohibited from use in organic farming. If an organic farmer were to use a fertilizer claiming to be organic and found out later it wasn't, their certification for organic food would be jeopardized. That's why organic farmers read labels carefully, but gardeners should also read fertilizer labels. To assure you're getting a product suitable for organic production, look for labels that list approval by the Organic Materials Review Institute (OMRI) or National Organic Program (NOP).



MaryJane 







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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.

## *Make a baby shower from scratch ... and enjoy it!*

I am planning a baby shower this month, and it has me reflecting on past showers I have thrown and attended. Overall, my friends and I know how to throw pretty good parties on a shoestring. Here are a few of our secrets:

1. Don't throw the shower at your house. Hosting the party at home means that you have to clean it before and after. There are cafés and restaurants that will provide a lovely atmosphere so long as you order a few pots of coffee and tea. For my friend's baby shower, I am decorating and another gal is making delicious vanilla cupcakes that the café will let us bring along (we *do* tip well).
2. Decorations should be simple. Tear fabric into strips and use those as ribbons tied around vases or jars filled with fresh flowers. Pair fabric strips with crepe paper to make streamers and tie bows around napkins in place of rings. Make a banner by cutting an old children's book into pendants and stitching them together on a long fabric strip along with some rickrack. This is a nice keepsake for baby's room after the shower.
3. Once the party starts, enjoy yourself! It is not necessary to have lots of planned activities. Some of the mamas I know ask for a meal delivery once the baby arrives instead of a gift. Picking nights on a calendar at the shower is a nice alternative to the baby-food eating game.







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



# MARYJANESFARM





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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.

## Baby Shoe Pinkeeps

Vintage baby shoes aren't too hard to find at secondhand shops, and they're even easier to find online (eBay). There are all kinds of fun things you can do with them to make them decorative. This idea turns old leather baby shoes into kitchy little pinkeeps that are cute and useful. Darling gift idea!



### You'll need:

- old leather baby shoes
- off-white and brown acrylic paint
- sponge
- spray varnish
- hot glue and gun
- vintage-style paper tags
- various ribbons and trim items
- old buttons
- yo-yos
- fabric
- grain (rice, barley, etc.)
- poly-fil stuffing
- needle and thread
- rubber bands







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

# MARYJANESFARM

1. Lightly sponge off-white acrylic paint on the shoes to age them a little. Let dry. Then do the same (very lightly) with just a hint of brown. When the shoes are dry, lightly spritz them with acrylic varnish and let it dry.

2. Pour grain into the front of the shoe and finish stuffing with poly-fil, leaving enough space to place the cushion puff into the top of the shoe. Use a fist-size piece of poly-fil to make a round cushion. Cut about a 6" square of fabric and make a cushion, draw the corners together tightly, and wrap a rubber band tightly around the ends. Poke it down into the shoe.

3. Decide what kind of ribbon or rick-rack to use to make shoestrings and lace the shoe, tying at the end. Secure the cushion so it's snug. Hot-glue accent trim items into place: yo-yos, buttons, bows, stamped tags, silk flowers, vintage jewelry ... all kinds of vintage "littles."

“  
**Sewing  
forever,  
housework  
whenever.**”

— Author Unknown







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

## DIY: Herbal Salves

Salves are such a simple, effective, and useful medicine! They can easily be slipped into a purse, pocket, or first-aid kit. Although semi-solid at room temperature, salves soften once applied to the skin, making them less messy to use than oils.

They also make great gifts and are an easy and approachable way to introduce newbies to the medicinal properties of herbs. Plus, salves can be crafted for a wide variety of topical uses, including arthritis, bruises, cuts, rashes, inflammation, insect bites and stings, sores, sprains, strains, wounds, and other skin irritations and conditions. The addition of beeswax offers additional benefits, including protective, soothing, emollient, nourishing, and healing properties.



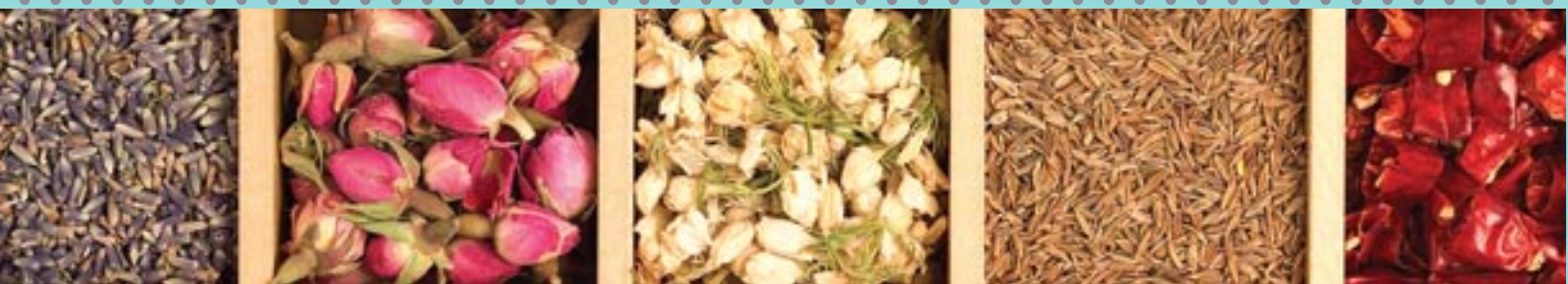
### Part 1: Make Herbal Infused Oil

To make salve, first craft your herbal infused oil(s). This will take several weeks, but once finished, the rest of the salve-making process will only take minutes! You can also purchase pre-infused herbal oils if needed or if you wish to skip the process of infusing the oil.

**Solar Method:** When making your own herbal infused oils, we prefer the solar infused method. Fill a glass jar 1/4 full of dried botanical, and then cover with extra virgin olive oil (or other carrier oil of choice with a stable shelf life), leaving at least 1–2" of oil above the herbs to allow the herbs to swell. Generally, 4 oz of herbs are used for each 1–2 cups of oil, but this depends upon the herb used. Dense materials, such as roots and barks, will absorb far less than fluffy materials, such as flowers and leaves. Place jar in a sunny window and shake once or twice per day. Allow the oil to infuse for at least 4–6 weeks, or until the oil takes on the color and scent of the herb. Once that the oil is ready, strain using cheesecloth, and bottle into amber bottles for storage. Make sure to squeeze as much oil as possible from the herbs and cheesecloth so that you do not waste any precious oil. Herbal oils will keep for approximately a year if stored properly in a dark and cool place. Vitamin E oil may also be added to prolong the shelf life.

**Stovetop Method:** Another way to infuse oils, which is sometimes necessary when herbal oils need to be created in a pinch, is the double boiler or crock-pot method. Much care needs to be taken when creating herbal oils this way because you do not want to deep-fry your herbs! Place herbs in crock-pot, double boiler, or electric yogurt maker, and cover with extra virgin olive oil (or other oil of choice), leaving at least an inch of oil above the herbs. You will use approximately 1–2 oz of dry herbs to each cup of oil. Gently heat the herbs over very low heat (preferably between 100–140 degrees F) for 1–5 hours until the oil takes on the color and scent of





the herb. Some texts recommend heating the oil 48–72 hours at a controlled temperature of 100 degrees F. Turn off heat and allow to cool. Once that the oil is ready, strain using cheesecloth, and bottle into amber bottles for storage.

## Part 2: Turn That Oil Into Salve!

- 8 oz herbal infused oil(s) of your choice. Choose one or a combination.
- 1 oz beeswax (use carnauba wax for a vegan salve)
- 10 drops vitamin E oil (optional)
- 10–20 drops essential oil of choice (optional). Some essential oils commonly used are: lavender, chamomile, tea tree, or myrrh.
- glass jars or tin containers

Place herbal infused oil(s) and beeswax over a double boiler, and gently warm over low heat until the beeswax melts. Remove from heat and add the essential oil and vitamin E oil (if using). Quickly pour into prepared tins or glass jars and allow to cool completely. Salves should be stored in a cool location where they will remain semi-solid and will not continue to re-melt and re-solidify. If stored correctly, salves will last for 1–3 years. Yields 8 oz.

### Note:

The consistency of salves can easily be adjusted, depending on your preferences. Use less beeswax for a softer salve and more beeswax if you'd prefer a firmer salve. You can test the consistency by placing a few spoons in the freezer before making your salve. When the beeswax melts, pour a little salve onto one of the cold spoons and place it back into the freezer for 1–2 minutes. Once cooled, you can make adjustments by adding more oil (for a softer salve) or more beeswax (for a firmer salve).

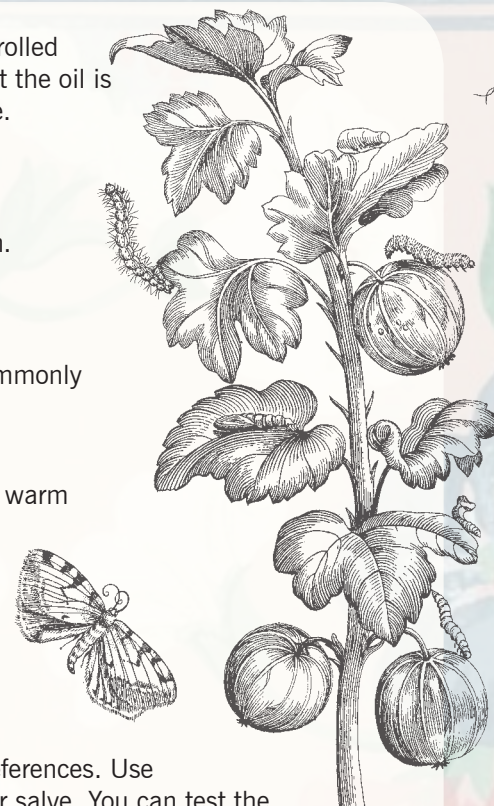
### Herbs for Salve

You can make salve with a singular herb or multiple herbs, depending on your needs. It's useful to make a variety of herbal infused oils so that you can easily craft salve whenever you need it!

**Arnica flowers:** Can help treat physical trauma, bruises, bunions, strains, sprains, some kinds of arthritis, and muscle pain. Use immediately after strenuous exertion or injury to prevent, relieve, and reduce swelling, bruises and pain.

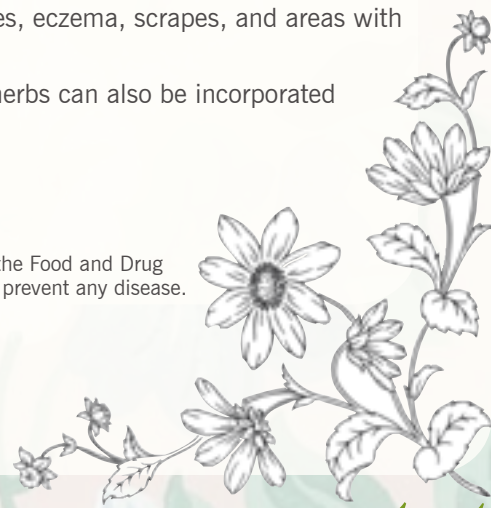
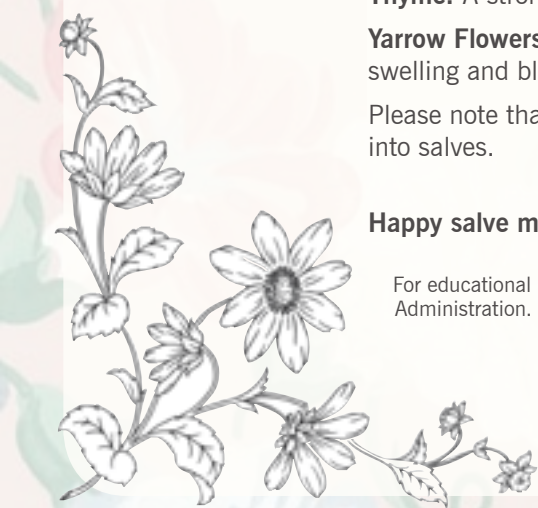
**Burdock root:** For treating psoriasis, eczema, and skin infections.

**Calendula flowers:** Wonderfully healing with all-around healing properties useful for a wide variety of skin irritations and conditions including wounds, insect bites, rashes, scrapes, abrasions, cuts, inflammations, and much more. Suitable for sensitive skin and babies. **Cayenne Pepper:** Warming, good for arthritis and sore muscles, alleviates pain and itching.



continued ...





## continued ...

**Chamomile flowers:** Hemorrhoids, minor abrasions, cuts, scrapes, and wounds.

**Chickweed:** Soothing, helps with skin conditions including psoriasis, eczema, minor burns, rashes, and other skin irritations.

**Comfrey leaf and/or root:** Relieves pain, swelling, promotes the growth of muscle, cartilage, and bone. Assists with healing a wide variety of conditions including sprains, eczema, dermatitis, viral skin infections, broken bones, arthritis, wounds, and bruises.

**Echinacea herb and/or root:** Antibacterial, beneficial for sores, wounds, insect bites and stings.

**Ginger root:** Warming, use for arthritis and sore muscles.

**Goldenseal leaf and/or root:** Antibacterial and anti-inflammatory properties, useful for treating wounds and skin conditions.

**Lavender flowers:** Soothing, calming, relieves hemorrhoids, pain, has healing properties beneficial for wounds and numerous skin conditions.

**Myrrh Gum powder:** Antiseptic properties, used for cuts, scrapes, scratches, and abrasions.

**Nettle leaf:** Anti-inflammatory, an effective treatment for many skin conditions.

**Oregon Grape root:** Skin disinfectant, antibacterial, anti-microbial, helps heal wounds.

**Plantain leaf:** Antibacterial, antimicrobial, anti-inflammatory, and antitoxic properties. Helps speed the recovery process, prevents infection, relieves and soothes insect bites and stings, pain, poison ivy, itching, rashes, sores, bruises, blisters, and damaged skin.

**St. John's Wort:** Craft the deep red-colored oil from fresh flowers. Anti-inflammatory and astringent properties. Beneficial for wounds, cuts, bruises, swelling, varicose veins, insect bites and stings, nerve damage, scrapes, rashes, burns, and pain.

**Thyme:** A strong antiseptic used for cuts, scrapes, and sore muscles.

**Yarrow Flowers:** Apply to bruises, sprains, wounds, cuts, rashes, eczema, scrapes, and areas with swelling and bleeding.

Please note that this is only a partial list, many other healing herbs can also be incorporated into salves.

### Happy salve making!

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# MARYJANES FARM







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



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

## Buttercups & Babies

In our world, the change of seasons is marked by wind. The strongest gusts blow in early April. Spring winds here can turn a log chain into a wind chime. As relieved as I am to see ice and snow finally surrender, you'd think I'd be more grateful to the slayer of winter. I meet the wind often in passing and agree to be civil, that's the best I can do.

Calving season and wind season are one and the same. Most days that we ride during calving are windy. And, on the rolling plains, there is no place out of the wind. This phase of spring is hard to like. The earth looks worn out by winter, dirty, ragged, brittle, and matted. Then, the wind drives the point home with an uninvited exclamation point.

Here is one of my springtime coping tactics. Early in the morning, I sneak up on a little peace of mind. I have to get up before the wind does. It is then that I go hunting for the first pleasant signs of spring ... shiny little buttercups that grow so close to the ground that the wind can't mess with their mood. Sometimes they must push up through a frosting of snow, but that doesn't seem to bother them. They offer their sunny little faces no matter what. Their attitude is just what I need as I prepare for calving season. I start walk laps down our road to get "legged up." Baby calves can make an appearance about any time now. And there are always a few surprises, even though early April is the official target time.



I need to get our annual calving checklist in order. Bottles, vet supplies, infant supplements, saddles and tack, slickers, and a herd of other details. I enjoy our unique version of the onset of spring. It is a mix of anticipation, unsettled weather, intense sunshine and clouds tumbling over each other in the wind. It's buttercups and babies and the meadowlark singing the first song of spring.







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](#)

## Spring Cleaning

Can you feel it? The here-at-last glimmer of spring is tickling my senses—the bright sunshine, the balmy breezes, the cheerful crocuses raising their lovely heads. Yes, a new season is on its way, and few of us can resist our deep-seated urges to prepare for it.

In the same instinctive way that winter warns us to gather up and hunker down, spring now implores us to shed all the cozy clutter we've clung to for months. It's time to throw open the windows and beat the dust from our rugs!



Spring cleaning is a ritual to be embraced rather than dreaded. I look at it as an opportunity to start fresh, and I promise you there's nothing like spiffin' up your nest to make you feel revived.

Better yet, using an "old school" approach to spring cleaning makes it even more satisfying. The simplest tools and techniques give you a genuine sense of neat 'n' tidy that none of the disposable doodads on the market today can match. Why buy sticky sweeper pads that are designed to be used up, thrown away and bought again when a trusty cotton dust mop will keep on cleaning for years to come?

Other more traditional housecleaning tools include lambs-wool dusters, metal dustpans, corn brooms, wire rug beaters and broomcorn cobweb sweeps. (Look for these online at [www.lehmans.com](http://www.lehmans.com).) The neat thing about these tools is that when you're not using them, they can actually add a touch of rustic decor to your home, so you don't have to hide 'em like their garish, plastic counterparts.

A more modern, but equally eco-friendly, alternative to using roll after roll of paper towels is the microfiber cleaning cloth. Used wet or dry, the microscopic fibers of these nifty little towels reach into tiny crevices of surfaces that appear smooth, and scoop out the hidden dirt and bacteria. When they're used up, just wash and dry them, and use them again.

Here's to spring ... and spring cleaning!







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



Farmgirl up your broom with my oh-so-cute broom aprons. Find instructions in my *Ideabook* (<http://www.maryjanesfarm.org/booksandgifts.asp>)







# The Scoop

MaryJanesFarm News

## The Scoop from MaryJanesFarm

### Indexes Available!

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

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

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

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

**[TIP]** Use the seach/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](mailto:megan@maryjanesfarm.org). Megan is going to start a calendar to keep Sisters up-to-date on upcoming gatherings. (See p. 23 for upcoming events.)

If you're a Sisterhood member, **click here** to download a FREE Farmgirls on the Loose logo!

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

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





# APRIL

Farmgirl Sisterhood Specials

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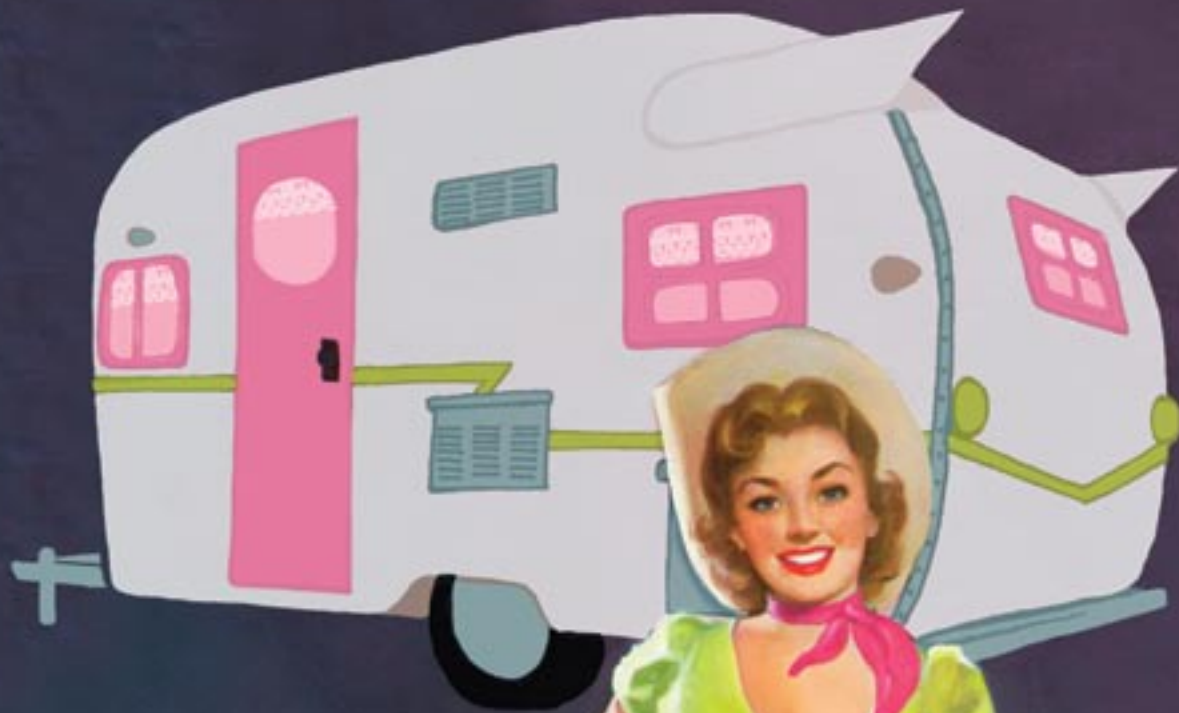
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# NATIONAL • glamping WEEKEND

June 2-3  
2012

[www.nationalglampingweekend.com](http://www.nationalglampingweekend.com)



# Come Glamp with Me



If you've read my books and magazines, you know I pioneered the concept of "glamping"—the juxtaposition of rugged and really pretty, grit and glam, diesel and absolutely darling. Much to my delight, the term has caught on in the national media and is widely used to add a touch of girly-glam to the traditional camping experience. And why *not* bring along your frilly pillows, a feather bed, your favorite fancy food, and more? Forget practical; you're building your fantasy "fort." Find the fantastic—pack props, rugs, vases, antique enamelware. Think candles, lanterns, and fragrant oil lamps, in addition to dining by the light of a campfire or a full moon. Now think girlfriends ... who better to "get" your glamping style than a gaggle of like-minded glamping gals?

When Kampercatt (Zoe from Wisconsin) wrote on our **Farmgirl Connection chatroom**,  
"Are there any plans for the Farmgirls on the Loose getting together this year in 2012? ..."

... that got me to thinking—why not designate a "National Glamping Weekend" for farmgirls far and wide? *Voila!* June 2–3, 2012, and every year hereafter on the first weekend of June. Then, we could host a regional round-up for those of you who could meet up with us in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, and also host a website where faraway farmgirls could list Glamping Weekend events in other regions. *Voila!* Meet my new **"National Glamping Weekend" website!** Gather up your glampin' galfriends and make a plan, visit the website, and post your glamping gathering. While you're there, send for your FREE glamper-girl bumper sticker, read about glamping in the news, and visit other glamping websites and blogs. And on the first weekend of June, whether you're parked in your own backyard or deep in the woods, you'll know that like-minded gals across the U.S. will be bringing a touch of glam to their farmgirl grit, just like you!

Find these events on our **National Glamping Weekend** website:

## Farmgirls on the Loose 2012

- When: June 1–3, 2012 • Where: Coeur d'Alene, Idaho

## The 4th Annual 'Unofficial' Sisters on the Fly Spokane Gathering

- When: June 1–3, 2012
- Where: Riverside State Park, Spokane, Washington

## The Vintage Faire

- When: April 28, 2012, 9:00 am–5:00 pm
- Where: Okanogan County Fairgrounds, 175 Rodeo Trail Road, Okanogan, WA

## Glamper Girls

- When: May 4–6, 2012 • Where: Marianna, Florida

## Chic Roadtrip

- When: May 25–June 4, 2012
- Where: Portland, Oregon to Jackson, Ohio

## 1st Annual Glamping Weekend in Alabama

- When: June 1–3, 2012
- Where: Lake Guntersville, Alabama

## Loyal Order of the Glamper (midwest)

- When: June 1–3, 2012
- Where: Wionna Lake in Warsaw, Indiana

## Loyal Order of the Glamper (midwest)

- When: June 1–3, 2012
- Where: Lake Shabona State Park, Illinois

## Loyal Order of the Glamper (northwest)

- When: June 1–3, 2012 • Where: Northwest Oregon at LL Stub Stewart State Park

## Loyal Order of the Glamper:

### Volunteer Organizers Needed

- When: June 1–3, 2012
- Where: The Northeast, Southwest and Southeast U.S. regions

## Gorgeous Girls Glampout

- When: June 1–3, 2012
- Where: Halls Gap, Victoria, Australia

## 1st Girl Camp Open Invitational

- When: July 6–8, 2012
- Where: Girl Camp, Elk River, Idaho

## Farmgirls on the Loose, 3rd Annual

- When: October 12–14, 2012
- Where: Bedias, Texas

Find more chatter about events this summer and join in the discussion on our chatroom **here**.



## Farmgirl Chatter

What are farmgirls chatting about?

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

.....

### A Farm of My Own: Living IN the barn ... you know, with the animals? Submitted by [whokilledmaxine](#)

I've been trying to convince my boyf that adding living quarters to a barn upstairs would be a fabulous experience. Certainly, I haven't given this the most thorough of thinking-through, and can imagine the cons, but it seems like it might be a good step toward simplifying in the future as we start to plan our initial "settling down." In my fantasy, it's not some massive barn—just enough for a couple of horses and a few miscellaneous livestock. I've done a little research and I know insuring it can be weird, as can trying to sell it one day. But I really want to hear if anyone actually DOES it? I'm so curious! Find out [here](#).

### Across the Fence: One of the MJF hens in the news! Submitted by [Alee](#)

Congrats, TJ! I am so excited at the progress you are making with your passions!

Backyard Chicken Farmers Win Round at City Council

Chicken fanciers won a partial victory at a meeting of the Billings City Council Monday night.

The council first voted to delay for 30 days a vote on a change to city codes that would have made the ban on backyard chickens more explicit. Chicken proponents have proposed an ordinance that would limit people to six chickens, hens only, with no roosters allowed. Click [here](#) to read more.

### Barnyard Buddies: Very fancy nests! Submitted by [oldbittyhen](#)

Every year, I save up all of the leftover pieces of string, thread, yarn, and ribbon from my different projects, along with some baling twine that I unravel, small pieces of batting, dog hair, rabbit hair, and cat hair. I have one of those metal, 3-tier hanging baskets in a tree just off my front porch, and I fill each basket with all the goodies, then sit back and watch all the birds pull out what they fancy and go add it to their nests ... it looks really neat to have all the different-colored nests in the trees and eaves. Share your thoughts [here!](#)

### Barnyard Buddies: Two Alligators, Submitted by [Bear5](#)

We thought there were no more alligators in the lake. But last week, I saw two of them. Tomorrow, we are getting in the boat to go out to the islands in the middle of the lake. We'll set poles with chicken parts hanging on a line with a hook. Hopefully, we can catch the alligators before they catch my four outside cats. See photos [here!](#)

### Barnyard Buddies: Blood in my eggs. Submitted by [meggy2](#)

I have been getting quite a few eggs with blood in them. They are from different hens. What could be wrong? Give advice [here](#).

### Barnyard Buddies: My Baby Chicks! Submitted by [sonshine4u](#)

I have been wanting chickens FOREVER! We have now had them for 6 days and they are doing so well! We ordered 25 chicks from WELP in IA and they arrived healthy and happy. We are currently keeping them in our garage in our homemade warming box. We have Plymouth Barred Rocks, New Hampshire Reds, and Ameracaunas. I can't believe how fast they are growing. Their little feathers are coming in and they're standing taller and prouder! :) Too much fun! Click [here to see more](#).





### **Cleaning Up: Vinegar instead of Roundup, Submitted by DeborahLee**

I came across this on Facebook and thought I would share ... I had just talked with my landlord about the weeds poking through the pavement. She wanted to have the lawn service folks zap them with chemicals, and I suggested that there might be a more natural way. These weeds are stubborn; simply pulling them up does no good since they just grow back. It's a bit amazing that the container plants that I nurture, water, and even talk with routinely die under the heavy July Mississippi sun, but these unloved weeds hang onto life year-round! Find the secret ingredient by clicking [here](#).

### **Family Matters: Sisterhood, Submitted by Simple Living**

There is a lot to be said about our "Farmgirl Sisterhood." I have only been here for a couple of months, and have made lasting friends in this short time. It's funny, you may have sisters or brothers in your family, but when life gets tough to handle, who actually comes thru and gives you all the support and love you need? OUR SISTERHOOD! There is such support here for any situation. No judging here on who you are or what you do. We need to appreciate each other in our everyday lives as we do here on our forums. To our Farmgirl Sisterhood all over the world! Add your thoughts [here](#)!

### **Garden Gate: Clematis growers—need your help!! Submitted by FebruaryViolet**

Last year, I posted a clematis question, and you ladies were so helpful (I asked why one of my plants was doing better than the other; the suggestion was to move it to a similar location, and voila! It's growing like mad!)

This go-round, I have a question about brown dead leaves and stems. The new growth comes off of some of these, but not all. If I remove the brown dead stuff, will I harm the plant and the new growth? Is there a time I'm supposed to do this or not do this at all? It looks sort of ... yuck. And I can't recall if I've ever seen any other clematis with the dead stuff as well as the brand new growth and flowers. Help [here](#).

### **Garden Gate: Blueberries too tart. Submitted by Amie C.**

I planted two highbush blueberries in my yard a few years ago. I fell in love with Michael Weishan's book, *The New Traditional Garden*, and he recommended substituting fruit bushes for useless ornamentals in a small yard. They always have berries, but the berries are more tart than sweet. I moved them last year to get more sun, but it didn't fix the problem. Now I'm wondering if it might be the ph balance. I admit I did not get the soil tested before planting them. It's a very long and clunky process at our county extension. The original site where I planted them was a spot where I had just removed evergreens, so I thought that would take care of it. Anybody know whether ph would cause otherwise healthy bushes to produce sour berries? And can I add something now to increase the acidity, or did I miss my chance? Share your experiences [here](#).

### **Farmgirl Fashion: Altered dress, Submitted by fiddlegirl89**

A while back, I found this dress that I loved at the thrift store. Only problem was, it didn't exactly fit my style ... spaghetti straps and a good six inches shorter than I'm comfortable with. I had ideas for altering it for me, and just now got around to it today. I don't like the shirt thing that I put on top, so I'm trying to find something I like better. This was just a really old denim shirt of mine that had stains on the lower part, so I cut it off short, hemmed it, and added a little red lace. I was trying to find some sort of bolero pattern online, but didn't have much luck. I'm knitting one now that might match ok. I have a couple sleeveless dresses that I want to wear a bolero with. Oh, and I also tacked up the straps a couple inches ... it was waaaay low for me! :) With the bottom of the dress, I just added 6 or 7 inches of lightweight denim. I wanted the fullness of the dress to continue, but didn't want gathers, so I added pleats. I do really like how that part turned out. I got fullness with the lines of the dress being smooth. I hemmed it with a fancy stitch that looks scalloped, but you can't really see it unless you're on the ground looking for it! Share your tricks [here](#).



**Girl Gab** Have you seen the wondrous array of content and heartfelt sharing on [girlgab.com](http://girlgab.com)? Updated every day at 3 p.m. PST, so you can count on fresh content every day of the week. Farmgirl Sisters are amazing. Come read our personal blogs, all in one place now.



**MaryJanesFarm**  
Gabbers & Gushers

MaryJane Butters  
Raising Jane  
Farmgirl

Rebekah Teal  
City Farmgirl

Alexandra Wilson  
Rural Farmgirl

Nicole Christensen  
Suburban Farmgirl

Shery Jespersen  
Ranch Farmgirl

Cathi Belcher  
Mountain Farmgirl

Debbie Bosworth  
Beach Farmgirl



Posted on OakRose Mama by Christine Jones, Sister #4010

## Who's Gabbing and Who's Gushing

apart from me

Posted on March 28, 2012 by Amy Dingmann, Sister #1086

As homeschoolers, it's natural for us to occasionally question how we are doing what we are doing...and why we're even doing it in the first place. These are the big questions. The ones that set you back. Disrupt the rhythm of how you do what you do. Suck the meaning out of why you're doing it all.

It all started with our annual Peabody test. (We're in a state that requires annual testing for homeschoolers.) I was interested to see how we'd done and if we'd progressed in our learning from the previous test, seeing as how most of this school year saw our family focused on finding the farm, buying the farm, and moving into the farm ... [Read more](#)

## Keepin' Tabs

Posted on March 28, 2012 by Amy Dingmann, Sister #1086

Over this past weekend, I was banned from doing any work around the house. Even though I maintain that Moms can't really get sick, I ended up with part of the same crud my kids had spent the week before with. The problem was Farm Man Extraordinaire was home, knew I was sick (despite my best acting skills), and put the smack down on any Mama Work that day.

You can stay in bed, lay on the couch, or even sit at the table, he said. But that's all you're going to do. Just sit.

Gosh. He's so bossy sometimes ... [Read more](#)



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## GirlGab.com Blogs

- Alice Hinasian, Sister #12  
Alice's Wonderful Life
- Alisha Grivas, Sister #3338  
No Red Upstick
- Amanda Childress, Sister #1390  
My Little Country
- Amber Conger, Sister #3912  
Refinery Industrial Revelations
- Amy Dingmann, Sister #1086  
A Farmish Kind of Life
- Amy Dingmann, Sister #1086  
The Hmmm ... schooling Mom
- Amy Malone, Sister #2744  
Crafting by Candlelight
- Amy Marquardt, Sister #3706  
Far North Farmgirls
- Amy Marquardt, Sister #3706  
Marquardt Health Coaching
- Andrea Furbur, Sister #4010  
Things I get to do today
- Angela Cressant, Sister #2808  
Lazy Jo Ranch
- Ashley Montague, Sister #3466  
My French Religion
- Ray Woodyard, Sister #2613  
Honey Pie Hives and Herbals





## Black and White Truck

Posted on March 28, 2012 by Candy Conrad, Sister #977



This old truck sits in the cow pasture where we walk in the mornings. Linking up with Heidi for Black And White Wednesday and Kent for Wordless Wednesday ... [Read more](#)

## Honey's Calf ...

Posted on March 28, 2012 by Christina O'neal, Sister #1847



Well, we had a surprise this morning when we got to the barn to begin chores.

Honey had a little bull calf last night. He is doing great walking around and very hungry ... [Read more](#)

## NEW Blog Banner !

Posted on March 28, 2012 by Debbie Busworth, Sister #1199



Now I've gone and done it. I just couldn't help myself! It was last spring around this time that Karen Valentine created my beautiful blog design for me but I was itching for something different and I wanted to make it myself! Don't get me wrong, I love my "old" banner but sometimes a girl needs a change! I used [Picasa](#) ( an online photo storage and editing website ) for creating the collage and adding the frames and text. It was pretty simple and fun! ... [Read more](#)

## Green Cleaning Giveaway and The Country Homemaker Hop Week 14

Posted on March 28, 2012 by Dolly Sarrio, Sister #3883

Heidi from My Simple Country Living has a wonderful Homemaker Hop and I link along with her to see all of the fabulous ideas.

So come on and join the fun! Post your ideas, recipes, makeovers, Homemaker stories with us! ... [Read more](#)

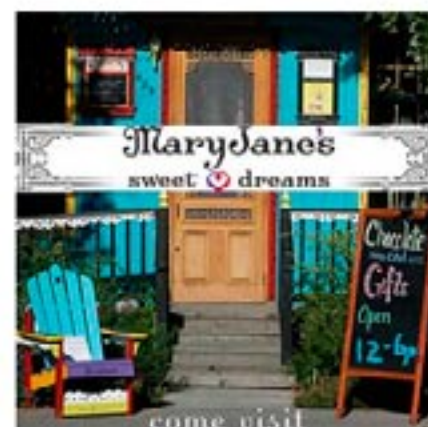
## taking time

Posted on March 28, 2012 by Elaine Tolson, Sister #45



I try to be practical. I want to be practical. Gas prices seem to force me to be practical. I choose to stay home as much as I can and I'm happy with that. It's so important for me though to spend some quality time with my kids and yet I do struggle with the 'getting away'. I really appreciate my mr. who is willing to jump in and take over my 'chores' when I'm gone ... which includes milking the goat.

He never complains. I've been needing some time with my girl. I don't think that we've gotten away, just the two of us, since she was 11. We planned a short get-away to do some of the things that we enjoy the most: yarn shops, fabric shops, tee and 2nd hand stores. We also love book stores. [I read her a children's book from one of our favorite authors] :) That's it. That's really all we did ... [Read more](#)





## NEW Merit Badges for Farmgirl Sisters!

.....

### **WATER CONSERVATION** for Cleaning Up:

**Beginner:** Check all taps in your house for leaks and fix any you find.

Research and make a list of simple ways to conserve water, like taking shorter showers or collecting in a pail the water wasted before it's hot or turning off the faucet while you're brushing your teeth. Measure the volume amount of water saved in one week.

**Intermediate:** Research the concept of gray water, how to collect it and what you can use it for. (Find simple ways to reuse water in our Simple Solutions from the "Attitude of Gratitude" Oct/Nov 2010 issue of MaryJanesFarm magazine.) Devise a rain barrel system to collect rainwater to use for your garden or to wash your car.

**Expert:** Calculate your household's water usage for an entire month.

Over the next few weeks following, lower your household's monthly water usage by at least 10%.

### **BLOGGING** for Each Other:

**Beginner:** Read *Blogging for Bliss: Crafting Your Own Online Journal: A Guide for Crafters, Artists & Creatives of all Kinds* by Tara Frey. Choose your topic. Pick something you are passionate about.

**Intermediate:** Start your blog. Find a blogging host that works for you, or host your own.

Pick out a name, and publish your first post. Don't forget to add your blog to MaryJanesFarm's GirlGab.com.

**Expert:** Learn how to add pictures and customize your blog. Publish at least 10 posts along with photos.

Network! Create a blogging circle by visiting other blogs, writing comments, and leaving your blog's address so they can visit you, also. Remember, building a blog and finding readers takes time. Be patient and have fun.

### **GREATEST GENERATION** for Each Other:

**Beginner:** Spend time with your elders. Visit a retirement home, your local senior center, or a neighbor or family member. Spend at least 10 hours playing games, listening to music, or simply keeping good company.

**Intermediate:** Continue to spend time with your new friend. Volunteer to help organize old photographs, or to record their favorite memories or experiences. If possible, cook them a favorite meal or family recipe. The time requirement for this badge is an additional 20 hours.

**Expert:** Continue to spend an additional 40 hours in the company of your elders.

Share your experience with your local Farmgirl Chapter. If you don't belong to a local Farmgirl Chapter, share your experience with the farmgirls on the chatroom.





## RECIPES for Farm Kitchen:

**Beginner:** Gather your family's favorite and well-loved recipes. Talk to your grandparents, parents, and aunts and uncles. If any are not written down, write them down now!

**Intermediate:** Create a recipe box or book to keep all your heirloom recipes safe. Make three more to give to other family members.

**Expert:** Host a family gathering featuring all your newly organized recipes.

## BIRDS for Garden Gate:

**Beginner:** Research birds native to your area. Make a bird "wish list" of birds you'd like to observe in the wild.

**Intermediate:** Build a bird house, bath, or feeder for your yard or garden. Watch and identify the kind of birds it attracts, recording your observations. Observe the type of bird, the time of year, time of day, and the bird's behavior.

**Expert:** Go on a bird watching expedition. Identify at least 10 different species of birds and record your observations. If you are able, try to photograph each one.

## MUSIC for Make It Easy:

**Beginner:** Learn about three of the basic elements of music: rhythm, melody, and harmony. Listen to three songs from three different genres of music and identify the elements in each.

**Intermediate:** Research one classical composer and one musician from the last 100 years. Compare and contrast each, identifying the similarities and the differences between their music. Share what you have learned with your Farmgirl Chapter, or with the farmgirls on the chatroom.

**Expert:** Learn to play an instrument, or choose an instrument to research and attend a concert or recital featuring that instrument. Join a local choir, or support your local singers by attending at least two open mic nights or choir concerts in your town.

continued ...



# Farmgirl Sisterhood News

## ... continued

### ROCKS AND MINERALS for Outpost:

**Beginner:** Research the difference between rocks and minerals.

Learn about the characteristics of minerals and identify the three types of rocks. Research the ways rocks and minerals are used in our everyday life.

**Intermediate:** Find a museum near you that has a rock, mineral, or gemstone display. See how many you can identify. If there isn't a museum near you, find pictures of rocks and minerals online and create your own display to share with your Farmgirl Chapter or family.

**Expert:** Become a rockhound! Collect at least 10 different rocks or minerals. Identify if each is either rock or mineral, and write your observations down. Keep an eye out for fossils or gemstones.

### FISHING for Outpost:

**Beginner:** Learn how to tie the following knots commonly used in fishing: clinch, Palomar, turle, barrel knot, and double surgeons loop.

**Intermediate:** Obtain a copy of the fishing regulations near you. Check out your state's Department of Fish & Game website. Familiarize yourself with the types of fish in your area, and how each are caught. Research the different types of bait used to catch fish in your area.

**Expert:** Buy a fishing license and gear up. Catch a fish! Or two!  
If your area's regulations permit you to keep it, clean and cook it.

### WILDGAME for Outpost:

**Beginner:** Research different types of wild game. Research safe handling of wild game meats. Research the laws in your area concerning wild game. A good place to start is your state's Department of Fish & Game website.

**Intermediate:** Successfully complete a hunter safety program. Go hunting with someone who has a license. Make your own jerky or sausage.

**Expert:** Buy a hunting license and go hunting. Follow proper care in the field while dressing. Process your game or visit a local processor to learn about the following: importance of temperature control, aging cutting, the location of various cuts, and curing and smoking.  
Use as much of the animal as possible for culinary purposes and otherwise.



## **BASKETRY** for Stitching & Crafting:

**Beginner:** Take a class or research the four types of basket weaving: plaited, coiled, ribbed, and wicker. Start with a simple pattern and weave your first basket. Spend at least three hours on this badge.

**Intermediate:** Take some time to research Native American basket weaving. With your next basket, take a step up and weave a basket with a handle. A minimum of 10 hours is required for this badge.

**Expert:** Start and finish a basket of expert level. Create a gift basket for a friend, using one of your homemade baskets. A minimum of 20 hours is required for this badge.

## **QUILLING** for Stitching & Crafting:

**Beginner:** Quilling has been around for hundreds of years. Research quilling and the materials used. Start by becoming familiar with the different shapes, coils, and scrolls used in quilling. Create a small design to put in a picture frame or on a card for a friend.

**Intermediate:** Start and finish an intermediate level quilling project. This project should take minimum of three hours.

**Expert:** Start and finish a project of expert level using three-dimensional quilling. For this merit badge, you need a time investment of at least 5 hours.





## 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 sooooo short. The charm looks small to me on the website, so when I saw it, I was like, this is the perfect size!

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

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

Sincerely,  
Veronica Laviolette





## Merit Badge Awardees

### Amy Marquardt, amarquardt #3706

Beginner badge: Crochet / Stitching & Crafting

### Ann Socolofsky, #3673

Beginner badge: Greatest Generation / Each Other

### April Choate, sonshine4u #658

Beginner badge: Shopping Green / Cleaning Up

Beginner badge: Going Green / Cleaning Up

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

Beginner badge: Farmgirl Spirit / Each Other

Beginner badge: Know Your Food / Farm Kitchen

Beginner badge: Get It Together / Farm Kitchen

Beginner badge: Backyard Farmer / Garden Gate

Beginner badge: Heirlooms Forever! / Garden Gate

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

Beginner badge: Horse Dreams / Garden Gate

Intermediate badge: Get It Together / Farm Kitchen

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

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

Expert badge: Shopping Green / Cleaning Up

### Autumn Day, autumn\_day #3964

Beginner badge: Music / Make It Easy

Beginner badge: Shopping Green / Cleaning Up

Beginner badge: Buttoned Up / Stitching & Crafting

Beginner badge: Farmgirl Shutterbugs / Each Other

Beginner badge: Birds / Garden Gate

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

Intermediate badge: Shopping Green / Cleaning Up

### Barbara Roberts, healthy eating #2237

Beginner badge: Scrapbooking / Stitching & Crafting

Beginner badge: Quilting / Stitching & Crafting

Beginner badge: Each Other / Farmgirl Spirit

Intermediate badge: Quilting / Stitching & Crafting

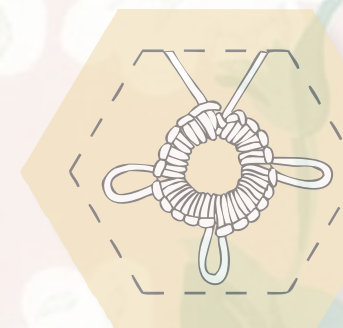
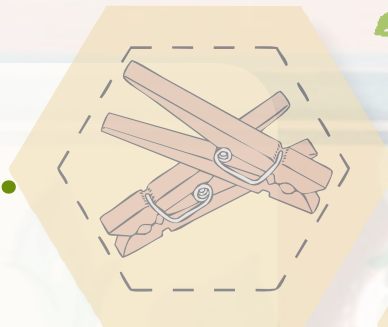
Intermediate badge: Farmgirl Spirit / Each Other

Expert badge: Farmgirl Spirit / Each Other

### Bea Campbell, quiltingbea #2575

Beginner badge: Embroidery / Stitching & Crafting

Intermediate badge: Embroidery / Stitching & Crafting





*“ It was one of those April days when the sun shines hot and the wind blows cold: when it is summer in the light, and winter in the shade. ”*

– Charles Dickens

## Merit Badge Awardees

### **Carrie Meerwarth, carrie m #147**

Beginner badge: Birds / Garden Gate

Beginner badge: Recipes / Farm Kitchen

Intermediate badge: Birds / Garden Gate

Intermediate badge: Recipes / Farm Kitchen

Expert badge: Birds / Garden Gate

Expert badge: Recipes / Farm Kitchen

### **Christin Davis, jeepgirl68 #3778**

Beginner badge: Going Green / Cleaning Up

### **Christine Clark, christyc #2737**

Beginner badge: Get It Together / Farm Kitchen

Beginner badge: Horse Dreams / Garden Gate

Beginner badge: Birds / Garden Gate

### **Christine Johnson, miss kitty #3760**

Beginner badge: Shopping Green / Cleaning Up

Beginner badge: Get It Together / Farm Kitchen

Beginner badge: Gaining Ground / Garden Gate

Beginner badge: First Aid / Outpost

Beginner badge: Buttoned Up / Stitching & Crafting

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

Beginner badge: Bustin' Out / Farm Kitchen

Intermediate badge: Get It Together / Farm Kitchen

Intermediate badge: Shopping Green / Cleaning Up

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

Expert badge: Get It Together / Farm Kitchen

### **Christine Jones, oakrosemama #4010**

Beginner badge: Backyard Farmer / Garden Gate

### **Dawn Perry, windswept #2493**

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

Beginner badge: Quilting / Stitching & Crafting

Beginner badge: Forage for Food / Farm Kitchen

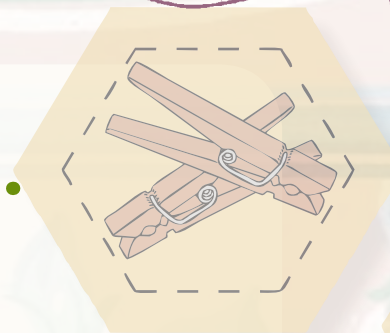
Intermediate badge: What's Your Beef? / Garden Gate

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

### **Debbie Bosworth, dandelionhouse #1199**

Beginner badge: Get It Together / Farm Kitchen

Beginner badge: Blogging / Each Other



continued ...





## Merit Badge Awardees

Intermediate badge: Blogging / Each Other  
Expert badge: Blogging / Each Other

### **Debbie Main, debbies journey #798**

Beginner badge: Farmgirl Gratitude / Each Other

### **Dena Sawka, denabeans #2989**

Beginner badge: Aprons / Stitching & Crafting  
Beginner badge: Buttoned Up / Stitching & Crafting  
Intermediate badge: Buttoned Up / Stitching & Crafting  
Expert badge: Buttoned Up / Stitching & Crafting

### **Denise Meister, denisemgm #1976**

Beginner badge: Community Service / Each Other  
Beginner badge: Lend a Hand to Farm Families / Each Other  
Beginner badge: Blogging / Each Other

### **Diane Kasperzak, didi #3657**

Beginner badge: Knitting / Stitching & Crafting  
Intermediate badge: Knitting / Stitching & Crafting

### **Elizabeth Guerrero, etguerrero #3709**

Intermediate badge: Blogging / Each Other  
Intermediate badge: Let's Get Physical / Make It Easy  
Expert badge: Blogging / Each Other

### **Evelyn Dalton, ejanedalton #3694**

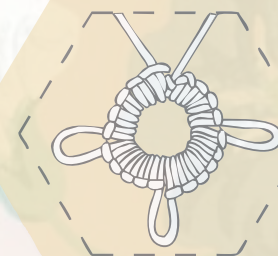
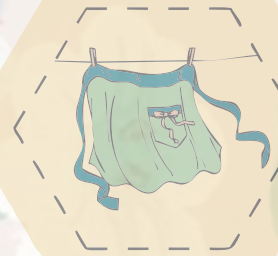
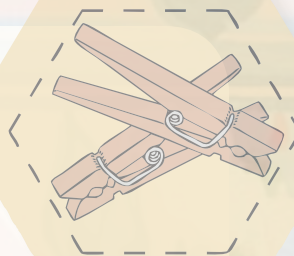
Beginner badge: Buttoned Up / Stitching & Crafting  
Beginner badge: Entrepreneurial Spirit / Each Other

### **Heather Corbet, missheatherlynn #3925**

Beginner badge: Cleaning Up / Shopping Green  
Beginner badge: Buttoned Up / Stitching & Crafting  
Intermediate badge: Buttoned Up / Stitching & Crafting  
Expert badge: Buttoned Up / Stitching & Crafting

### **Heidi Gonzales, whitewolfsummitfarmgirl #3844**

Beginner badge: Shopping Green / Cleaning Up  
Beginner badge: Blogging / Each Other  
Intermediate badge: Blogging / Each Other  
Expert badge: Blogging / Each Other





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

– Doug Larson

## Merit Badge Awardees

### Jennifer Venable, bayou girl #3803

Beginner badge: Going Green / Cleaning Up

Intermediate badge: Shopping Green / Cleaning Up

Intermediate badge: Going Green / Cleaning Up

### Jo Ann Mitchell, joianm #2379

Beginner badge: Shopping Green / Cleaning Up

Beginner badge: Disconnect to Reconnect / Outpost

Beginner badge: Unprocessed Kitchen / Farm Kitchen

Beginner badge: Knitting / Stitching & Crafting

Intermediate badge: Knitting / Stitching & Crafting

### Joan Nordquist, simple living #3842

Beginner badge: Recipes / Farm Kitchen

Beginner badge: Greatest Generation / Each Other

Beginner badge: Bustin' Out / Farm Kitchen

### Justine Thompson, jthomp #2904

Beginner badge: Going Green / Cleaning Up

Intermediate badge: The Secret Life of Bees / Garden Gate

Intermediate badge: Going Green / Cleaning Up

### Kristen Brockmeyer, hepkiten #3858

Beginner badge: Farmgirl Gratitude / Each Other

Beginner badge: Embroidery / Stitching & Crafting

### Kristina Nelson, fieldsofthyme #800

Beginner badge: Organic on a Budget / Farm Kitchen

Intermediate badge: Organic on a Budget / Farm Kitchen

Expert badge: Sew Wonderful / Stitching & Crafting

### Laurie Conner, montrose girl #1587

Beginner badge: Music / Make It Easy

Intermediate badge: The Secret life of Bees / Garden Gate

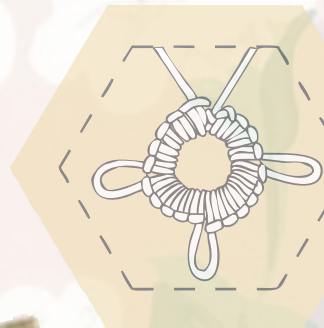
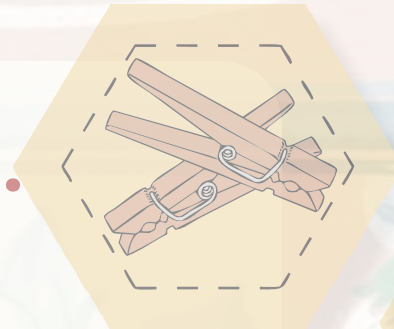
Intermediate badge: Music / Make It Easy

Expert badge: Music / Make It Easy

### Linda Mericle, bakermom #2064

Expert badge: Aprons / Stitching & Crafting

continued ...





## Merit Badge Awardees

### **Lisa Birkner, lisa marie #1196**

Beginner badge: Know Your Roots / Each Other

Beginner badge: Recipes / Farm Kitchen

Intermediate badge: Shopping Green / Cleaning Up

### **Lois Gray, #1271**

Beginner badge: Water Conservation / Cleaning Up

Beginner badge: Greatest Generation / Each Other

Beginner badge: Self-sufficiency / Farm Kitchen

Intermediate badge: Greatest Generation / Each Other

Intermediate badge: Self-sufficiency / Farm Kitchen

Expert badge: Greatest Generation / Each Other

Expert badge: Self-sufficiency / Farm Kitchen

### **Lorraine Morris, tea lady #1819**

Beginner badge: Farmgirl Gratitude / Each Other

### **Loyce Krogel, traildancer #896**

Beginner badge: Music / Make It Easy

Beginner badge: Greatest Generation / Each Other

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

### **Makayla McCausey, farmerette of Renee McCausey #845**

Beginner badge: Crochet / Stitching & Crafting

### **Maria Day, #3965**

Beginner badge: Birds / Garden Gate

Beginner badge: Buttoned Up / Stitching & Crafting

### **Mary Duffel, madelena #4153**

Beginner badge: Farmgirl Gratitude / Each Other

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

Beginner badge: Know Your Roots / Each Other

Intermediate badge: Know Your Roots / Each Other

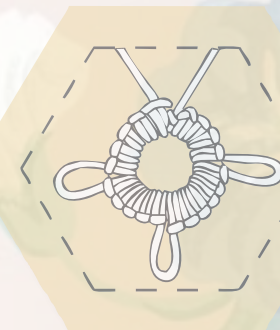
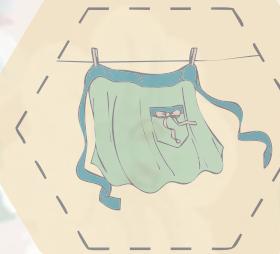
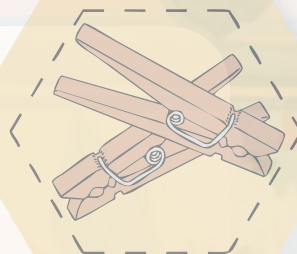
### **Megan Corwin, mcorwin #3285**

Beginner badge: The Secret Life of Bees / Garden Gate

### **Melissa Warner-Talcott, melissa warner-talcott #3555**

Beginner badge: Forage for Food / Farm Kitchen

Beginner badge: Backyard Farmer / Garden Gate





“Creativity is allowing yourself to make mistakes.  
Art is knowing which ones to keep.”

– Scott Adams

## Merit Badge Awardees

### **Nancy Witko, annielareul #2301**

Beginner badge: Farmgirl Gratitude / Each Other

### **Patty Byrd, thebyrdhaus #1840**

Beginner badge: Backyard Farmer / Garden Gate

Beginner badge: Water Conservation / Cleaning Up

### **Paula Black, sheepless in seattle #2953**

Intermediate badge: The Secret Life of Bees / Garden Gate

### **Paula Ricketts, sister ricketts #3354**

Beginner badge: Grease Chicks / Make It Easy

Intermediate badge: Grease Chicks / Make It Easy

Expert badge: Grease Chicks / Make It Easy

### **Peggy Smith, forever young #1815**

Beginner badge: Greatest Generation / Each Other

Beginner badge: Recipes / Farm Kitchen

Intermediate badge: Know Your Roots / Each Other

Intermediate badge: Greatest Generation / Each Other

### **Penny McGee, acelady02 #3343**

Beginner badge: Knitting / Stitching & Crafting

### **Ruby Slider, narjay #1663**

Beginner badge: Make It Pretty / Make It Easy

Beginner badge: Know Your Roots / Each Other

### **Sarah Houlihan, houligan19 #3828**

Beginner badge: Grease Chicks / Make It Easy

Beginner badge: Safe Toys / Stitching & Crafting

Beginner badge: Scrapbooking / Stitching & Crafting

Beginner badge: Blogging / Each Other

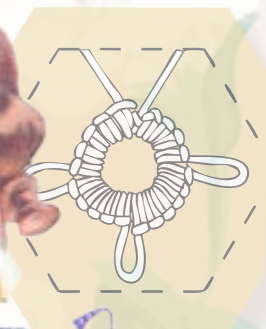
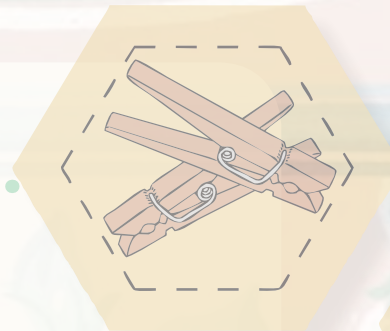
Intermediate badge: Grease Chicks / Make It Easy

Intermediate badge: Blogging / Each Other

### **Stacy Keely, stacy k. #896**

Beginner badge: Self-sufficiency / Farm Kitchen

Beginner badge: Get It Together / Farm Kitchen







## NEW Merit Badges for Young Cultivators!

### WATER CONSERVATION for Cleaning Up:

**Beginner:** Talk to your family and think of ways that you (as a family) can save water. Make a plan to lower your family's water usage.

**Intermediate:** Keep track of everything you do to save water for three weeks.

**Expert:** At the end of three weeks, give a report on water conservation to your family, a school or homeschool club, a local Farmgirl Chapter, or a Young Cultivators group. Continue to conserve water.

### COMMUNITY SERVICE for Each Other:

**Beginner:** Spend time with your elders. Visit a retirement home, your local senior center, or a neighbor or family member.

**Intermediate:** Visit your local food bank or meal center. Help organize or serve food.

**Expert:** Help out at a fundraiser in your community. Or, host your own and donate the proceeds to charity.

### ICING ON THE CAKE for Farm Kitchen:

**Beginner:** Think of fun ways to decorate a cake, like with nuts or dried fruit.

**Intermediate:** With your Sisterhood mentor or parent, bake a cake from scratch.

**Expert:** Decorate the cake. If you can, take a picture of the finished product before it's eaten.

### GET BUGGY for Garden Gate:

**Beginner:** There are way more insects doing good things for us than insects "bugging" us. Create an insect journal and make a list of some of the ways that insects help.

**Intermediate:** Go out to your yard or garden and observe all the insects you see. Look on flowers, under rocks, and on trees. Write down your observations in your journal.

**Expert:** Identify the insects you saw. You can use the Internet, ask your mentoring sister or an adult, or look them up in a field guide or encyclopedia. In your journal, make sure to keep track of what you learn.





# Farmerettes & Young Cultivators

## MUSIC for Make It Easy:

**Beginner:** Listen to three different songs. Try to identify the different instruments that you hear in each. If you are older, learn about three of the basic elements of music: rhythm, melody, and harmony. Try to identify each element in the songs you listen to.

**Intermediate:** Hand-make an instrument, like a guitar or tambourine, and learn to play it. Hold a concert for your family with your new instrument.

**Expert:** Go to a concert or recital with your Sisterhood mentor, parent, or other family member. Afterward, discuss the types of music you heard. What was your favorite song? Why?

## ROCK OUT for Out There Kids:

**Beginner:** Throughout your day, keep an eye out for the different ways that rocks and minerals are used in everyday life. Make a list of how they are used in your home.

**Intermediate:** Go on a rock hunt! Collect at least 5 different rocks. What makes each rock different?

**Expert:** Create a display for your new collection and invite family members or friends to view it.

## TOYS for Stitching & Crafting:

**Beginner:** Talk to your parents or grandparents about what kinds of toys they played with when they were little. How were toys different then from toys now?

**Intermediate:** Make your own paper dolls or finger puppets.

**Expert:** Put on a show with your new toys for your family.





# Farmerettes & Young Cultivators

## Merit Badge Awardees

**Aydin Mallery**, Young Cultivator of Suzanne Mallery #3913  
Beginner badge: All Buttoned Up / Stitching & Crafting  
Beginner badge: Toys / Stitching & Crafting

**Cait Mallery**, Young Cultivator of Suzanne Mallery #3913  
Beginner badge: All Buttoned Up / Stitching & Crafting

**Elizabata Wilber**, Young Cultivator of Tamara Burger #2495  
Intermediate badge: All Tied Up / Stitching & Crafting

**Jack Julian**, Young Cultivator of Teresa Julian #1348  
Beginner badge: Families Forever / Each Other

**JunFen Freihammer**, Young Cultivator of Joan Van Roo #1413  
Beginner badge: Green Thumb Kids / Garden Gate  
Beginner badge: Toys / Stitching & Crafting

**Lauren Encinas**, Young Cultivator of Melanie Ulmer #2432  
Beginner badge: Put Me In, Coach! / Make It Easy  
Beginner badge: It's In the Bag / Cleaning Up

**Madison Bailey**, Young Cultivator of Melissa Bailey #724  
Beginner badge: Icing on the Cake / Farm Kitchen  
Intermediate badge: Icing on the Cake / Farm Kitchen  
Expert badge: Icing on the Cake / Farm Kitchen

**Rebekah Bramblet**, Young Cultivator of Lisa Bramblet #2705  
Beginner badge: Trash Talk / Cleaning Up  
Intermediate badge: Trash Talk / Cleaning Up  
Expert badge: Trash Talk / Cleaning Up

### 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

### Observation Journals

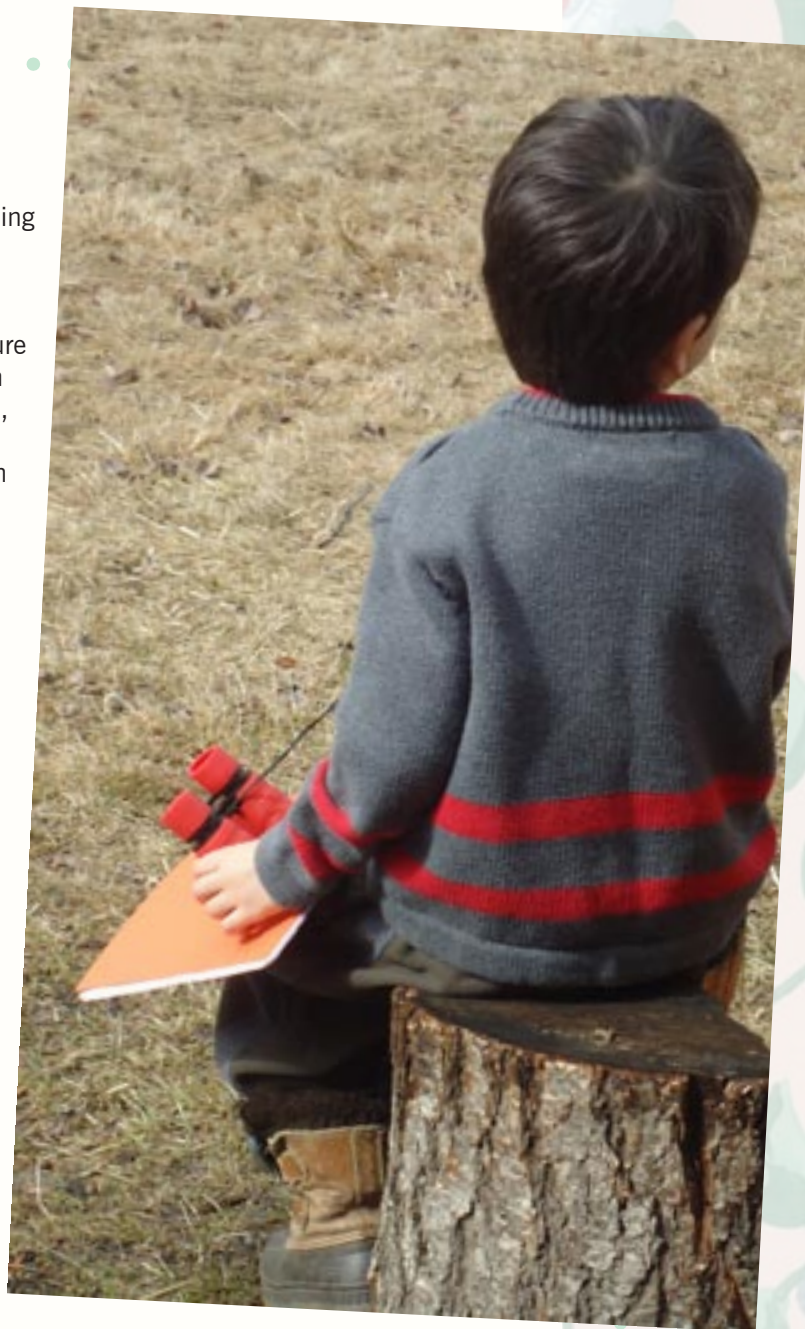
The days are lengthening, and spring's first bulbs are reaching toward the sun. To grown-ups, as well as children, those simple markers of time are endlessly fascinating.

This month, we are starting new observation journals. Nature journals, science journals, or whatever you like to call them are a popular pastime for budding naturalists. At our house, these are blank books where we write and draw what we observe throughout the year. Last year's journals were often themed—the garden, a spider, the camp-out, etc. They include sketches, pressed plants, and dated observations of what we see around us. Indoor things made it into the journals from time to time, but for the most part, we recorded wilder things.

To start observing with your family, find everyone a journal—the more you like it, the more likely you are to bring it along when you head out. Moleskin ([www.moleskineus.com/plainpocket.html](http://www.moleskineus.com/plainpocket.html)) makes classic, high-quality journals that come in both lined and unlined versions. Kids do well with unlined journals, since much of what they record is in picture form.

If you have kids who are pre-writers, let them tell you what they have drawn and record it next to their picture, including a date. Well-made, inexpensive journals can be ordered online at A Child's Dream Come True ([www.achildsdream.com/arts\\_crafts/drawing\\_writing.htm](http://www.achildsdream.com/arts_crafts/drawing_writing.htm)); just scroll down until you reach the main lesson books and journals.

With your journals and some nice pencils, head outside and draw what you see. Then tuck your finished journals away to read next winter.





# 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](http://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



**Alexandra Wilson** is a budding rural farmgirl living in Palmer, Alaska—the agricultural seat of the last frontier. Alex is a graduate student at Alaska Pacific University, pursuing an M.S. in Outdoor and Environmental Education. She is focused on developing a program to inspire young women to become beginning farmers. She lives and works on the university's 700-acre educational farm. When Alex has time outside of graduate school, she loves to rock climb, repurpose found objects, cross-country ski on the hay fields, travel, practice yoga, and cook with new-fangled ingredients.

## 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](http://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.'"

# Happy SPRING





# Magazines, Books, & More



Our April/May issue, "Smitten," hit newsstands on March 13. In it, you'll learn how to graft fruit trees and grow lovage, read all about lightbulbs, age terra cotta pots and walls using special paint techniques, find recipes for pizza on the grill, and more.

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

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

## MaryJanesFarm 2012 Calendar

**AVAILABLE NOW!** Our 2012 Calendar is available for purchase. Each month's top page features a full-color image from our farm and each calendar page includes dates, holidays, inspirational sayings, lunar phases, and fabulous farmgirl culture. This is a Project F.A.R.M. (First-class American Rural Made) product. All 26 pages are printed here at the farm on 8 1/2" x 11" card stock and are bound with black spiral wire, unfolding to 11" x 17".

### Current Holidays:

- April 6 ~ Good Friday
- April 7 ~ World Health Day
- April 8 ~ Easter Sunday
- April 14 ~ Passover Ends
- April 15 ~ Tax Day
- April 18 ~ National Wear Your Pajamas to Work Day
- April 20 ~ Husband Appreciation Day
- April 22 ~ Earth Day
- April 27 ~ Arbor Day

### Magazine "Goodies" on the MJF Website

"For those who are looking for the magazine portion of the website, here is the place to find additional patterns, instructions, recipes and such! Yum!" – Alee, Farmgirl Sister #8

To find the goodies, [click here!](#)





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

### *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!



Check out our chocolate collections. Each box comes with three bars and four farmgirl-inspired postcards.



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

For other questions or general inquiries, e-mail [FarmgirlSisterhood@maryjanesfarm.org](mailto:FarmgirlSisterhood@maryjanesfarm.org).

**Over 1,358 Farmgirl Chapters have been started in all 50 states  
and 8 countries with 4,047 Sisterhood members —  
growing stronger every day!**