MARYJANESFARM®

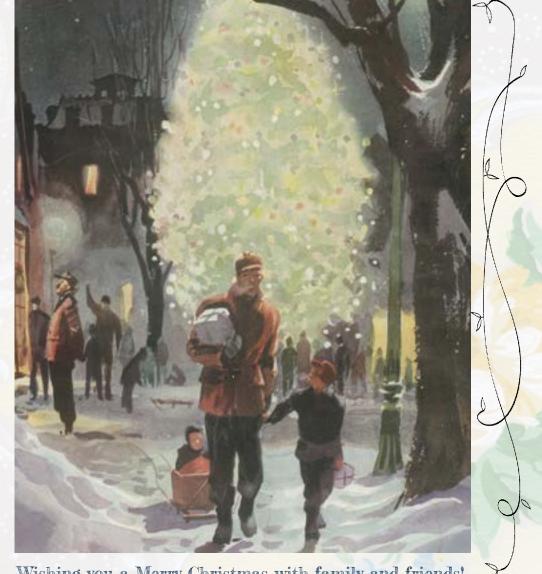
Sister Issue



With some added pluck,

we came up with this easy way to click (er, cluck) your way back to the farm in between magazine issues. As with any nesting hen, we prefer to accomplish our work with regularity. That's why, if you're an official member of MaryJane's Farmgirl Sisterhood, our Sister Issue (formerly MaryJane's CLUCK) will be showing up in your e-mail box on the first day of every month (well, except for January, because we head henchos take a much-needed break every December). With a cluck-cluck here and a clickclick there, we're here for you just when you need a sisterly cyber hug the most. Let the braggin' (er, clucking) begin!

Life made us
FRIENDS,
MaryJanesFarm
made us
SISTERS



Wishing you a Merry Christmas with family and friends!
The Sister Issue will be back in February after our annual hiatus over the holidays.

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FARMGIRL CHATTER

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What girl doesn't love to shop, even if all you can afford is some window shopping? Here's where we treat ourselves and our readers to the things we love most. Come shop with us! Our favorites are only a click away.



Hello from Sister #1





Farmgirl Chapters

Thought I'd share what our River Valley Farmgirl Chapter has been up to lately.

River Valley Farmgirl Chapter:

Thank you to all who joined me last Saturday night. It was a fun evening, filled with new faces and new memories. To those who couldn't make it, we missed you, but we know that the roads weren't in the best shape and prior commitments are always important to keep. Know that I am thankful for all of you, and I hope we can see each other soon. Read on to see what we did and find some farmgirl suprises and fun!





I love this time of year, when we focus so much on giving thanks. The farmgirls shared some of the things they were thankful for on Saturday night. What are you thankful for?

We also enjoyed lots of sweet treats! I should've taken a picture of it all! So delicious! For those that requested the recipe to the Spicy Pumpkin Warm-Up, here's the **link** to that recipe as it was featured in a *MaryJanesFarm* magazine several years ago.

Have you ever played Mad Libs with your kids? Well, MaryJane posted on her blog an "Ag Lib" that she wrote for farmgirls to try out and have fun with. So I decided that we had to do it at our farmgirl meeting. If you'd like to read the silliness and come up with your own, you can read the original "Ag Lib" here and see our "Ag Lib" from last Saturday night below.



So thankful for all of you! Stay tuned for Christmas farmgirl style!

Farmgirl Hugs,

April Choate River Valley Farmgirls Chapter Leader

River Valley Ag Lib:

Good Morning, Farm!

One **frigid** (adjective describing the weather) autumn day, Farmer Jane woke up and gasped, "**Woh!** (Interjection)! I'm late for milking **Jane Eyre** (name, female)!"

She **ran** (verb, past tense) out of bed and yawned **tastefully** (adverb) as she pulled on her favorite pair of **sparkly** (adjective) rubber boots and a **denim** (type of fabric) hat. Out the door she **weeded** (verb, past tense).

continued ...



continued ...

On her way to the big **fuschia** (adjective, color) barn, Farmer Jane passed the **peaceful** (adjective describing sound) chicken coop. "Alright, girls," she called to her **shiny** (adjective) hens, opening their gate. "Out you go!"

She tossed the hens a few pieces of **turnip** (noun, type of food) from her pocket and continued on her way.

Jane had hardly passed the coop when she was **loudly** (adverb) stopped in her tracks by her big, **flat** (adjective) farm dog, **Bill** (name, masculine). He'd come **squishing** (verb ending in -ing) frantically out of the pasture and now skidded to a halt in front of Jane.

He held up his paw and whined **lovely** (adverb). She lifted the dog's paw and looked underneath. "Freeze (Interjection)!" Jane exclaimed.

There was a **gynormous** (adjective describing size) **flower** (noun, object) stuck right between the poor pup's toes! Since Jane couldn't grab the **flower** (same noun, object) with her bare fingers, she had to **shake** (verb, present tense) to the tool shed and fetch the **hammer** (noun, type of tool). "This should do the trick!"

Farmer Jane told the dog to roll over, and he stayed perfectly **poofy** (adjective) as she yanked the pesky problem from his fur.

Stuffing the **hammer** (same type of tool) into her pocket, Jane **burnt** (verb, past tense) on toward the barn. Her tummy was **clattering** (verb describing sound, ending in -ing), but there was no time to eat. She would fix herself a big platter of **chocolate** (noun, type of food) after milking.

Jane **shook** (verb, past tense) **carefully** (adverb) into the barn without watching where she was going and landed ... **Watchout** (interjection)! ... in the middle of a fresh pie. And it was NOT the pumpkin variety, if you know what I mean.





"Oh, **Jane Eyre** (same female name as in the first line of the story)," Jane sighed. The gentle Jersey turned her head, glowering at Jane as if to say, "You're late!"

Farmer Jane pulled her boot **faithfully** (adverb) from the **colorful** (adjective) pile and and nodded at the cow.

"Okay," she said **quietly** (adverb). "I guess I deserved that."

Without further ado, Jane sat down on her **derrière** (noun, object) beside **Jane Eyre** (same female name as in the first line of the story) and got to work.

The End!



Merit Badge Clock:

Check out April's farmgirl genius video on how to make a Merit Badge Clock:



Marylane



Big welcome to our new and renewing Sisterhood members!

Adrienne Card Amanda Elmore Amy Sayre Amy Cable Amy Cloud Chambers Angie Morine Anita Simpson Bonnie Williams Bonnie Skorupski Brenda Critell Callie Boneck Carmen Hansen Carol Wrenn Carole Prevost-Meier Carroll Wall Catherine A. Dewitz Cheryl Murphy Christina Dzeskewicz Christine Andrade Cindy Kinion Cynthia Terherst

Daizy Bailes Dawni Everett Debbie Cox Denise Christiansen Diane Kasperzak Dixie Vanderweerd Donna Howe Eileen Charbonneau Emily Richardson Jana Hughes Janet Coomes Janie Edwards Jeanie Hornbuckle Jill Stidham Joy Taylor Joy Rebello Judy Bradley Karen Knight Price Karen H. Hall Karen Eifert Kathleen Shields

Kathryn Rider Katie Wright Keyla Gonzalez Kimberly Cook Larranie Gonsalves Linda Ruge Linda Van Ausdell Luann Organ Lynn Boggess Marcia Holtsclaw Marianne Gilday Marilyn Raber Marjorie Mcdonald Mary Krystinak Mary Ann Witcher Mary Ann Baker Mary Jo Boyd Mary Adragna MaryBeth Schwartz Melinda M. Owen Michelle Coomes Milli Andresen

Mollie Pietrosanto Nan Roberts Nancy Evans P B Hartv Patricia Jeans Patsy Baker Patty Bodnar Polly Pizzi Rachell Skerlec Rita Bowen Robin Morningstar Sandi O'Connor Sandra Merritt Sherry Buck Tamera Louise Teresa Claypool Therese Cornelius Tiffany Scienski Tiffiany McClain Trace Menchaca Valerie Thompson Wanda Owen



A true friend reaches for your hand and touches your heart.

– Author Unknown





66 May the spirit of Christmas bring you peace, the gladness of Christmas give you hope. The warmth of Christmas grant you love. 39

Each Other



In the Shelter of Each Other





 $\{EACHOTHER\}$ with Megan Rae | to earn a Sisterhood badge in our $\{EACHOTHER\}$ category, CLICK HERE





Megan Rae (Sister #2) grew up "on the farm"-MaryJanesFarm. She attended Gonzaga University and received a bachelor's degree in Journalism. After marrying her college sweetheart, they moved to Kansas and bought their first home on a cobblestone street. Her love for writing, editing, and well, her Mom, finally brought her back to the farm. Raising her 7-yearold and 5-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).

Plan on Creativity •••••

Another new year is just around the corner, and so begins the time of great reflection and fresh starts for many of us: How can I stop/start/change/improve/decrease THIS year? One of those areas in my life that I'd like to improve upon is memory keeping, really making a better effort to record the small details of our everyday lives that are passing us by (and I just know will become monumental as time goes on). We've also been chatting around here a lot lately about the importance of creativity in our lives. Carving out time for creativity in all of our busy-ness is downright necessary to our survival.

Earlier this year, I happened upon *The Documented Life Project*, which seems to be the perfect marriage of my desire for better memory keeping and my need for organization, as well as creative time. Art to the 5th Academy, a collaboration of five artists and friends sharing their passions and talents with their online community through educational workshops and tutorials, put together the *The Documented Life Project*. The idea is that participants use a "planner" to record life's details, while at the same time engaging in a little art. This does require a paper planner and not just our "smarter" planners. The gals at Art to the 5th issue a weekly challenge and encourage you to make art in your planner that is inspired by the challenge, and then, if you wish, you can share your pages with other members of the online community. You can choose your own planner or use the one suggested by the artists. If you're feeling really inspired, you can take an online workshop that guides you through designing your cover and setting up your pages. This project is free, begins each January, and lasts the whole year. There are over 2,500 members so far.



I happened upon the project a bit late this year, so I'm planning to give it a try in 2015 using my favorite planner and my rekindled love of doodling. I am even setting aside time while my girls are doing homework and I am no longer doing dishes! Time to take a moment at my desk and plan on a little creativity. Plus, their simple description of the project resounded in me: "Documenting our lives this year will mean telling our stories through art and words." That's almost exactly what I had in mind. You can learn more about the Documented Life Project on the **Art to the 5th website.**



Siter Layes Sour favorites... just a click away! }





MAIL-ART MAVEN (SISTER #4314)

One tradition to which we hold tight in our family is brand-new Christmas pajamas. It's the only gift we open on Christmas Eve, and since we are in the middle of a floor remodel this year, "footie" pajamas are topping the list. Add to that the coldness of living in a northern climate, and you'll realize just what a smart and welcome gift they can be!

You can visit Kristi's picks by clicking on the photos.





Each Other





Don't Let Your Babies Grow Up to Be Mamas

 $\{EACHOTHER\}$ with Melyssa Williams | to earn a Sisterhood badge in our $\{EACHOTHER\}$ category, CLICK HERE





Melyssa Williams (Sister #161) was homeschooled and spent a perfectly ridiculous amount of time reading and writing, usually in a tree, sometimes with pet chickens. Now she stays out of trees, but still reads and writes. There are three small fry in her house that refer to her as Mom, and keeping in tradition, she puts them in trees with good books. She is the author of the Shadows trilogy for Young Adults, and can be reached at ShadowsGray.com.

Adventures in Moving -



In the past several years, we have moved several times. And this always happens: We find something in our new house after oh, say, six months of living there. In our old house in Idaho, we found a window after living in that house for two years. A window, you say? Like a windowpane, stuck high in a closet somewhere? No, I mean an actual window, in an actual wall, in our actual house, with an actual view into our actual backyard.

Not much gets by us. We're kinda like Nancy Drew married to Frank Hardy. A Bobbsey Twin who eloped with 007. Velma and Freddy's love child. We are **extremely** observant human beings. I don't blame you if you feel a little intimidated.

Hey! I just noticed a cup holder in my van! Whoa! When did that get there?

So anyway, this particular window was finally ferreted out by my dear husband, who was out in the backyard one day. He came back inside with a peculiar look on his face and told me to go to the bathroom and listen. I did. He leaves. I hear knocking on the wall. I follow the sound. It appears to be coming from the sink. Perhaps it's an Englishman banging two coconuts together? Could it be Eric Idle living under my sink? I look behind the mirror that is hung up behind the faucet. Voila! A view of my husband's baffled face.

We had always kind of wondered why that mirror had a window ledge below it and more than one frame.

Not a lot gets by us.

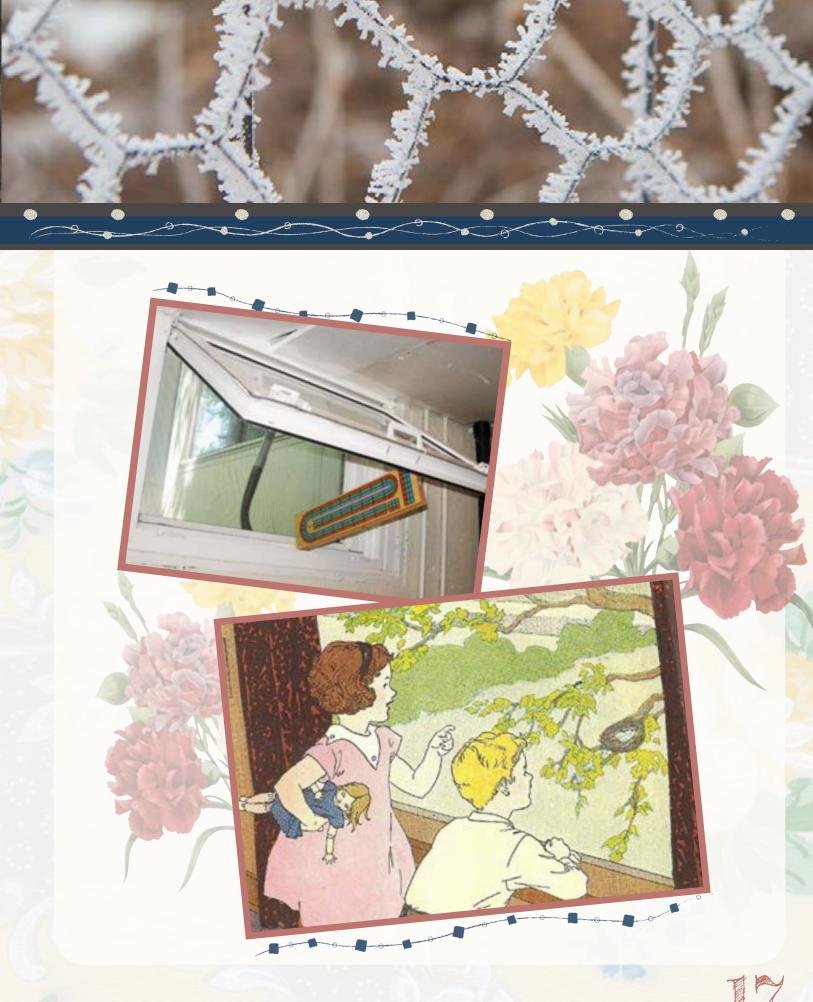
What the??! Have I always had a dog?

Perry Mason meets Trixie Belden.

Anyway, the next time we move, we fully expect to find a bedroom we didn't know was there ... or a refrigerator ... or something way spiffy, like a *garage*. I'm very excited. There could be a full basement! Or a second story! Or a hot tub! The possibilities are endless.

We're also looking forward to doing some home improvement and living up to our reputations in that area as well. It may be difficult to live up to the ol' cribbage board holding up the window trick, or the infamous "I'll just plug this hole in the wall with my pants" idea, but we'll try. Don't underestimate us. Maybe we can plug a *newly found* window with our pants ...

Wait, I have pants?!



Sister Layes Sour favorites... just a click away! }



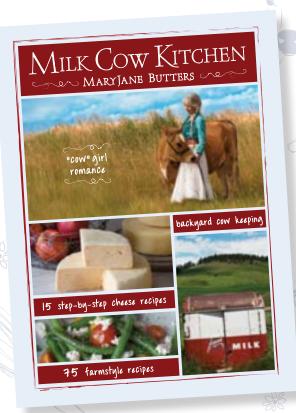




In Wer fifth book, MaryJane covers just about everything cows and dairy. If you can make it past the food and cheese recipes without needing to eat, you're a better "cow"girl than I. But the real gem of the book is the hooves-up, how-to advice on keeping a healthy, happy, backyard cow. Whether you're a city-dweller or country gal, longtime cow-owner or recently ruminating on the idea of adding a cow to your life, I promise you have something you can learn from Milk Cow Kitchen.

- Laurel Bake, Dexter milk cow owner

MILK COW KITCHEN



My recipe for moo-cow love is 400 pages long with more than 1,100 photos that guide you through 75 fuss-free, farmstyle recipes, in addition to 15 step-by-step, supersimple cheese-making recipes that *really work*, plus how-to details for keeping a pet milk cow on your suburban half acre, a backyard lot in town ... or at least the fantasy of a someday cow grazing outside your kitchen window.





\$35/available wherever good books are sold

autographed copies available at MaryJanesFarm.org





"The recipe section of the book is chockfull of easypeasy milk and cheese recipes, topped off with a ton of meals to make with your freshly homemade dairy goods. And the picturesoh my, the pictures!))

backyard cow keeping how-to
75 farmstyle recipes
15 step-by-step cheese recipes
milk cow décor

Eye candy extraordinaire! But, there's more to it than that. This is the first book I've found that really tells you HOW to "have a cow" without having a full-fledged farm ... and there are oodles of recipes, including 15 cheese recipes that I'm dying to try—even before I bring home a cow! 17



Part coffee-table book with gorgeous photography and beautiful cows, part cookbook with step-by-step instructions on making nearly any kind of cheese you can think of, and part how-to manual on buying/raising/milking a cow, this book is an invaluable reference for anyone considering raising milk cows ... or living vicariously through those who do!



Each Other



Homeschooling with Melyssa





 $\{EACHOTHER\}$ with Melyssa Williams | to earn a Sisterhood badge in our $\{EACHOTHER\}$ category, CLICK HERE





Melyssa Williams (Sister #161) was homeschooled and spent a perfectly ridiculous amount of time reading and writing, usually in a tree, sometimes with pet chickens. Now she stays out of trees, but still reads and writes. There are three small fry in her house that refer to her as Mom, and keeping in tradition, she puts them in trees with good books. She is the author of the Shadows trilogy for Young Adults, and can be reached at ShadowsGray.com.

Procrastination—Homeschool Style

Procrastinate: **verb** \prə-¹ kras-tə-₁ nāt

What you do instead of getting your homeschooled children ready for their state achievement testing.

Never mind that they've never taken a test in their bloomin' lives.

Never mind that they don't know how to color in those bubbles.

Never mind that we've skipped spelling this month. (That makes it 11 years in a row).

Never mind that they will more than likely spell their own names wrong at the top of the page.

And that they don't know to raise their hands if they have to go to the bathroom, and will, most likely, wander off without permission, causing State Achievement Police to scale the walls and attack them and take them down.

Never mind that I could be doing multiplication drills right now, this very second, in the hopes that something will stick, and instead I sit ... panicking. Eating smoked Cheddar.

Does it matter if my daughter doesn't know how to spell Constantinople if she can swim a wicked backstroke?

Will there be a page for her to list every character of Les Mis? Rats.

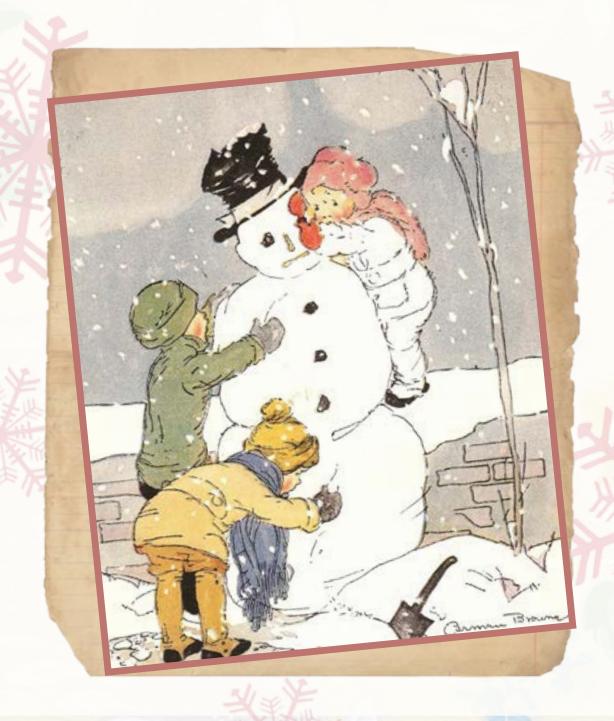
I hear the state of Oregon does not want, and in fact, gets annoyed, if you try to force them to look at homeschooled children's test scores, even though they require you to take the tests. This does not cheer me. Because I will more than likely be the first they demand to see. And when my children are shown to have the IQs of eggplants, I will have to answer to them. And I don't like being put on the spot. I will be unable to spell my own name and I will rush off to the bathroom without permission, and then the whole police debacle will happen all over again.

Let us pray ... for a sudden southern Oregon flood or earthquake, or for the stateapproved tester to be taken suddenly with gout, or for my children to suddenly grow their brains by one million percent. You choose.

Amen.









Farm Kitchen

Where the Cookin' Begins!



 $\{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're raising their family in the same house (two little girls: Adria, 4, and Alina, 1).

Ashley works at MaryJanesFarm as a recipe developer/food stylist, and now spends each day inventing and preparing the delicious food you see in our magazines, books, and websites.

My cabinets are scary. I'm always trying to organize them, but nothing ever sticks. Sooner or later, they turn back into the abyss of unmarked bulk bags of mystery foods that are the stuff of nightmares (well, my nightmares, anyway). Recently, I was surfing the Web, and came across a picture of spice storage box that made me think "Hey! I could make something like that for canning jars to hold my dry goods!" After a few trips to the hardware store and firing up some power tools, I had a box that holds 12 half-gallon canning jars, which replaced all of my unmarked bulk bags. Now everything is labeled and tidy, and I am no longer afraid to look in my cabinets.

Dry Food Storage Box for Half-Gallon Jars

Materials

- half-sheet of 1/2" plywood
- quarter-sheet of 1/8" birch plywood
- Kreg jig with sixteen 1" Kreg screws (or, if not using Kreg Jig, use sixteen 1" size 6 wood screws)
- 1" #16 wire brads
- 9' of 1/2" square trim
- 4' of 1" molding (optional)
- five 3' x 3/8" dowels
- drill press with 7/16" drill bit or a corded drill
- clamps
- speed square
- 120 grit sandpaper
- wood stain, paint, and polyurethane (how you choose to finish the box is up to you. I share my method in step 17)
- cheesecloth
- 1. Cut the plywood into three 9 3/8" x 48" strips. Cut one strip into two 20 1/2" sections. Cut another into two 19 1/2" sections. Cut the final strip into two 14 3/4" sections (the 20 1/2" x 9 3/8" boards will be the top and bottom of the box, the 19 1/2" x 9 3/8" boards will be the shelves, and the 14 3/4" x 9 3/8" boards will be the sides).
- 2. On one 20 1/2" x 9 3/8" board (this will be the top of the box), make guide marks for drilling. Make marks on the long edge at 5 1/4", 10 1/4", and 15 1/4".





- 3. Using your speed square, make straight lines running up from each of the 3 marks. On each of the three lines, make a guide mark at $1\ 1/2$ ", $4\ 1/2$ ", and $7\ 1/2$ ". These marks are where you will drill holes for the dowels to slide through.
- 4. Stack boards for drilling: Center the 19 1/2" boards on the unmarked 20 1/2" board, with 1/2" space on each side. Center the top 20 1/2" board (marks facing up) over the 19 1/2" boards centered, with 1/2" space on each side, and flush with the bottom 20 1/2" board. When you are certain that all boards are centered, clamp them together.
- 5. Adjust the table of the drill press so that the bit will only drill halfway through the bottom board when fully lowered (If using a corded drill, mark the depth on the bit, and make sure that you are drilling straight down.) Drill through each of the guide marks; remove clamps.

6. Attach sides of box: Using a Kreg Jig, make 2 pocket holes in each 9 3/8" side of both 14 3/4" boards and in both of the 19 1/2" boards. Each pocket hole will point towards the 9 3/8" side of the board.

7. Place one 14 3/4" board up perpendicularly on the bottom 20 1/2" board along the 9 3/8" side at the edge of both boards. Use 2 Kreg screws to attach the 14 3/4" board to the 20 1/2" board. (If you don't have a Kreg Jig, you can screw through the 20 1/2" board into the side of the 14 3/4" board to attach).

- 8. Repeat with the other $14\ 3/4$ " into the other side of the bottom 20 1/2" board. This makes the sides of the box.
- 9. Attach shelves: From the bottom board of the box, measure up 4 1/2" on each side. Using Kreg screws, attach one shelf into the cavity, leaving 4 1/2" of space between the bottom of the shelf and the bottom of the box. (If using wood screws, screw through the sides into the shelves.)
- 10. From the attached shelf, measure up 4 1/2" on each side. Using Kreg screws, attach one shelf into the cavity leaving 4 1/2" of space between the bottom of the shelf and the top of the bottom shelf. (If using wood screws, screw through the sides into the shelves.) This will leave 4 1/2" of space between both of the shelves.

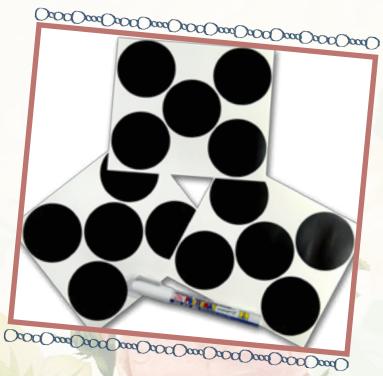


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- 11. Attach the top board: Use 2 Kreg screws to attach the 14 3/4" board to the 20 1/2" board. (If you don't have a Kreg Jig, you can screw through the 20 1/2" board into the side of the 14 3/4" board to attach).
- 12. Cut 1/8" plywood to 20 1/2" x 15 3/4" (it's a good idea to measure your box to double check the dimensions). Attach to back of box using wire brads.
- 13. Cut 9 dowels to 15 1/8" (again, it's a good idea to insert the dowels through the holes for an accurate measurment). Insert through the top board, shelves, and into the bottom board.
- 14. Attach 1/2" trim to front of box: Cut four 19 1/2" and two 15 3/4" pieces from the 1/2" square trim. Attach the 15 3/4" pieces to the front of the sides using wire brads.
- 15. Attach the four 19 1/2" pieces to the front of the top, bottom, and shelves using wire brads.
- 16. Attach optional molding to the top of the box: Cut 1" molding to span 20 1/2" top with 45° miters on each side. Attach with wire brads. Cut 1" molding to span the 9 3/8" side of the box on each side. Each side will have one 45° miter to mate with the front molding. Line up the miters and attach using wire brads.
- 17. After that, it's time to finish your box. I sanded mine down with 120-grit sand paper and applied a coat of Minwax fruitwood stain with cheesecloth. Then I mixed up a solution of 1/2 white paint and 1/2 water. I applied this with cheesecloth, let it dry, and applied a couple coats of Varathane water-based polyurethane with a satin finish. For the jars, I opted for convenient wide-mouth plastic storage caps, and Ziggyboard 2 1/2" **Chalkboard Canning Labels** (available on Amazon.com).







4 27



Weather the Cold with Warming Foods

Gearing up to get outside on a frigid day can take gumption, and a good set of insulating duds doesn't hurt.

But another trick to staying warm before we head *out there* is first fueling the fire *in here* (imagine me pointing to my belly as I say that).

"Cold and darkness drive one to seek inner warmth," writes nutritionist Paul Pitchford in his book *Healing With Whole Foods*. "It is a time to rest, to meditate deeply, refine spiritual essence, and store physical energy for the cold season."

The number one way to store energy—and stoke our internal fires—is eating, and there are actually certain foods that can help us tolerate the chilly weather better. According to ancient healing traditions, slightly salty and bitter foods top the list because they cool the surface of the body, encouraging a retention of heat within and decreasing sensitivity to cold. Mind you, "salty and bitter" doesn't mean we should gorge on salt and vinegar potato chips all winter long. According to Pitchford, we should simply add an extra pinch of salt to wholesome meals that include the following "warming" foods:

- Veggies: parsnip, watercress, turnips, mustard greens, winter squash, sweet potato, celery, asparagus, onions, garlic, and small amounts of hot chili peppers (which are also reputed to help with coughs and other respiratory problems)
- Meats: lamb, venison, beef, chicken, pheasant, salmon, and trout
- Grains: oats, spelt, rye, buckwheat, basmati rice, kamut, and quinoa (wheat, millet, tempeh, and barley are considered "cooling" and should be used sparingly)
- Spices: dried ginger, cloves, anise, black pepper, cayenne, cinnamon, and spearmint
- Unrefined sweeteners: barley malt, rice syrup, and molasses (in moderation)
- Nuts and Seeds: flax, hemp, almonds, walnuts



Promenade Dans la Neige (A Walk in the Snow) by James Joseph Jacques Tissot, 1878, via Wikimedia Commons





- Oils: coconut, sesame, sunflower, walnut
- Beverages: chicory root "coffee," chai, warm water, and warming teas

If you tend to feel endlessly chilly, even indoors, it's best to avoid cold foods and drinks as well as raw fruits and veggies. Cooking meals for longer periods at lower heat (like crock-pot cooking) also contributes to the warming quality of the food we eat.

Once you've revved up that fire in your belly, let it spur you right out the door. Take a walk, hop on your horse, feed the birds, chop some wood, or shovel the driveway to keep your blood hot, your joints fluid, and your spirits high!





OUITOST Unleashing Your Inner Wild

{ ひ**以て**POST } with Sandi | to earn a Sisterhood badge in our { ひ**以てPOST } category, CLICK HERE**





Sandi O'Connor, Sister #3956 says, "I've always loved travel and had a lifelong dream of owning a travel trailer. It was only natural that I began posting as the Travelin' Sister #3956 on Glampers on the Loose! My husband and I, who live in coastal Massachusetts, bought our first trailer four years ago, and before I could even think about what was happening, we became immersed in the whole travel trailer culture. We've met wonderful people and made friends for life. Traveling several times a year to meet with friends has become something we look forward to while we're still working. Someday, we'll join the 'on the road' culture and see what it's like to be out for months at a time!"

Holiday Décor ococooco

It's the most wonderful time of the year again! I love the excitement of the holidays, and try to recreate the looks that I remember of my youth. My vintage holiday tablecloth collection is a decoration in itself. We all have special traditions, dishes, and events that continue from year to year, but I think it's also nice to see something new—little touches that catch your eye and make it just a bit different from the previous years.

In our home, it's about the food. My husband and I both love to cook for others and usually host a Christmas party, which entails a large buffet supper with a separate dessert table. This year, we're having a more intimate gathering, and we will all be seated at the table. I love to create tablescapes, especially themed ones, and holidays give me ample opportunity to have a different look at each meal. Since this has been the year of trying to pare down belongings, I really think twice about adding to what we have, but I couldn't

resist the antler ornaments I found at Walmart recently. I certainly don't need any more tree ornaments, but looking at these closely, I came up with an idea for the table: placecard holders. I like using name cards when hosting a special dinner because I want our guests to feel like everything is done in their honor, even if it's family. I think these antler place-card holders are appropriate from autumn right through winter, for all kinds of occasions. They'd certainly fit right into a rustic lodge look,



even though that's not my usual décor. I'm looking forward to using lots of tartan—I'm absolutely "mad for plaid"—and will create a woodsy table this year. Since they come in twos for less than \$1, I have a new look that can transition to a few different holidays.

The next time you're in the market for a new look, see what you can use in a non-conventional way, and have fun with your creations. Happy Holidays, Sisters!





Few of us can reap a harvest in December (heck, it's even cold in Florida this year), but we can still find ways to get out into the garden. For example ... Brimming with the seasonal spirit of giving, host a winter garden party for your backyard birds. Feathered friends from far and wide will flock to your garden, decorating trees and shrubs like living ornaments and chattering their thanks for the bounty you provide. Here are a couple of crafty alternatives to filling a traditional feeder that are fun for farmgirls of all ages.

Conifer Cone Suet Feeders

You'll Need:

- 6 large or 12 small conifer cones (nice sturdy cones with lots of openings)
- · jute twine or other strong string
- 1 cup suet
- 1 cup peanut butter
- 1 cup corn meal
- 1 cup rolled oats
- 1 cup bird seed
- DIY double boiler
- cookie sheetwaxed paper
- maxea papa.

Here's How:

- 1. Tie a 12" length of twine around one end of each pine cone, leaving a long "tail" for tying to a tree branch.
- 2. Melt suet in double boiler over low heat.
- 3. Remove from heat, stir in all ingredients except birdseed, and let cool.
- 4. Cover cookie sheet with waxed paper and place pine cones on paper.



Photo by John Kratz via Wikimedia Commons

- 5. Scoop up suet mix and pack it into the spaces of the pine cones—messy fun! Sprinkle cones with birdseed and roll cones to ensure even coverage.
- 6. Refrigerate cones until solidified.
- 7. Hang cones from tree branches around yard and garden, topping with bits of red and green ribbon for a little holiday flare.



Citrus Peel Seed Feeders

You'll Need:

- 6 large oranges or grapefruits
- sharp knife
- twelve 24" pieces of twine or sturdy string
- about 12 cups bird seed

Here's How:

- 1. Cut each fruit in half and scoop out the insides.
- 2. Using the knife tip or a sharp pencil, carefully poke four small holes in each peel, evenly spaced about 1/2" from the top edge.
- 3. For each peel, thread a piece of twine in through one hole and out the next, pulling gently to make sure the ends meet. Repeat with the second pair of holes. Gather the four ends of twine and tie into a knot.
- 4. When all peels are threaded, fill them with seed and hang from branches.

Tips:

Pre-made organic seed mixes are sold at **Wild Wings Organic Bird Foods**, and organic suet is available from **NaturalGiftCreations.com**.

• Just remember to keep your feeders neat 'n' tidy to prevent bird illnesses and the spread of disease. If you see mold starting on a feeder, dump it in the compost bin (away from bird access) and start fresh.



photo, HubPages.com



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ner 2014

Stitching & Crafting Room



Stitches of Fun & Laughter!



 $\{STITCHING\ \mathcal{Z}\ CRAFTING\}$ with Rebekka Boysen-Taylor | to earn a Sisterhood badge in this category, CLICK HERE



Rebekka Boysen-Taylor (Sister #40) is a mama, middle-school teacher, and writer in Moscow, Idaho. She loves camping, chicken keeping, gardening, biking, and hanging out with her family. When she isn't out playing, she can be found knitting, sewing, or canning jam.



Charmed Bangles

This month, carve out an hour or so to make a few charm bracelets for holiday giving. These bangles are lovely for teachers, hostesses, and the ladies in your family. With a quick trip to the craft store, jewelry box, or a few clicks online, gather the supplies you need to create a variety of designs. Let's talk charms first. If the charms you select are not all attached to jump rings, or if the jump rings are too small to slide easily on the bangle you choose, swap them out with rings that will work. To open a jump ring, take two pairs

of needle-nosed pliers and grab onto the jump ring on either side of the split. Now twist them apart so that one end comes toward you and one end moves away from you. Only open the jump ring as far as you need to be able to slip the charm on, then close it by reversing your action. I found dozens of charms at my nearest craft store, along with jump rings and brass bangles from Charmalong. Don't be afraid to mix finishes; I love using a gold jump ring with a brass charm. If you prefer a modern look, use the gold finish wire-lock bangles from For the Makers. These simple bangles look great with one charm or several, and you can add and remove the charms easily to create a new look.



⁶⁶ Find what inspires you, put your own spin on it, and try to create it. ⁹⁹

Siter Layes Sour favorites... just a click away! }





GRAPHIC DESIGNER (SISTER #4)

Christmas is one of my favorite times of year. My family has a tradition of decorating our tree together. We play festive music, eat crackers and cheese, and pick out our favorite ornaments to put on the tree. This year, I thought it might be fun to give them each a special ornament for their stocking. Check out these cute ideas I found!

> You can visit Karina's picks by clicking on the photos.







Marke It Easy Happy Hearts Make Light Work



 $\{MAKE\ | TEASY\}$ with CJ Armstrong to earn a Sisterhood badge in our $\{MAKE\ | TEASY\}$ category, CLICK HERE





CJ Armstrong (Sister #665) was our 2010 Farmgirl of the Year, and she's the one woman we know who's capable of stealing anyone and everyone's heart. CJ and her sidekick daughter, Robin, can be found in campgrounds around the country glamming up their tricked-out tent or Reiver's Rest, their new trailer, wearing CJ's tricked-out aprons. CJ makes the world a MUCH better (and properly aproned) place! See CJ's creations at FarmFreshAprons.

Soft Sculpture Christmas Tree

Several years ago, we were visiting friends just before Christmas and I noticed an adorable soft, little Christmas tree on the counter. It was made of fabric with wire and buttons, and I decided that I would go home and make myself one. I designed my own pattern, cut fabric into blocks, cut a backing, had my hubby make the stand pieces for me, and went to work putting it together. It turned out so well, I made a lot more and sold them at Christmas craft fairs. I chose to use forest-green and barn-red plaid prints for my trees for a more vintage/country look. However, there are all kinds of possibilities; one I'm considering is using lacy/satin type fabrics with shiny, glittery embellishments for a more elaborate look.

This is what you'll need for this project. The fabric portion of this tree is approximately 8" tall and 7 1/2" wide at the bottom from branch tip to tip.

- paper pattern for your tree, in the design and size of your choice (it can be a half tree to be placed on the fold of the fabric)
- 3"-square fabric blocks, sewn in whatever pattern you desire, to accommodate the size of the tree front
- · tree back, cut in one solid piece (unless you wish to use blocks on the back as well)
- 3/8" dowel cut to approximately 7 1/2" length with one end pointed for ease in inserting inside the tree
- wooden base (I used a 3" square with corners cut to make a type of hexagon, all edges sanded, with a 3/8" hole partially drilled through for the dowel. The base could also be round, with a 3"
- adhesive for the base pieces (I use Allene's All-Purpose 7800 adhesive)
- needle and thread
- · assortment of buttons
- 18- or 20-gauge craft wire (I chose 18-gauge black)
- poly fiberfill





- 1. Sand the stand/base pieces, glue the dowel into the base, and paint or stain. If you choose to leave natural wood, I recommend a clear coat.
- 2. After preparing the front with the sewn blocks using the tree pattern, cut a "block" front and a solid back and sew together, leaving an opening at the bottom of the tree for the fiberfill and the stand. Clip corners and turn inside out,

pressing seams out, and stuff with fiberfill to your desired puffiness, including the points of the top and branches

- 3. Insert the pointed end of the stand into the opening, pushing it evenly up through the fiberfill, then stitch the opening closed. I use a dab of the adhesive on the dowel where the fabric touches it for added security.
- 4. The method I use for the wire and buttons is to use the buttons, preferably sew-through, to help secure the wire to the tree. I then decide which buttons I want to use where, most particularly on the top and the branch tips. I then start unrolling the wire, working from the top and making loops in the wire as I go, sewing the top button on first and making sure that stitches go around the wire as well, and then working from side to side, unrolling the wire and forming loops. It's really a bit like hanging garland on a real tree, and I don't tree to the bottom. I do NOT go around the tree, just down the front. When I'm satisfied with the appearance, I then cut the wire and start sewing the buttons on, making sure that the stitches go around the wire. I just sew on as many buttons as I want, making sure each one is over wire and the stitches go over the wire. I then adjust the bends and loops in the wire so that it fits neatly against top button, clamping until it's dry, to help secure

cut the wire until I've worked all the way down the the tree. I usually use a dab of the adhesive on the the wire at that point.



Enjoy your little project and have a Merry Christmas!















Erin McIntosh is the Marketing Manager at Mountain Rose Herbs. Born and raised in the sunny Florida swamps, Erin now makes her home in the evergreen Pacific Northwest, where she studied herbalism, botany, and ethical wildcrafting at the Columbines School of Botanical Studies. She spends her days crafting culinary recipes, making botanical illustrations, gardening, hiking, foraging for wild edibles, photographing pretty flowers, and formulating herbal medicine in the magnificent Oregon Cascades.

Easy Homemade Massage Oils

Looking for that perfect DIY gift idea? How about something that can help just about anyone you care about relax a little? It's so easy to give the gift of soothing, healing care with a simple bottle of homemade massage oil. These herbal-infused creations can be formulated to help ease aches and pains, relieve inflammation, calm nerves and muscles, aid peaceful sleep, nourish the skin, or to encourage sensuality between partners.

All you need are a few ingredients to make massage oil that's as basic or fancy as you please. You can use a base of herbal infused oil like St. John's wort, rosemary, or calendula for a more medicinal effect, or oil infused with lavender flowers and rose buds for a gentle all-purpose application. The possibilities are endless!

Basic Ingredients:

8 oz organic carrier oil or herbal infused oil 65 to 90 total drops of organic essential oil

Instructions:

Drip all essential oils into a glass bottle, add carrier oil or herbal infused oil, and roll bottle between palms to blend oils. Decorate with a pretty label if desired. Shake well before each use.

Wondering which oils to use? Here are some good options to explore!

Carrier Oils:

Olive Oil, Sweet Almond Oil, Avocado Oil, Jojoba Oil, Grapeseed Oil

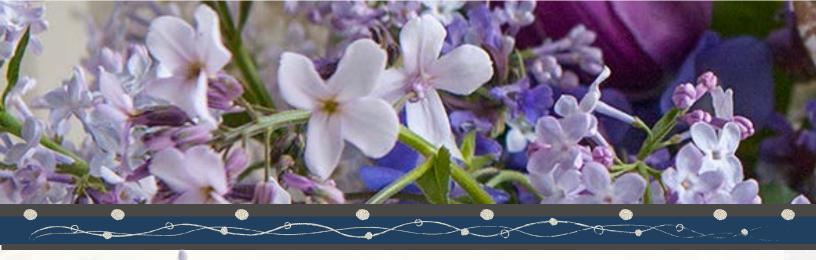
Infused Oils:

Rose Bud, Calendula Flower, Lavender Flower, Chamomile Flower, Rosemary Leaf, Damiana Leaf, Vanilla Bean, St. John's wort, Arnica

Scenting Your Massage Oil

Creating a customized scent for your massage oil is really fun, but might be a bit intimidating at first. I like to pick no more than three essential oils with top, middle, and base notes, and make a tester blend with just 10 total drops to create a formula.







From there, it's easy to multiply the parts to reach the 65 to 90 drops you need in the blend. This step helps you avoid wasting a bunch of essential oil! Another good option is to stick with just one essential oil that you really enjoy. Just be sure to research the effects of each essential oil on the skin and emotional state before using.

Essential Oil Top Notes

Sweet Orange, Mandarin, Grapefruit, Peppermint, Bergamot

Essential Oil Middle Notes

Chamomile, Lavender, Geranium, Neroli, Petitgrain, Fir, Ylang Ylang, Cardamom, Clary Sage

Essential Oil Base Notes

Rose, Sandalwood, Frankincense, Patchouli, Vetiver, Cedarwood, Oakwood, Vanilla

Scent Combination Ideas:

Blend #1: Neroli, Rose, Sandalwood

Blend #2: Lavender, Cedarwood

Blend #3: Roman Chamomile, Ylang Ylang, Vetiver

Blend #4: Sweet Orange, Fir, Oakwood Blend #5: Mandarin, Cardamom, Vanilla







 $\{CLEANING|UP\}$ with MaryJanesFarm | to earn a Sisterhood badge in our $\{CLEANING|UP\}$ category, CLICK HERE



Hula Hoop Chair Cushions Octor

Quick—clean out those closets and drawers or run out to the nearest thrift shop and grab a bunch of old t-shirts, plus a castaway hula hoop (unless your kids have a spare). Curious? Keep reading. This clever craft is as easy as it is fun. Using a hula hoop as a loom, you can weave a set of country-cute and oh-so-cozy chair cushions to mix or match (great gift idea, right?). The instructions, below, apply to one cushion. Repeat for each additional cushion in your set. For an excellent tutorial on how to make one, go to **How to Make a Hula Hoop Rag Rug tutorial**—same basic project, different use!

You'll Need: OCOCOCOCOCOCO

- about a dozen large adult t-shirts (or chunky yarn of your choice)
- 2 boys' large t-shirts
- 33" hula hoop
- scissors

Here's How:

- 1. To make the warp (the strands on which you'll weave), cut eleven 1"-wide loops from the bodies of the two boys' tees. Discard the hems.
- 2. Stretch one loop over the hula hoop, positioning it directly across the middle.
- 3. Add a second loop, over and perpendicular to the first.



- 4. Continue adding the rest of the loops at even intervals (think bicycle wheel). Now, you have 22 "spokes," but you need an uneven number in order for your under-over weaving pattern to work. So, simply push 2 spokes together to form one, and now you have 21 total.
- 5. To make the weft (the strands with which you'll weave), cut the body of each adult t-shirt into continuous strips of "yarn" (for a visual tutorial, click **here**).
- 6. Each spoke is composed of two strips of fabric that should be treated as one (weave over and under both instead of separating them). Begin weaving your first weft strip over and under the warp spokes at the center of your wheel, pushing it firmly toward the center to create a spiral. Tip: Don't pull your weft strips too tight or your cushion will bunch and bulge.





- 7. When you reach the end of a weft strip or want to start a new color, simply leave the loose end hanging from the back of the cushion—it can be tucked in later. Begin a new strip by threading it through the edge of your existing weave and leaving a small end hanging in the back.
- 8. When your cushion is about 14" wide, begin separating the strands of each warp spoke and weave between each single strand until your cushion is complete. Separate the two warp spokes that you pushed together, and treat one of the spokes as two individual strips while continuing to treat the other as a single strip.
- 9. Depending on the desired diameter of your finished cushion (we recommend 16–18"), tuck the final weft end through your weave and cut the warp strips free of the hula hoop. Tie each set of strips into a knot, taking care not to bunch the fabric. You can cut the warp ends to create fringe or tuck them into the weave. If you want to secure your cushion to a chair, leave two sets of strips longer in order to tie them to the chair's back.
- 10. Turn your cushion over to the underneath side and slip all of the loose weft ends securely into the weave. Voila! Now, on to the next cushion ...





SISTERHOOD SUPPLIES Raising Jame® Pantalooms (Sister Loonies)



Price: \$87.50 click here to order

Every woman "needs" a bit of handmade farmgirl cuteness peeking out from underneath her aprons, skirts, dresses, and pinafores. Or for that matter, to wear alone, as is! Sisters, don't be late to rate "looney" by showing up in a pair of our Raising Jane vintage-style underoos for that romantic rebel-Jane-lacy look or your practical-Jane-doing-laundry look, or even better, the Jane-flower-farmer look.

Inventing a pattern for our Sister Loonies took us two months. Why? We wanted a fitted elastic back, just big enough to easily get them on and off, but not so big they made your big bigger, if you know what we mean. We also wanted the front of them to be flat and ungathered. In other words, flattering. Who wants a front that's poofy? Made from 100% cotton with a generous organic cotton voile ruffle, we've sized these for every body type we can think of, from XS to 3XL, so there's no excuse not to join the Sister Loonies movement.

F.A.R.M.







MaryJane's Home is now available at:





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GEDEN GAIL VORI - III

Pure and Puritying chili of beans, whole grains, vegetables, and healthy mushrooms in a herbs & spices, thick, rich sauce.

SUPERLATIVE ingredients create EXCEPTIONALLY

satisfying dancing flavors. They are cooked in

SAVORY sauce at our certified organic cannery and are just winu bo from pantry to palate.























Index Available!

We have all the back issues of MaryJanesFarm Sister Issue available for download on our website.

CLICK HERE to read back issues.

[TIP] Use the search/find tool in your browser to look up keywords in back issues.

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 will keep Sisters up-to-date on upcoming gatherings.

Upcoming Events:

Springtime in the South, Pine Mountain, GA, April 9–12, 2015 (see p. 52) Mitten Kitten Glampouts, MI, June 5–7, July 10–14, and August 7–10, 2015 (see p. 52)

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

Enter your Sisterhood number; password is: Glampin (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 trailer!)













RaisingJane.org

daily entries fresh from the farm















December Sist

Holiday Gift Items while supplies last



Includes: Butterfly, Queen Bee, Farm Fresh, Iris Lane, and Life is Good.

Wine Bag Set Includes: wine bag & cocktail napkins



FREE SHIPPING

on any order over \$50

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erhood Special



Regularly: \$19.99 Sister Price: \$8

Decorative Holiday Pillows

Includes: Cardinal, "Happy Holidays," "Let it Snow," and Lodge Path



Embroidered Guest Towels

Certified Farmgirl Guest Towel
Henrietta Guest Towel
Farmgirl at Heart Guest Towel

Regularly: \$6.99

Sister Price: \$2.80

Exclusive to MaryJane's Farmgirl Sisterhood members only.

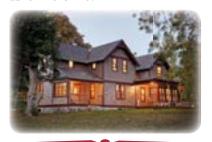
Offer applies to UPS Ground and Standard Post only.

When checking out, log in to your account to receive free shipping.

For questions, call Brian at 1-888-750-6004.



Hillside Homestead a historic farmstay nestled in the hills and orchards of Leelanau and just minutes from Lake Michigan. Experience an authentic 1910 farm. We offer B&B style lodging; each of our 3 guest rooms has a queen size bed & private bathroom. We also offer Historic group dinners and cooking classes! We feature local foods and historic recipes. And twice a year we have free family friendly events, contact us for more info!



Susan Odom 231-271-1131 www.hillsidehomestead.com









isten to live performances of acoustic Southern mountain music. Visit with artisans creating handcrafted heirloom treasures. Meander through the beauty of the ever-changing herb gardens. Enjoy the home-style fare at the Skillet Restaurant. Relax in comfort in one of the Cabins at Dry Creek. Experience the adventure and challenge of Loco Ropes.



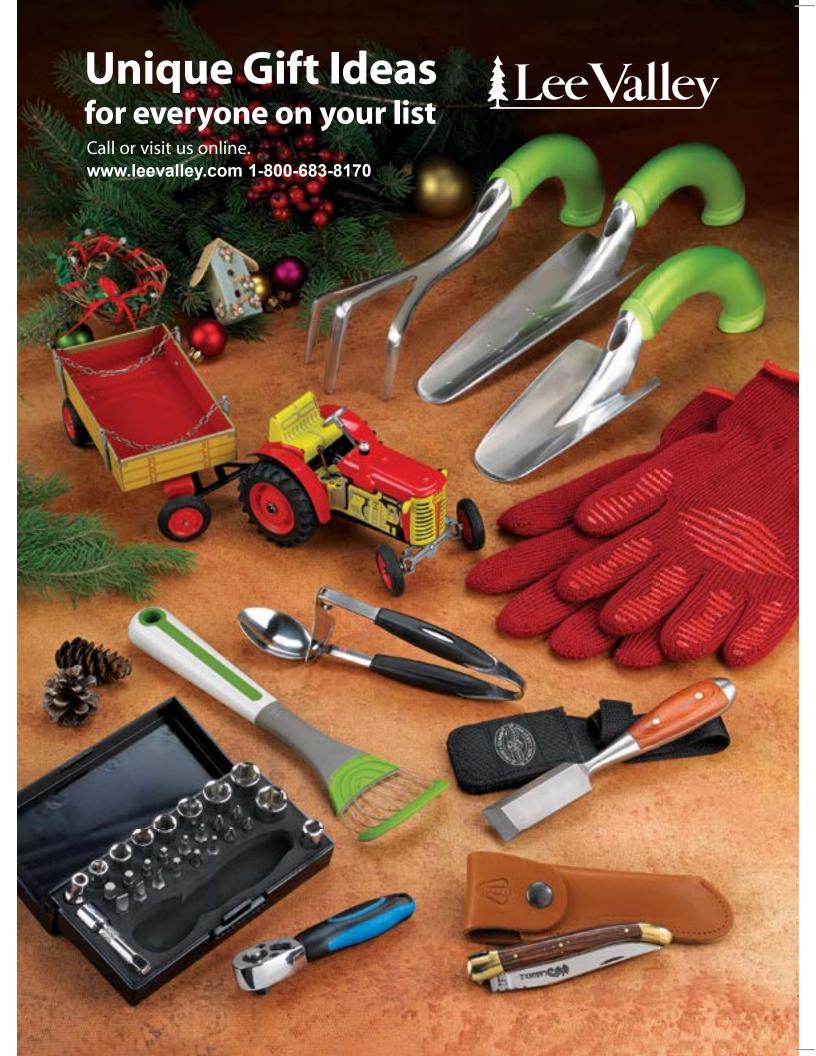












Farmgirl Sisterhood Share in the Fun!

Farmgirl Chatter

What are farmgirls chatting about?

Check it out at The Farmgirl Connection link here!

Farmgirl Calendar

Springtime in the South

Southern Princess Glamping & Adventure Club

When: April 9-12, 2015

Where: Pine Mountain RV Resort, 8804 Hamilton Road, Pine Mountain, GA 31822

Hostess: Julie Lanham

More Info: MeetUp.com, Facebook: Southern Princess Glamping & Adventure Club

Mitten Kitten Glampout

When: June 5–7, 2015, Friday to Sunday Who: Lindy Brown from Paddle the Mitten

Where: Mitten Kitten Glampout, Seven Lakes State Park, Fenton, Michigan How: e-mail inquiries to Lindy@paddlethemittensup.com or 810-626-8923

Website: PaddleTheMittensUp.com-2015 Events

Celebrate National Glamping Weekend with us! 2015 will be our 2nd year for providing Glamping in Michigan. Our group is called the Mitten Kittens and we love to stand-up paddle, but you don't need to stand-up paddle to join us. It is NOT a requirement. We are all about making women feel good about themselves and others around them. Our trips offer a variety of activities, including yoga, hiking, swimming, antiquing, zentangling, stand-up paddling, relaxing, and more! Seven Lakes State Park is a quiet, peaceful gem in Michigan.

Ages usually range from 30s to late 60s (you must be 21 years of age); we are a unique and diverse group. All activity levels are welcome. I honestly can say that I have never had anyone not enjoy their time on my "retreats." As we get closer to February, I will have prices and details. Early RSVP is suggested—we do fill up our Glampouts!

Two types of camping:

- 1. Bring your own camper or tent and join us at our main base camp.
- 2. Stay in the 1965 vintage Airsteam or our glamped-out bell tent (space limited).

continued ...



Mitten Kitten Glampout

When: July 10–14, 2015, Friday to Monday Who: Lindy Brown from Paddle the Mitten

Where: Mitten Kitten Glampout, Young State Park, Boyne City, Michigan How: e-mail inquiries to Lindy@paddlethemittensup.com or 810-626-8923

Website: PaddleTheMittensUp.com-2015 Events

Voted one of the United States' most beautiful lakes, Young State Park sits on the shores of Lake Charlevoix. Join us for 4 days of enjoying the sandy beach, sun, fresh water, and sisterhood. Area attractions and activities include yoga, good food, hiking, sightseeing, stand-up paddling the Jordan River, stand-up paddle yoga on Lake Charlevoix, shopping in Boyne City, and antiquing at Deer Creek Junk in East Jordan. Nightime campfires on the beach under the sapphire black sky with brightly shining stars. Ages usually range from 30s to late 60s (you must be 21 years of age); we are a unique and diverse group. All activity levels are welcome. I honestly can say that I have never had anyone not enjoy their time on my "retreats." As we get closer to February, I will have prices and details. Early RSVP is suggested—our Glampouts sell out fast!

Two types of camping:

1. Bring your own camper or tent and join us at our main base camp.

2. Stay in the 1965 vintage Airsteam or our glamped-out bell tent (space limited).

Mitten Kitten Glampout

When: August 7-10. 2015

Who: Lindy Brown from Paddle the Mitten

Where: Mitten Kitten Glampout, Leelanau Peninsula, Michigan

How: e-mail inquiries to lindy@paddlethemittensup.com or 810-626-8923

Website: PaddleTheMittensUp.com-2015 Events

Voted one of the United States' most beautiful places in America by *Good Morning America*, join your guide, Lindy, for a memorable weekend. From early morning yoga, stand-up paddling, hiking, sightseeing, wine tasting, and enjoying the local fresh farm fare, you will not be disappointed to join this Glampout. We will be Glamping and renting a house for those who are coming from out of state or do not have a trailer. I also will have the bell tent available. This is one of our most popular weekends of the year. Ages usually range from 30s to late 60s (you must be 21 years of age); we are a unique and diverse group. All activity levels are welcome. I honestly can say that I have never had anyone not enjoy their time on my "retreats." As we get closer to February, I will have prices and details. Early RSVP is suggested—our Glampouts sell out fast!

Three types of accommodations:

- 1. Bring your own camper or tent and join us at our main base camp.
- 2. Stay in our glamped-out bell tent (space limited).
- 3. Stay in our Mitten Kitten-approved comfy and cozy beach house.

continued ...



continued ...

Across the Fence: County Fair competitions—time to crow! Submitted by Country Yankee Gal

I'm still fairly new to the community here, and still a newbie to growing (3rd year) and canning (2nd year). My county fair is going on right now, and I entered some of my canned goodies for the second time, and several veggies and herbs for the

first time. I'm so excited about the results. I have to CROW about it to someone—and what better people than my farmgirl sisters? I won ELEVEN first place ribbons out of 13 total submissions! Yep, I'm a farmgirl now!

Thanks for letting me crow! Share your story **here**.

Barnyard Buddies: Chicken advice. Submitted by hudsonsinaf

We bought six chicks back in March. A few months ago, the chickens all turned on one chicken, causing its head to bleed. So we took that one chicken out of the coop and put her by herself to let her heal. We tried introducing her back to the flock, but they all chase her, and I declare that chicken has PTSD, as she curls up in a ball and lets them harass her. A few weeks ago, we bought three more chickens that are not quite to the point of laying yet. We've had the older chicken "pack n played" with the



younger chickens in hopes of introducing her to them without anyone getting hurt. We are supposed to get REALLY cold this weekend, so we tried letting her in with the younger ones today. She tried to tear them up!!! What do I do with this chicken? She gets bullied by the ones that are her age and she bullies the younger ones!!! Give your advice **here**.

Farm Kitchen: I need advice for a restricted Thanksgiving dinner. Submitted by countrymommy85

Hi sisters! It's been a while since I've been online! Me and two of my children have been diagnosed with celiac this summer. It is our first big holiday eating gluten-free! I have been slowly learning to cook for this new lifestyle, but I need help with good gluten-free Thanksgiving recipes with a twist. I want to be no sugar, and as whole foods as I can get. Recipes, menus? Thanks so much!!! Share your recipes **here**.

Garden Gate: Reviews of seed catalogs. Submitted by YellowRose

Post reviews of your favorite seed catalogues. I don't remember how I heard about Botanical Interests Seed Catalog or when I sent for their catalog, but I was impressed with the quality of the catalog.



They are offering 2015 seeds now.

I ordered online 7 herb seeds, 2 pkgs to save seeds, and 2 pkgs of paper pots. Ordered on 11/9 and received it on 11/15. It came in a heavy green cardboard box suitable for keeping & storing all my seeds. A free 2015 desk calendar and a pkg of lettuce seeds was included.

Five of the seeds are heirlooms and two natives. Prices are comparable to other catalogs. Seeds have plant info on the outside and inside of pkgs. They have a very good selection of heirloom/native herbs. They also have heirloom/native vegetables and flowers.

I order online, but I also like having a catalog to look through to decide what I want to order. I will order from them again. Share your review **here**.

Garden Gate: Garden treasures. Submitted by Cindy Lou

"Those things are worth their weight in gold!" said DH when were were bringing in the freshly dug potatoes in the old wire egg pails I had managed to scrounge from my parents' farm. They were just sitting in a corner of the garage, long unused, and I just knew they would be useful. The rubber coating on the wires protect apples or other produce placed in them.

Over the years of gardening, we've found, built, bought, repurposed, or discovered a lot of things that have made the job easier or more pleasant. I will be sharing a few here. My bet is that you may have different discoveries to share! Share your garden treasures **here**.

Stitching & Crafting Room: Ornament ideas needed! Submitted by Sobyn

I need ideas (QUICK!) for small Christmas ornaments that a
9-year-old can make. Bonus points if my 5-year-old can help
too!! They are for a 12" tree, so small is best. Also they have to be
made of stuff that is common or that I happen to have on hand. (I know
you don't know what I have on hand! I have lots of scrapbooking stuff, some random fabric, sewing notions, a few jewelrymaking items and lots of yarn ... throw something out there and maybe I'll have it! LOL)

continued ...



continued ...

It's hard to find special craft items here and I don't have time to order anything for this project, as it needs to be in the mail. I want it to be stuff she (they) can make mostly on her own, but that also doesn't look too cheesy.

We just stumbled across this project/service project and she wants to do it, so I'm trying to find ideas. Thanks!! Share your ideas here.



Stitching & Crafting Room: Quilts of Valor. Submitted by Daizy

Hey there,

I have been working on a few quilts for the veterans of our great country. I am now working on one for a Vietnam vet in my area. I thought it would be a great idea to make a virtual community quilt. This would be a quilt that had fabrics sent from people around the country. So I am looking for scraps, jelly-roll leftovers, fat quarters, and pieces of anything red or white or blue. I will make good use of the fabrics you send because if it's not used for this quilt, it will go into the next one. Please help.

I will post photos once I get started. I have received a few bags of scraps from various farmgirls (you know who you are), and I will be gleaning some of those fabrics for this quilt ... thank you!

Send me a note and I will get you my street address. Your love and compassion will be stitched into every stitch and the finished quilt will be cherished by a person that worked to keep this country FREE. Share your ideas **here**.

Stitching & Crafting Room: Where does one find felted wool? Submitted by RachelLeigh

So I bought an adorable book for my Kindle the other day called *Kata Golda's Hand-Stitched Felt: 25 Whimsical Sewing Projects,* and I desperately want to make some of the things in her book, but I have no idea where to find felted wool. I've seen some on Etsy, but it's really expensive. I'd love to buy some locally, but I just can't imagine that they sell it at Michaels.



I'm really ready to try a new stitching craft and now I want to make cute little felted wool animals, but I need a reasonably priced source for the material. Any ideas? Share your advice **here**.

Stitching & Crafting Room: Knitting. Submitted by prayin granny

I enjoy knitting. My gma taught me when I was about 10 or so. Then in home ec class in jr. high, I really took off. After marriage and kids, I kind of just stopped knitting.

Now retired and a gma, I've begun again and enjoy it. My problem is I'm old-school!!! LOL! I learned on straight needles, and it's what I'm most comfortable with. Although I'm having fun with knifty knitters, too.

Question: Am I the only straight needle holdout? Most patterns now are for circular and/or double points. I don't even know how to use them. When I tried circulars once, I found them kind of awkward.

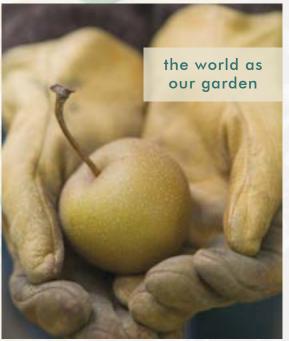
Is there a way to re-do a pattern from circular instructions to straight needles?

Would sure love input on this! Give your advice here.





GirlGab.com



the place where girlfriends gather to gabble, gush, and gadabout ...







Find MaryJane's farmgirl bloggers—city, rural, suburban, ranch, mountain, and beach—at GirlGab.com. You'll also find daily posts from 130 (and counting) sister blogs.







farmgirl pets

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Sister "Lacey Lou Leg Warmers"

Product Description:

These soft Grace & Lace leg warmers are thin, delicate, and lightweight. They fit just perfectly under boots or bunched over your flats. The pointelle open-work knit is cozy and warm. The hand-detailed ivory knit lace and faux-ivory buttons add the perfect flair. I love my Sister "Lacey Lous" and could wear them every day!

Meg

price: \$34

Fit: Measures roughly 19" long. Tightest point of top band stretches to 17" in circumference. Please measure the widest part of your calf to ensure fit. Due to the handmade nature, they may vary a bit from item to item. Please don't hesitate to ask if you have questions regarding fit.

Fiber: Acrylic blend

Care: Hand wash, lay flat to dry.

Slight irregularities and variations in weave, color, and size are characteristic of materials and should not be considered to be defective.

Color options:

Natural, Light grey, Graphite, Off-white

click here to order





MARYJANESFARM

Here's a delicious way to help MaryJanesFarm help veterans help disaster victims.

Your food made our day in the Philippines!

I just wanted to let you know that we love your products. We were on the ground in Tacloban, Philippines, four days after the typhoon hit, doing relief work and setting up operations for our teams out there. Conditions that first week were challenging and extreme. We never complained, and your instant (just add water) pouches of food sure helped. We ate the awesome Outrageous Outback Oatmeal in the mornings and fought over the Shepherd's Pie in the evenings. We didn't have the luxury of taking a lot of them, but when the 15 of us were able to sit down to eat them, it was all smiles. Thank you!

- Kirk Jackson, TeamRubiconUSA.org



When we received the above e-mail and photo from Kirk Jackson of Team Rubicon, a veteran-focused disaster relief organization, we were humbled and pleased that our just-add-water organic meals found their way to the Philippines after the devastating typhoon in 2013. We also knew we wanted to help this great organization carry on their inspiring and important work.

So we teamed up with the Team: For every 3-lb box of our emergency food you buy (15 to 25 servings, depending on entrée), we donate two single-serve pouches of food to Team Rubicon to help feed them when they travel to help those in need. Each box of emergency food contains one 3-lb bulk oxygen-free mylar bag of our just-add-water organic meals for emergency preparedness long-term storage. Shelf life: 15+ years.



one
3-lb
bulk box
for you

two
single-serve
pouches
for

Team Rubicon



Why Prepare?

Natural disasters—floods, fires, earthquakes, tornadoes, and windstorms—affect tens of thousands of people every year. One week of emergency food is needed in order to ride out most disasters. That's a minimum of three meals per person per day for one week. Do the math and then get ready!

Why Eat Organic?

Surviving any kind of disaster is stressful. Why compound your burden by eating bad food? You need nourishment, not the mindless calories found in most preparedness meals that are overly laden with salt and preservatives; laced with pesticides, herbicides, and fungicides; and formulated using genetically modified ingredients.

Team Rubicon & MaryJanesFarm

The Mission

Team Rubicon unites the skills and experiences of military veterans with first responders in order to rapidly deploy emergency response teams, oftentimes arriving on the scene before traditional aid organizations.

MaryJanesFarm helps feed Team Rubicon's emergency response teams by donating two pouches of food for every box of emergency food sold. That's where you come in. Every time you buy a box of our emergency food, you're feeding Team Rubicon.

Team Rubicon Saves Lives

Since its creation in January 2010, Team Rubicon has impacted thousands of lives—in Haiti, Pakistan, the Philippines, and here at home most recently during Hurricane Sandy; the tornadoes in Moore, Oklahoma; and massive flooding in Colorado. Team Rubicon reaches victims outside the scope of where traditional aid organizations venture.

Team Rubicon Engages Veterans

Thousands of U.S. military veterans, many returning home after fighting 10 years of war, find a renewed sense of purpose for their skills and experiences through Team Rubicon.





MaryJanesFarm just-add-water organic meals—everything from instant pastas and rice to soups to breads to desserts—are perfectly complemented by the BioLite Camp Stove (BioliteStoves.com) that boils water with nothing but twigs. And, by converting heat into electricity, it can also charge your flashlights, phones, and other gadgets while you cook.

Product of USA

EcoPouch® Packaging



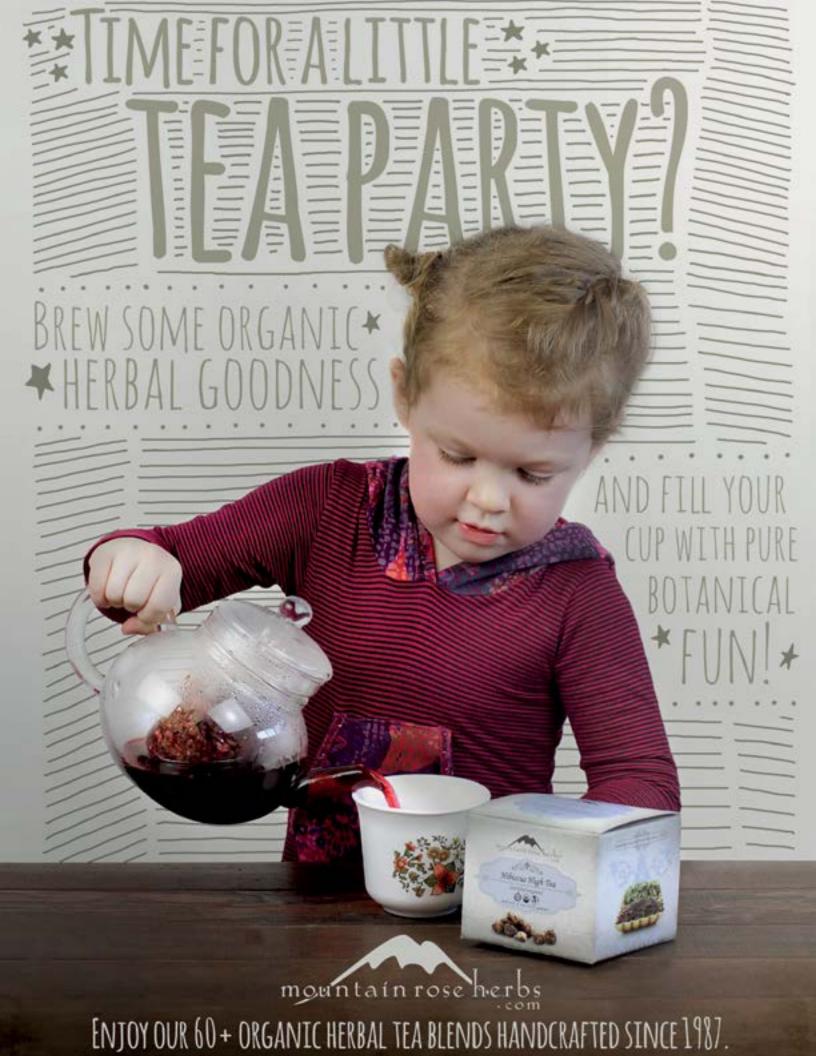


Our unique pro-environment

EcoPouch® Packaging

has offset 1,547,955 sq ft of aluminum foil since 1996. That's 58 tons of landfill waste avoided!

for a hefty dose of inspiration, watch Team Rubicon on YouTube.com/TeamRubiconUSA





Our sentiments exactly!

This adorable 8" x 8" plaque, printed on canvas and stretched on a wood block edged with burlap, is available at **BraveGirlsClub.com**. Sisters Melody and Kathy believed there needed to be a place where women could go to feel supported and never alone, no matter what struggles they were having. They wanted to create a place full of good news, good people, good ideas, good adventures, and good times—a place where they could teach women that no matter what curveballs life handed them, they were going to be okay. Get a daily dose of Brave Girl magic by subscribing to the free Brave Girl Daily Truth e-mail affirmation messages—a little present the girls have been giving the world five days a week since 2009. Also sign up for Brave Girl Camp Art + Life Retreats, take online empowerment classes, encourage other Brave Girls with the Brave Girl Truth Card Exchange, and more. Read all about Brave Girls Club in the "Yesteryear" Aug/Sept 2014 issue of *MaryJanesFarm*.









Farmsirl Sisterhood

Social Media

I'm doubling back to make sure you're aware of all the social media happenings at MaryJanesFarm, because you won't want to miss a thing—especially the moment when YOU'RE the sister featured on one of our Facebook pages simply because you're just so farmgirl awesome or you've earned a badge or your blog post from our Sisterhood blogging community over at **GirlGab.com** was featured. (This is my favorite daily pleasure. I LOVE GirlGab!)

As ladies of the Sisterhood, now numbering 6,129 (and counting), we've earned an amazing number of Merit Badges so far—8,751 total! We've recently started alerting earned Badges daily on our MaryJanesFarm **Facebook** page. We started out alerting just the expert-level earners, but decided recently to alert all levels AND add photos if you include them. We're just so durn proud! Can you hear the clucking?

My blog, **RaisingJane.org**, is a little bit more of the fun and frilly that you've come to expect from MaryJanesFarm, and is my outlet for conversation in between magazines.

If you're a Facebook or Twitter kind of gal, you'll find my posts teased on my **Twitter** account and our **Facebook** account. Updates for all things glamorously glampifying for International Glamping Weekend can be found **here**, at its Facebook fan page.

Facebook and Twitter not your thing? Then, our **Pinterest** page can keep you up-to-date with recipes, projects, products, and beautiful images captured here at my farm.









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!

Thank you so much for my beautiful charm. I received it last week and have enjoyed wearing it and showing it to my friends and family. Can't wait to get our Chapter off the ground here in Cherry Valley.

Thank you again, Mary Bronson





Thank you so very much for the beautiful Farm Gal necklace!!! I beyond love it! I really feel part of something grander when I wear it. You made my day when I opened my little burlap bag, truly.

kindness counts,



I shabby apple



vintage-inspired clothing with quality & style shabbyapple.com so







a return to what dresses were always meant to be



Merit Badge Awardees

Cindy Kinion: AussieChick #6058

Beginner badge: Garden Gate / Backyard Farmer

Cj Armstrong: ceejay48 #665

Expert badge: Cleaning Up / Home Insulation

Kristie Bulla: MamaBulla #3679

Beginner badge: Garden Gate / Horse Dreams

Linda Van Ausdell: Vanavista #4347

Beginner badge: Cleaning Up / Recycling
Beginner badge: Each Other / Little Squirts
Beginner badge: Farm Kitchen / Recipes
Beginner badge: Make it Easy / Relaxation
Beginner badge: Stitching & Crafting / Knitting
Intermediate badge: Cleaning Up / Recycling
Intermediate badge: Stitching & Crafting / Knitting

Rasa Higens: #6088

Beginner badge: Make it Easy / Make it Pretty

Sherrilyn Askew: Sherri #1350

Beginner badge: Cleaning Up / Home Insulation Beginner badge: Farm Kitchen / ChillOver ComeOver Beginner badge: Farm Kitchen / Forage for Food

Beginner badge: Garden Gate / Birds

Beginner badge: Make it Easy / Make It! Beginner badge: Outpost / Woman at Arms

Intermediate badge: Cleaning Up / Home Insulation Intermediate badge: Each Other / Greatest Generation Intermediate badge: Make it Easy / Light the Way Intermediate badge: Outpost / Rocks & Minerals Intermediate badge: Stitching & Crafting / Cross-Stitch

Expert badge: Each Other / Families Forever







Starletta Schipp: star-schipp #1927

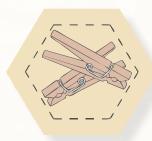
Beginner badge: Cleaning Up / Shopping Green Beginner badge: Garden Gate / Gaining Ground

Expert badge: Cleaning Up / Recycling Expert badge: Garden Gate / Herbs

Tiffany Scienski: tiffski6108 #6108

Beginner badge: Cleaning Up / Shopping Green

Wendy Richardson: Henrietta cluckington #5875 Beginner badge: Each Other / Greatest Generation









Farmerettes & Young Cultivators

Merit Badge Awardees

Alexandra Higens: Young Cultivator of Rasa Higens: #6088 Beginner badge: Stitching & Crafting / All Buttoned 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.











Young Cultivators Group

Rebekka Boysen-Taylor, our Stitching & Crafting columnist, also coordinates a Young Cultivators group. She'll report on their activities here and in future issues.

Snow Globes occordence

For Christmas this year, we're making DIY kits for the children in our extended family. Having a project to work on will entertain them on the quiet winter days between Christmas and New Year's. Children love working with a variety of materials constructing, designing, and troubleshooting. Ideas for simple kits include a few hanks of embroidery thread and beads, watercolor paper cards with paints, or a seasonal craft like this DIY snow globe. Since this project involves drying time, it will also help little ones practice patience. Children enjoy admiring their artistic attempts so much that I try to provide art materials that will look beautiful and wear well. To make your own DIY kit, figure out which supplies you have on hand and which you need to buy. For this snow globe kit, I collected small baby food jars, Sugru self-setting rubber (waterproof super glue also works in a pinch), glycerin, glitter, and tiny farm figurines. Fill a small box with the necessary materials and add a tag with the following instructions.

Snow Globe Kit ococo

- 1. Have an adult help you to secure your figurine to the inside of the lid using **Sugru** self-setting rubber. Allow time to set.
- 2. Add heaps of glitter and a few drops of glycerin to the jar.
- 3. Fill the jar with water to just below the top of the jar.
- 4. Glue around the inside edge of the lid and screw the lid on firmly.
- 5. Tip and enjoy!





IN 1997, I took over stewardship of The Barron Flour Mill, a four-story, 124-year-old building on the National Register of Historic Places. Joseph Barron, the third-generation miller who spent his life there milling grains, eventually pioneered the first certified organic flour in the Northwest. I created this easy-to-use organic baking mix in honor of Joseph and all the frugal farm women who served their families wholesome food ... on a budget.

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To find out more, scan here with your smartphone.





Available Now on a Newsstand Near You

Find short and sweet candy recipes in our 12-month Candy Calendar in the current issue of *MaryJanesFarm*. You'll also find recipes for New Year's Eve party fare; instructions for making magic, one-hour pillowcases; learn how to force flowering shrubs and trees to bloom indoors; read about women who fish on ice; and more. Our Dec/Jan issue (Home for the Holidays) hit newsstands on Nov. 11. Don't risk missing *MaryJanesFarm* magazine on newsstands. Subscribe **here**!





MaryJane's™







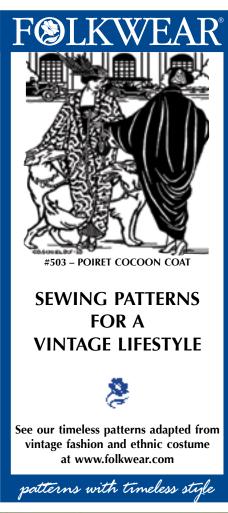






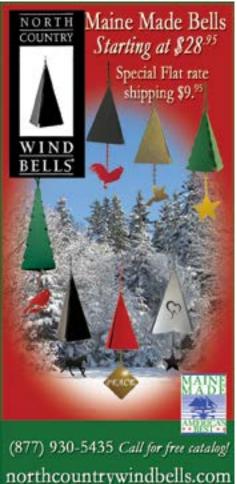


he MaryJane's Home towel collection is a spirited tribute to all that she loves. Her signature drawnwork comes alive with whimsical sophistication. Intricate subtleties like twill tape and appliqués offer dimension, while delicate double ruffles divinely complicate the simplicity of her collection. The entire collection is a wonderful mix of patterns and textures that, when pieced together, create a harmonious balance of rustic femininity, fresh from her farm.











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OMRI'



IVICET OUI BLOSSEIS Being a farmgirl isn't where you live, but how you live!



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; Alexandra Wilson blogs from the rural perspective; Nicole Christensen gives you the suburban viewpoint, and Debbie Bosworth writes from the beach. You can click to our farmgirl blogs right on our home page (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 from a large metropolitan area who recently made her dreams come true by moving to a farm. Given her dyed-in-the-wool city-girl background, she still writes our City Farmgirl Blog. She's a lawver who has worked in both criminal defense and prosecution, and she has been a judge, a business woman, and a stay-athome mom. She's not only down-home citified, she's a true-blue farmgirl ... in (the occasional) 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—and she shares her adventures on our Rural Farmgirl Blog. 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, and has just welcomed the newest member of her family, baby Ava Maureen. Alex loves to rock climb, repurpose found objects, cross-country ski on the hay fields, travel, practice yoga, and cook with newfangled 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 over 20 years to her Danish-born sweetheart, Nicole has worked in various fields and has been a worldtraveler, 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."

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. Debbie writes our Beach Farmgirl Blog.

"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 yardsale furniture into 'Painted Ladies'! I'm passionate about living a creative life and encouraging others to 'Make Each Day their Masterpiece."



Have you met our new Ranch Farmgirl?

Stop in and say hello and welcome here!





Dori Troutman, our Ranch Farmgirl Blogger, is the daughter of second-generation cattle ranchers in New Mexico. She grew up working and playing on the ranch that her grandparents homesteaded in 1928. That ranch, with the old adobe home, is still in the family today. Dori and her husband always yearned for a ranch of their own. That dream came true when they retired to the beautiful green rolling hills of Tennessee. Truly a cattleman's paradise!

Dori loves all things farmgirl and actually has known no other life but that. She loves to cook, craft, garden, and help with any and all things on their cattle farm.



suburban farmgirl

Nicole's Favorites

Burt's Bees Hand Creme

Happy Holidays! 'Tis the season to bake and celebrate! I've been busy knitting little gifts, baking treats, and making special jars of jam for homemade holiday surprises. I'll need a little "tuck in" gift for teachers and friends. This year, I thought of a nice hand cream to go with hand-knit mittens, or with dishcloths and yummy sweet treats.

December brings the first real cold snap here in Connecticut, with cold, dry indoor and outdoor air. My hands are constantly busy. I'm always gathering fresh eggs, loading firewood into the wood stove, or making something delicious in the kitchen. Needless to say, my hands get washed frequently throughout my day. Even using the gentlest of soap, my hands can get chapped and cracked this time of year.

Not all hand creams are created equal. Heading to the "natural cosmetics" aisle, I was dismayed to see that even "natural" manufacturers are sneaking a not-so-natural preservative into their skin-care products: Butylated Hydroxytoluene, or "BHT". BHT is an antioxidant that keeps products from turning rancid. It's also a prime ingredient in rubber, jet fuels, and embalming fluid (ewww). It's found in all sorts of foods, too, including cereals and frozen pie crusts. It's listed as "safe" by the FDA but has also been thought to be harmful to the environment and to the endocrine system, as well as linked to cancer. The amount of exposure to humans before being considered "unsafe" is still inconclusive. I don't want to be a "Grinch" ... it's just a reminder to always read labels. Since skin soaks in part of what we put on it and hands touch what we eat, I don't want to use a hand lotion containing this preservative.

Burts Bees' Beeswax Almond Milk Hand Creme is just what I was looking for! This 100% natural hand cream is rich and thick, but soaks into dry skin quickly. It's packed with emollient ingredients like sweet almond oil, aloe, and vitamin E, along with milk and beeswax. It comes in a 2-oz glass jar topped with a tin lid featuring a milk cow, cute enough to leave sitting out. I keep one jar by kitchen sink, and one in my knitting bag. At only \$9, it makes a great stocking stuffer, and the delicious



almond scent reminds me of marzipan! Find Burt's Bees Almond Milk Hand Creme at most drug and mass merchandise stores, or at **BurtsBees.com**.



-

The Newtown Bee

Some stry - That for Good Noon and Administra

Snapshot: Nicole Christensen

Monte and St. 1014

Assignment of disperting all separate terms to be a fail. The this title is a sementational disperting the large process term, as the contraction of the process of the the later has the right. It seem all the partitions, and the process of the third that the large it is seen at the terms. It is a second of the process of the partition of the third the terms in the partition of the partition of the partition of the third districts required by partition of the partition of the terms of the second terms of the partition of the partition of the terms of the partition of the terms of the second terms of the partition of the partition of the terms of the partition of the terms of the partition of the partiti

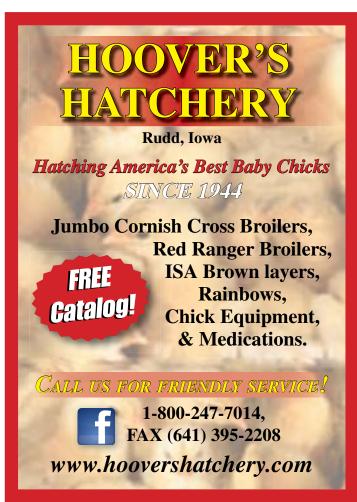
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Click here to read this article about Nicole that was featured in the Newtown Bee!







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Our Dec/Jan issue (Home for the Holidays) hit newsstands on Nov. 11. Find short and sweet candy recipes in our 12-month Candy Calendar; learn how to force flowering shrubs and trees to bloom indoors; find instructions for making magic, one-hour pillowcases; read about women who fish on ice; and more.

Click here to subscribe to MaryJanesFarm magazine.

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

MaryJanesFarm Calendar

Our **2015** calendar is available now. 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:

December 4 ~ National Cookie Day

December 10 ~ Human Rights Day

December 15 ~ Cat Herders' Day

December 16 ~ National Chocolate-Covered Anything Day

December 24 ~ Christmas Eve

December 25 ~ Christmas

December 31 ~ New Year's Eve

December Sisterhood Special! (see p. 48)

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!**



6,129 Sisterhood members and8,751 Merit Badges earned —growing stronger every day!