

MARYJANES FARM®

Sister Issue



March 2017

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* will be showing up in your inbox every other month (March, May, July, September, and November, with a special issue coming out the first week in January to announce our Farmgirl Sister of the Year and new Merit Badges). With a cluck-cluck here and a click-click 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



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{ just a click away! }



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Sister Loves

{ staff picks ... only a click away! }

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.



p. 16

Megan



p. 20

Carol



MaryJane's Picks

My oldest grandgirl recently finished her second knitted hat, and that got me thinking about gifts for her. How about handmade needles, sewing needles, and crochet hooks on Etsy.

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



Creativinsel



WizardsCave



p. 36

Karina



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Cydnie



WhatRUKnitting

Hello from Sister #1



You're Amazing!

I already know you're amazing, but here are some honest-to-goodness, scientific-y facts about the human body that make us humans even more awe-inspiring.



Did you know ...

- There are over 100,000 miles of blood vessels in an adult human! If all your blood vessels were laid out end-to-end, they would go around the Earth four times
- Your intestinal tract, the system responsible for eating and digesting food, is over 30' long. (How in the world does it all fit??)
- Nerve impulses travel back and forth to the brain at speeds up to 250 miles per hour (nearly as fast as the fastest race car on record).
- Humans have the ability to read up to 1,000 words a minute.
- Our eyes are so sensitive that, if our surroundings were completely flat, we could see the flicker of a candle at night from 30 miles away.
- The adult body is made up of more than 7,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000 (7 octillion) atoms. (One question: Who counted?)
- Humans have about the same number of hairs on their bodies as chimpanzees. (Ours are just so fine, you can barely see them, thank goodness.)



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- Adult humans have about 2.5 trillion red blood cells in our bodies, but the average red blood cell lives only for about 120 days, so our bone marrow produces about 2.5 million new ones every second. That's like reproducing the entire population of Chicago every second!
- There are more living organisms on the skin of one human being than there are human beings on the Earth.
- Each of our bodies has 230 movable joints.
- Our hearts beat about 30 million times each year and our lungs breathe about 192 million gallons of air a year—all without even thinking about it.

Yep, you're amazing!

Mary Jane 



Farmgirl DIY

do it, make it, love it!

HOMEMADE CRAFTS, GIFTS, DÉCOR, AND MORE



Don't miss our Farmgirl DIY special issue, for sale only on newsstands NOW, for a limited time. You'll find page after page of inspiration and easy instructions—a collector's item for sure. Chock-full of eye candy to get your creative juices flowing, our special issue will be a treasured keeper that will continue to inspire you for years to come. Remember, our special DIY issue is newsstand only and won't be sent to subscribers, so be sure to look for it at your local retailer or order it on our website, MaryJanesFarm.org.



IDEAS, TIPS,
INSPIRATION,
SOLUTIONS

THE Zen OF THE DOODLE

ZENTANGLE is a meditative drawing technique that uses repetitive patterns called "tangles" (think doodles). Zentangles add an element of fun to any project ... from decorative eggs to cards to rain gear. Pick up a Zentangle kit at Zentangle.com to get started. Or, using wooden eggs from a craft store, acrylic paints, and small brushes, draw tangles on your eggs. In whatever patterns tickle your fancy. Or grab some Sharpie Oil-based Paint Markers (available in a wide array of colors) and decorate a pair of plain rain boots.

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SIMPLY SUCCULENT CLIP BOARD

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MJ's favorite PICKS!

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MARYJANE'S FARMGIRL SUCCULENTS

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Hello from Sherrilyn Askew Farmgirl Sister of the Year 2016



Sherrilyn Askew (Sister #1350), was our Farmgirl Sister of the Year for 2016. A native of Washington, Sherri joined the Sisterhood in 2010 and has since earned over 200 merit badges. She is a member of an active Farmgirl Chapter, The Backdoor Farmgirls, and has taught several skills to her chapter members, including carding and using a drop spindle. Sherri works in her family's recycling and trash equipment business and is the mother of two children, ages 24 and 11. She's the perfect inspirational example of a farmgirl with plenty of fortitude, stick-to-it-ness, grace, and grit. "I dig in my garden without gloves and go barefoot all summer so that I stay connected to the ground on which I walk and the planet I inhabit. I don't do anything by half measures, and sometimes I'm my own worst enemy. I love a good joke and a belly laugh."

A Walk Through the Park

In the winter, my family frequently tells me they are bored and would like an adventure. So this past weekend, I took them on one. I got them up early, had them dress in layers and pack a lunch and an extra set of clothes, and then took them for breakfast sandwiches and hot drinks. We then headed out to Paradise on Mt. Rainier. We got up to Longmire and had to wait for the gate to open at 9 a.m. We then headed the rest of the way up to the Paradise Visitors' Center, where we signed up to go snowshoeing. It takes about 2 hours to walk just under 2 miles. One of the stops we made was by the weather station. It showed 103" of snow! That'll really make you think about not getting too close to a tree and dropping down into a snow well.



I chose Saturday because I knew we were going to have some weather coming in Saturday night, and the chances of our being able to get up the mountain would be a lot slimmer on Sunday, but it turned out that the weather got to the mountain earlier than I expected. We had some pretty strong winds while driving up, and once we arrived, we found just how cutting they really were. For the first part of the walk, we were exposed to the winds, but after that, we would be protected by the surrounding trees (or so we were told). The reality was quite different. To top things off, at the first stop, my precious child complained that one of her straps was too tight and proceeded to have it loosened a bit. She then shifted position and started to lose her balance. She put her hand out to balance against me, causing me to need to step back, or at least try to. Because the

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snowshoes we were using had teeth on them, my feet were firmly rooted, so I went down like a felled tree. Flat on my back, head pointing downhill, looking like a turtle trying to get rolled back over. After a bit of maneuvering and a little help from a couple of strong men, I did get back on my feet and dusted off.

About halfway through the walk, the winds had really picked up and it started to snow. While we had dressed for the cold, my daughter did not wear her wool socks as directed, nor did she tell me she could not find them until after it was too late to do anything about it, so her little feet got cold. She was not alone, so some of our group were going back early. Since I have exercise-induced asthma and we were at a fairly high altitude, I was going slow so as not to run out of air, and as a result, was in the very back of the group. As we were heading back, the moisture from my breath kept fogging up my glasses so I couldn't see the disappearing trail or the others. It made for an interesting walk.

After we made it back, we got our lunches and sat inside the visitor center to eat. I am glad that I had the foresight to bring a thermos full of hot soup. My family gobbled it up first. Once they were fed and warmed, their outlook improved and they decided that we had a pretty good adventure and could maybe do it again sometime. I think we are going to have to do a lot more climbing around on the mountain before we do it again, though. We all need a little more high-altitude exercise.

We made it back off the mountain and noticed they had closed the gate to the road going up at Longmire. The road was getting pretty treacherous. We slid a couple of times, and I was keeping it under 20 mph in a Subaru. We stopped for tomato soup and breadsticks at Farelli's (a local pizza place), then went home to hang out with the dogs. What a day!





Big welcome to our new and renewing Sisterhood members!

Adrienne Card
 Alexandra Rahal
 Allyson Neal
 Amy Cooper
 Amy Cloud Chambers
 Angela Hodsdon
 Anita Wood
 Ann Hughes
 Ann Woody
 Anna Murfield
 Ann-Marie Small
 Autumn Day
 Barbara Gant
 Bea Campbell
 Bertha Bush
 Beth Lohman
 Beth Ann House
 Betty Fudala
 Billie Kariher
 Brenda Wheeler
 Breton O'Neill
 Bridgette Potter
 Bridgette Friedman
 Candace Conrad
 Carol Hoffman
 Carol Firestone
 Carrie Williams
 Catherine Love
 Cathi Davis

Cathy Hudson
 Cheryl Osborn
 Christal Wright
 Christina Burnham
 Christine Wolfe
 Christine Box
 Christine Marie Reynolds
 Christy Martin
 Cindy-Lou Amey
 Connie Harrington
 Cynthia Mangum
 Cynthia Graves
 Dana Sanders
 Darlene Ricotta
 Dawn Conrad
 Dawn Stewart
 Debbie Ledbetter
 Debora Carr
 Deborah Teets
 Deborah Greenhill
 Debra Haynes
 Debra Martsching
 Dee Dee Arnzen
 Demetra Luciano
 Dena Corry
 Denise Anderson
 Denise Christiansen
 Desiree Bell
 Diana Bolliger

Diane Van Horn
 Dianne McQueen
 Dolly Sarrio
 Donna Kowicki
 Elba Fitzwater
 Elisabeth Perkins
 Elizabeth Scott
 Ellen Bailey
 Emily Moore
 Erica Sullivan
 Erika Organ
 Erin McBride
 Erin Hollen
 Gail Holzman
 Gail Springman
 Gloria Morley
 Grace Lovell
 Heather Hayes
 Heather Neeper
 Heike Boehnke-sharp
 Holly Perdue
 Hope Johns
 Irene Dobromil
 Jacinda Jenks
 Jacqueline Bilder
 Jane Sherman
 Janet Coomes
 Janice Slater
 Janice Childers

Jaye Whitworth
 Jennifer Miller
 Jennifer Gatley
 Jessica Yonkovit
 Jessie Curtis
 Judy L. Goodrich
 Judy Hickman
 Judy Jones-McCown
 Julie M. Vicknair
 Julie Saari
 Julie Hofmann
 Julie Rogers
 Julie Kram
 Juliette Hamner
 Karen Funderburg
 Karen Porter
 Karen Hall
 Karin Weaver
 Karin Thomas
 Kathleen Knoppe
 Kathleen Kaupert
 Kathleen Guilfoyle
 Kathy Betzer
 Kathy Heidel
 Kathy Fritz
 Kathy Wagner
 Kathy Golston
 Kathy Goins
 Katie McNichols

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continued ...

Kay Ramsey
Kimberleigh Comella
Kimberly Godfrey
Kimberly Bedtelyon
Kristen Parkinson
Kristin Chattin
Laine Karner
Laura Richardson
Laura Knippers
Laurel Campbell
Laurie Seymour
Laurie Keenan
Lea Eaton
Leslie Fisher
Linda Cole
Linda Freeland
Linda Ruge
Linette Batterman
Loretta Ivory
Lori Nickel
Luann Cooley
Lynette Goins
Margaret Karner
Margaret French
Maria Day
Marilyn Edlund
Marion O'Neill
Marjorie Mcdonald
Marti Wynne

Mary Trudell
Mary Carlson
Mary Gariepy
Mary Warns
Melanie Herriott
Melissa Schirmer
Michelle Kirby
Michelle Turner
Michelle Coomes
Mina Gumieny
Nancy Tarrant
Nancy Buffington
Nichole Rogers
Nicolette Hickman
Nina Farley
Noreen Pelchat
Pamela Hadley
Patricia Green
Patricia Jeans
Patty Woodhurst
Paula Jefferys
Paula Robinson
Paula Kaatz
Phyllis Skalko
Phyllis Simplot
Rita Bates
Robin Armstrong Miller
Robin Morningstar
Ronnie McMillen

Roxanna Phelps
Sally Cooper
Sara Bailey
Sarah Moore
Shannon Fleck
Sheila LaPoint
Sheila Powelka
Shelby Newman
Sherone Taylor
Sherry Brecht
Sherry Bush
Shirley Johnson
Shirley Bills
Skye French
Sonja Gasper
Starletta Schipp
Stephanie Adams
Sue Daniel
Susan Whitakerhill
Susan Robertson
Susanne Lamoureux
Suzanne Rankin
Suzanne Baker
Suzanne Winder
Suzy Rhoades
Sylvia Ekdahl
Tammy Bradshaw
Terri Goggin
Terrie Conrad

Terrye Adams
Tina Knight
Tracy Heath
Tyanne Couillard
Valerie Thompson
Vera E. Turner
Vicki Meeds
Victoria McChesney
Vivian Larsen
Wanda Byford

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

– Author Unknown

Each Other



In the Shelter of Each Other



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



Megan Rae (Sister #2) grew up “on the farm”—MaryJanesFarm. She attended Gonzaga University and received a bachelor’s degree in Journalism. After marrying her college sweetheart, they moved to Kansas and bought their first home on a cobblestone street. Her love for writing, editing, and well, her Mom, finally brought her back to the farm. Raising her 10-year-old and 8-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).

Discover Mail Art

Art is the expression of creative skill or imagination. With this beautifully broad definition, we could surely use a little more of it in our lives. Many of us spend a considerable amount of time each day on slapdash communication via our computers and smartphones. What if we put our electronics aside now and then and spent that time communicating more creatively?

When was the last time you went to the post office and mailed something (that wasn’t a mail-order return)? Just imagine how wonderful it would be to come home and check your mailbox to find, amidst the junk and bills, a hidden envelope with some hand-drawn, colorful swirlies or a small package with a handmade paper bowl tucked inside. Now, imagine how wonderful it would feel to send tokens of love and friendship that you crafted yourself. While both mail and art might seem like they are waning, farmgirls across the country are proving otherwise.

Our official mail-art program, now in its 10th year, has resulted in thousands of pieces of mailed art. Here’s a sampling, straight from our mailboxes. Join our chatroom at MaryJanesFarm.org/snitz and go to “**Farmgirl Swap**,” where you can sign up for mail art.



Meg



continued ...



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Sister Loves

{ our favorites ... just a click away! }

Megan's
PICKS
(JUST A CLICK AWAY)



STAFF WRITER / EDITOR
(SISTER #2)



Wayfair



Bed Bath & Beyond



LacyBellesBoutique



MaryJanesFarm



TheDIYMommy



Sherwin-Williams



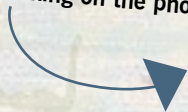
Wayfair



MonCheriePaperie

With three girls (myself, my 10-year-old, and my 8-year-old) under one roof, we've picked our colors and combined our styles. My go-to color to anchor any room is a bit of grey, then the girls picked coral and mint to accent. We'll see how it all turns out, but here's what we've been shopping for.

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





HERBS • CONCERTS OZARK CRAFTS

Ozark Folk Center is home to the Heritage Herb Garden with tours and workshops all season long, as well as demonstrations in Ozark heritage crafts and a lineup of over 20 Feature Concerts. Plan a girlfriend getaway and let us create a specialized workshop for you. Visit with master artisans as they demonstrate, create and sell handmade items. Tap your feet to Americana roots music. Enjoy home-style cooking at the Skillet Restaurant and comfortable accommodations at The Cabins at Dry Creek.

*2017 Season opens April 11.
See OzarkFolkCenter.com
for calendar and events.*



OzarkFolkCenter.com
Park Information: 870-269-3851
Cabins at Dry Creek: 800-264-3655



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Create a custom bag from your own boots or use boots provided by us!



Each Other



Don't Let Your Babies Grow Up to Be Mamas

{EACH OTHER} with Melyssa Williams | to earn a Sisterhood badge in our {EACH OTHER} 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 not-so-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 MelyssaWilliams.wix.com/Melyssa-Williams.

Makeup Tips for Moms

When you're a mom of one, two, three, or a baker's dozen, it's difficult to find time for yourself. And the experts say that's important! (They researched it and put it on the Internet, so it must be so, right?)

In order to whittle your daily routine down to a manageable amount of time in the mornings, I've put together a handy-dandy list of Must Haves and To-Dos.

You.

Are.

Welcome.

First of all, mommies need to shower. I know ... you're thinking, what fairyland does this writer live in? One with unicorns and leprechauns and elves frolicking about, detangling her hair and exfoliating her legs? I know. It's hard to find the time to shower, but prop the baby up in a bouncy seat, turn on the exhaust fan, and step in ... weekly, if possible.

While you're in there, it's time to multitask. Remember the days of body scrubs, salts, gels, and potions? Yeah, those days are gone. Dump some of your man's Old Spice body wash in your hand and use it for ... everything.

While the soap is in your eyes, it's always an excellent and convenient time for the baby to start wailing and for the toddler to need to do a #2. Carefully, remove one leg from the shower and get the bouncy seat bouncing again. Nearly get knocked out from the green mushroom cloud of death that's coming from the toilet and resolve not to feed the toddler any more hot dogs.



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This is a good time to deep-condition your hair, massage your scalp, and shave your legs, but you don't have that time. Settle for detangling your leg hairs instead. Consider a French braid or an updo.

Once out of the shower, forget drying off; it's more "green" of you to race through the house naked because your phone is ringing and you lost the toddler. You'll be dry in no time, and no wet towels to hang up later! Win-win.

For makeup, try to use all organic products. Or ... just use whatever you have in the bottom of your Caboodle from 1993 and call it good. Don't forget a nice foundation to cover any bags under your eyes, and I like to use one of those trendy, egg-shaped sponges for blending. Make sure it's a free-range, cage-free, egg-shaped sponge, of course.

You can attempt some eye cosmetics, but make sure you have time for both eyes. The clerk at the bank looks at you weird when you go around with one eye done.

Lipsticks aren't really necessary when you're a mom. Give plenty of kisses and raspberries to the kids instead and you'll have a naturally pink lip.

Don't forget the busy mom's bestie: the messy bun. This has been in style for hundreds of years, and once you've had your first baby, you'll know why.

Long live the messy bun and the weekly shower.
Can I get an Amen?



Sister Loves

{ our favorites ... just a click away! }

Carol's
PICKS
(JUST A CLICK AWAY)



GRAPHIC DESIGNER,
UKULELE ENTHUSIAST
(SISTER #3)

I wanted something pretty to chase away the cold this winter ... something I could throw around my shoulders in the house to keep me warm. And I love the nuno felting technique—a felting process that bonds wool fibers with delicate things like ribbon and silk gauze—perfect for scarves and shawls. A quick look on Etsy brought up dozens of beauties from around the world.

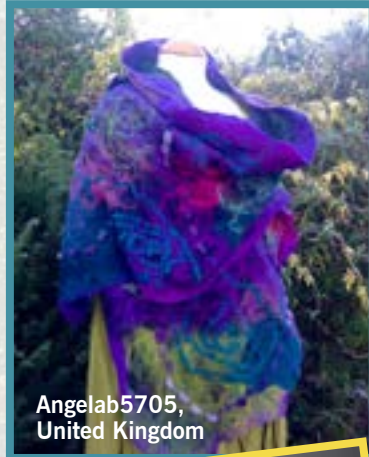
You can visit Carol's picks by clicking on the photos.



Anna Wegg,
United Kingdom



ArtMode,
Poland



Angelab5705,
United Kingdom



RaisaFelt,
Florida



Anna Wegg,
United Kingdom



ArtMode,
Poland



RumiWay,
Bulgaria

Doesn't it just break your heart... when they **slow down and struggle?**



**25% OFF
PLUS FREE
Delivery***



"I read about DGP, tried it and within a week he was walking and hopping like his playful self. The results were outstanding."

Is your dog unable to enjoy activities they used to?

Does your dog have difficulty getting up, greeting you, climbing stairs or simply going for a walk? As your dog ages, it's increasingly important to support their joint mobility and flexibility. They need a little help from you...

Now, there's something you can do to help!

100% natural **DGP®** has been specifically formulated to **WORK FAST** to support a dog's joint mobility and flexibility. Developed by master herbalists and scientists in Australia, DGP helps ease aches and discomfort caused by daily exercise, activity and age. Not a prescription medication... DGP is an herbal formulation that you can give to your dog with confidence – without the negative side effects that can occur with prescription medications!

"My 12 year old Boxer had issues with his hips. He started to slow down, had trouble getting up and was dragging himself around the house. His stomach couldn't tolerate the meds he was taking. I read about DGP, tried it and within a week he was walking and hopping like his playful self. The results were outstanding."

— Renee S., AZ

DGP is natural and safe. Thousands of satisfied customers will agree... it simply works! See below for a few examples of what people are telling us:

Joint discomfort can VANISH in JUST ONE WEEK!

If it breaks your heart to watch your dog struggle... try DGP risk-free. We promise you won't be disappointed. If you don't find your dog more happy and playful again, simply call us within 90 days of purchase and we'll gladly refund the full product cost!

CALL 800-422-5518 Today!

**Mention "129" to get 25% OFF
and FREE delivery!***

**Or visit www.TheHarmonyCompany.com
and enter code "129" at checkout.**

"A month ago, our 17-year-old retriever mix, Maybe, could not get up to walk. Then I remembered using DGP in the past, with good results. What we have witnessed is amazing! Today, Maybe joyfully ran out the door, to our ski path. It was thrilling to see our old dog romping in the snow, all because of DGP!"

— Bruce and Jean U., MN

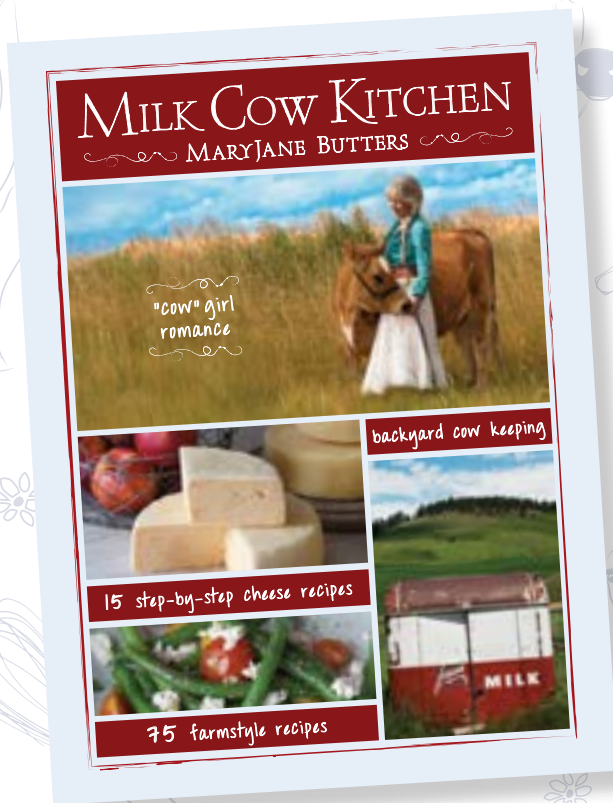
*First time buyers only. Free standard shipping within the U.S. - Offer expires in 60 days. | ©2017 American BioSciences, Inc.



“In her 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, super-simple 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.

MaryJane 



autographed copies available at
MaryJanesFarm.org

\$35/available wherever good books are sold



“The recipe section of the book is chock-full of easy-peasy milk and cheese recipes, topped off with a ton of meals to make with your freshly homemade dairy goods. And the pictures—oh 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! ”



“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



{EACH OTHER} with Melyssa Williams | to earn a Sisterhood badge in our {EACH OTHER} 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 not-so-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 MelyssaWilliams.wix.com/Melyssa-Williams.

Homeschool Comebacks

Homeschooling has its perks, and its little annoyances. One of the worst niggles of home-educating is the strange, odd, well-meaning, not-so-well-meaning, bizarre, and downright insulting questions homeschool parents get asked on a nearly daily basis. I've collected a few here, and the responses can be tailored to fit your mood/circumstance/level of wit and snarkiness.

Q: "Are you really qualified to homeschool your child all the way through high school?"

A: "Heck no, I wasn't even qualified to become a parent in the first place! Thank goodness there wasn't a quiz or something, am I right?"

Q: "Do you do school in your pajamas?"

A: "Is a bear Catholic?"

Q: "I would never be patient enough."

A: "Honey, if patience were a prerequisite for parenting, the population would have died out at Cain and Abel."

Q: "Do you do it because you feel the public school system would ruin them?"

A: "Well, honestly, we just figure if anyone's gonna ruin them, it should be their parents."

Q: "Is it legal?"

A: "I could tell you, but then I'd have to kill you."

Q: "How do you know what curricula to use?"

A: "There's curricula?"

Q: "But what about prom?"

A: "But what about meth?"

Q: "I could never teach algebra."

A: "But you passed algebra, right? So I'm fairly certain I'll do a better job than your teacher did, no offense."



continued ...



continued ...

Q: "I suppose you do it because you want God in your school?"

A: "Well, I only teach Christian math, yes. Wait. What?"

Q: "You homeschool? But you seem so normal!"

A: "Well, thanks. We try to blend in with the natives while here on Earth."

Q: "Can you homeschool my kids?"

A: "Can I get a restraining order?"

Q: "Do you have a college degree?"

A: "I have the *Teacher's Edition Answer Book*. Mic drop."

Q: "Isn't homeschooling hard?"

A: "Um. Yes? As is ... parenting."

Q: "How do you know if they're where they need to be?"

A: "They're right here. Are you insinuating I lose them a lot? Oh, you mean academically. Well, the middle one knows what grade she's in, so that's something, am I right?"

Q: "What about socialization?"

A: "Since you're asking me that during a Boy Scout meeting, before football practice, and after Band, I'm going to assume you didn't think that through ..."

How about you? What's the silliest question you've been asked while homeschooling?





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, 7, and Alina, 3). 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.

Spiralizer Hash-brown Patties ●●●●●●●●

Recently, I've caught myself eyeing the landscape, searching for early signs of spring. With each bit of earth exposed as the snow melts, I get more and more excited by the prospect of spring. Naturally, I already have a running list of things I want to plant and grow in my garden. I eagerly look forward to days where I can roam outside and pick ingredients for dinner. Last summer, I added a spiralizer to my kitchen-tool arsenal, and I'm excited to put it to work on my fresh-picked produce. After a few trial runs with spiralized cucumbers and some dishes centered around "zoodles" (both were delicious), my mind strayed and I started thinking about how delicious spiralized potatoes would be. After a quick trial run, I discovered that not only are spirialized potatoes delicious, they cook much faster than expected. This quick and simple recipe for spiralizer hash browns is too good not to share.



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Spiralizer Hash- brown Patties

Prep time: 10 minutes

Cook time: 15 minutes

Makes: 6 patties

- 1 large russet potato (about 1 lb)
- 3 T safflower oil, divided
- 3/4 t salt
- 1/2 t pepper
- 1/4 t paprika
- 1/4 t granulated onion

1. Using a spiralizer, cut potato into noodles using noodle blade. Cut potatoes into manageable lengths and transfer to large bowl.

2. Add 1 T safflower oil, salt, pepper, paprika, and onion to potatoes. Toss to combine.

3. Preheat a cast-iron griddle or large skillet over medium-low heat. Once griddle or skillet is hot, add 1 T safflower oil. Add potatoes in mounds (roughly 3/4 cup for each mound). Spread out each mound and flatten with the back side of a spatula. Cook for 4–5 minutes, flip over, and cook an additional 4–5 minutes.

4. Repeat this process with remaining potato mixture, adding remaining safflower oil as needed. Serve hash-brown patties immediately.





Outpost

Unleashing Your Inner Wild



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

Getting (Back) Out There

As sap begins to warm and flow, awakening the trees, our blood begins to pump with more vigor, too. It's springtime, and we suddenly crave immersion in nature once again. We're making a break for the door, barely taking the time to tie our bootlaces—by golly, nothing can slow us down!

Except that pulled muscle, twisted ankle, cranky knee ... ouch!

The rush to get back out there can lead to a few aches and pains, and if we push ourselves too hard too fast, injuries may ensue.

According to physical therapists at St. Anthony's Medical Center in St. Louis, Missouri, sprains and strains are common patient complaints every spring. Interestingly, these patients range from casual gardeners to regular exercisers.

"Our muscle memory is much shorter than our actual memory," explains physical therapist Krysti Eckert. "We remember what we did before winter, but if you haven't done an activity for an extended period of time, you can't expect to go back to the same level of activity."

St. Anthony's recommends that people pace themselves when getting back into the swing of spring. "If your outdoor plans focus on yard work or gardening, you should take it slow. Break up that hour of work with breaks for stretching and warming up. From yard work to the most serious exercise routine, our physical therapists recommend the rule of 10 percent: increase your workout load only by 10 percent each week, which allows for progress but keeps you from overdoing it."



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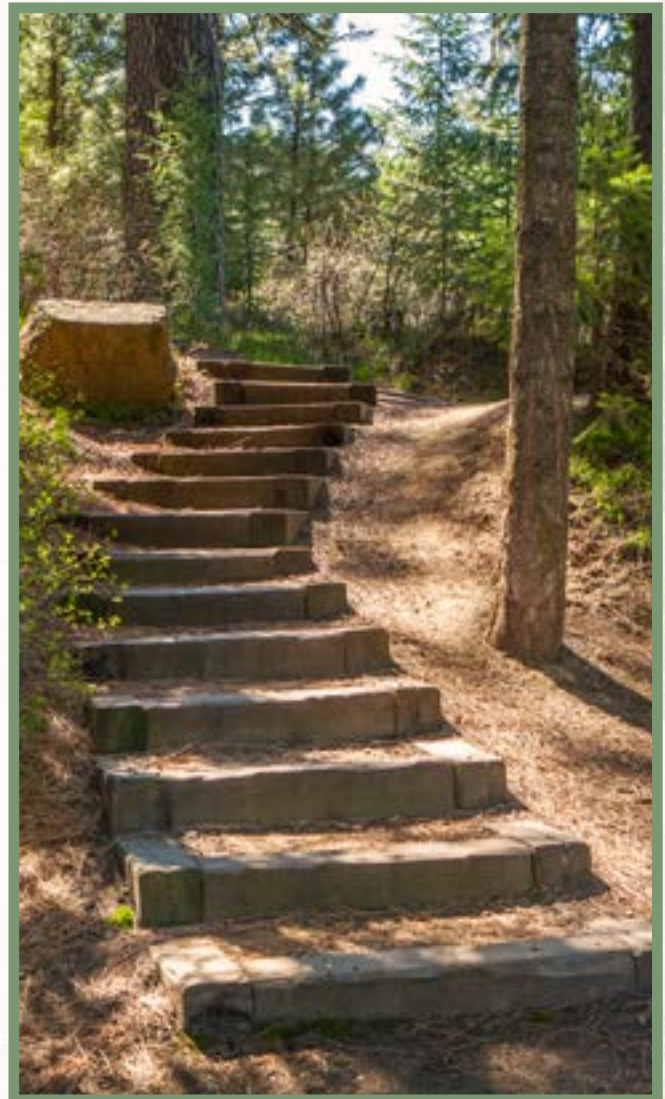


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Here are a few quick tips to help you charge (safely) out into the garden or onto the trail:

- Warm up before an outing, regardless of how strenuous your activity will be. Stretch, bend, squat, and twist for a few minutes to encourage blood flow and more supple movement of your muscles. If you have arthritis, warming up is even more important (plan on 10–15 minutes).
- Stretch periodically during the day, particularly if you're doing a lot of bending or kneeling (think: gardening). Check out the **Mayo Clinic's Guide to Basic Stretches** for a slideshow and descriptions of safe, effective stretching techniques.
- When you return indoors, help ease stiff and sore muscles with a heating pad or warm bath. According to Arthritis-Health.com, "Applying heat for 10 minutes after a workout session or activity like spring cleaning can help increase blood flow to the muscles and help them return to their normal state without seizing up."
- Changes in day length with the shifting seasons can disrupt your sleep, which can leave you tired and more prone to injuries. So it's important to establish a solid routine. Try to keep consistent bedtime and wakeup times, allowing for the requisite seven to eight hours of sleep that most adults need to function at their best
- Keep moving when you're indoors to stay fluid, flexible and ready for your next outing. If you often sit at a desk, stretch frequently while sitting, and make it a priority to get up and move around every 30 minutes.

Mary Jane 



SISTERHOOD SUPPLIES

Farmgirl Planner

click here to order

Price: \$28.95

Our 2017 farmgirl planner is now available. It is bound in a durable three-ring mini-binder (5 1/2" x 8 1/2") and decorated with inserts, front/back/spine. Inside contents are monthly/weekly pages, year ahead at-a-glance, personal information page, and future planner, as well as 100 blank pages (college ruled) for notes that are embellished with farmgirl tips, quotes, photos, etc. In the back, we included five top-loading, heavyweight, clear sheet protectors for things like receipts, recipes, etc.



Goodness, Gracious.



Once Again
Nut and Seed
Butters are
Non-GMO



Cashew Mango "Lassi" Smoothie

Find Once Again products at your local co-op or natural products store.

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 cup diced mango (about 1 small mango) | 1 tsp lime zest |
| 1 small banana | 1 tbsp fresh lime juice |
| ¼ cup orange juice | 1 tsp agave nectar |
| 1 tbsp Once Again Organic Cashew Butter | 1 tsp creamed coconut |
| | 3 ice cubes |

Vegan
Gluten Free

Place all ingredients in a blender and purée until smooth. Serve immediately in a chilled glass.

A lassi is a yogurt-based drink popular in India and Pakistan. This version is dairy-free to keep it vegan, so it gets its velvety smoothness from creamed coconut instead. For many years, coconut was thought to be an unhealthy food because of its high fat content. Research in recent years has shown, however, that the fat in coconut is unique and provides many health benefits—studies have even shown that regular consumption of coconut oil can actually reduce cholesterol levels and help maintain a healthy weight.

NUTRIENTS PER SERVING (1 serving): **CALORIES:** 400, **TOTAL FAT:** 14.5g, **SAT. FAT:** 6.8g, **CHOLESTEROL:** 0mg, **SODIUM:** 9mg, **CARBS:** 70g, **FIBER:** 7.9g, **SUGARS:** 49.4g, **PROTEIN:** 5.1g.

© Once Again Nut Butter, 2014

At Once Again, we love what we do, and we know you'll love this *Cashew Mango "Lassi" Smoothie* recipe! To learn more about us, visit our site and check us out on your favorite social network.

www.OnceAgainNutButter.com



Garden Gate

Bloom Where You're Planted



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

Spring Clean Your Garden Shed



If you didn't get around to it last fall, then March is a marvelous month to spiff up your garden shed in preparation for planting. The rewards are threefold: you'll be outdoors, your shed will sparkle, and your long-dormant gardening spirit will begin to soar. How do you tackle this cluttered corner of your life? Why, by shedding, of course! Here are 5 steps to shaping up your shed:

1. Shed

Just like any other space you set out to spring clean, your garden shed must, well, *shed*. So start your shed cleanout by removing everything from your shed—tools, pots, hoses, boxes, sprinklers ... everything. As you're removing items, give each a good look-over and then sort them into four piles: keep in shed, move to another storage spot, donate, and discard.

2. Clean

Now that the shed is empty, you can scour it from top to bottom, taking care to clean all the crannies that are normally covered by clutter. Using a whisk broom followed by a damp towel, remove dust and debris from shelves and sills. Once those surfaces are clear, a thorough sweeping should do the trick. Some sheds may benefit from mopping or full-blown hosing, but when you introduce moisture, make sure you allow the shed to air out and dry completely before closing it to prevent mold growth. Check over the basic structure of your shed while it's empty, too. Note the condition of walls, windows, floor, and ceiling. Fill gaps, patch holes, touch up paint, and repair any interior damage before replacing the contents. With the shed spiffed, you can turn your focus to the pile of things you plan to keep inside. Chances are, your tools need a wipe down, and also check them for screws that need to be tightened, blades that need sharpening, or parts that need oiling.

3. Organize

After cleaning is complete, the next logical step is organizing. Before you start moving everything in the "keep in the shed" pile back into said shed, identify which items you will be using the most throughout the growing season. These will be replaced last so that they're more readily at hand. Categorize the rest of your shed contents in a way that is convenient for you—long- and short-handled tools, planters and pots, hardware, and so on. You're almost ready to put everything in back its proper place, but not quite ...

4. Store

Before restocking your shed shelves, consider your storage system carefully. This is the make-or-break step in terms of ongoing tidiness and convenience for months to come. You can collect a variety of hooks, hangars, and shelving units at a hardware store, but it's cheaper and easier to simply hammer in some sturdy 6" nails several inches apart (from top to bottom and side to side), and hang most of your tools to keep them tangle-free and out of the way. A shelf or two will come in handy for those few items that can't dangle.



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Here are a few additional organizing tips to try:

- Store nails, seeds, clothespins and other tiny items in Mason jars or baby-food jars so you can see what's inside.
- Make sure you store any potentially toxic substances out of reach of children and pets.
- Items you use often should be at eye height and within easy reach.
- Heavy items should be stored at waist height or lower.
- Loose, larger items like hose fittings should be kept together in a container that's labeled for easy finding.

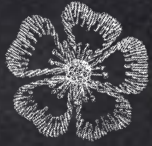
5. Primp

Last, but certainly not least, survey the outside of the shed. You might need a new coat of paint or a few shingles. Heck, you might even be inspired to take on a total shed makeover. For some extra fun and fancy ideas, check out the gallery of absolutely gorgeous garden sheds from the Empress of Dirt in her post, **Best Garden Shed Ideas to Wow Your Garden**.

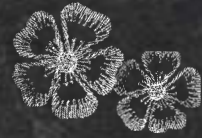
MaryJane 



Stitching & Crafting Room



Stitches of Fun & Laughter!



{STITCHING & CRAFTING} with Dori Troutman | to earn a Sisterhood badge in this category, [CLICK HERE](#)



Troutman (Sister #6167) 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.

Vintage Planter Pincushion

Most of us either have a few of these vintage ceramic planters from days gone by, or else we've seen them in antique or secondhand stores. I just adore them. Recently, I saw one turned into a pincushion and thought it was the sweetest idea I'd ever seen. So I pulled out my favorite little pig planter and went to work.

You'll Need:

- vintage ceramic planter
- fabric scrap (I chose a scrap that matched my planter)
- felt scrap
- hot-glue gun
- batting
- scissors
- needle and embroidery thread



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1. Clean your planter thoroughly with soap and warm water. Do not put it in the dishwasher, as it may not be colorfast.

2. Cut your fabric scrap into a nice round piece, about 6–8" in diameter. (The circle doesn't have to be perfect; you can just eyeball it.)

3. Using your needle and thread, sew a running stitch around the outer edge of the fabric circle.

4. Carefully pull the thread, bringing the circle to a close and forming a pocket.

5. Stuff the pocket with batting. You want to stuff it enough that it will hold its shape but not be too stiff. Tie a knot in your thread, closing the cushion.

6. Cut your felt scrap into a small circle and use a hot-glue gun to glue it over the opening of the cushion.

7. Run a bead of hot glue along the top of the planter opening.

8. Quickly push your pincushion into the hole, leaving at least half of the cushion sticking out the top. You can pull some of the fabric out if needed, in order to make a nice, uniform shape.

9. You're done! Place your favorite pins in the cushion and it's ready to go. I keep mine right next to my sewing machine and I love it—not only is it darling, but it's functional, too!



Sister Loves

{ our favorites ... just } a click away!

Karina's
PICKS
(JUST A CLICK AWAY)



GRAPHIC DESIGNER
(SISTER #4)

It's been a long winter this year, and now that spring is starting to show itself, I feel ready to get moving outside. To get myself motivated, I've been looking for new running gear. Check out the some of the fun picks I found.

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



REI



Calia



REI



Nike



Nike



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NEW YORK TIMES
BEST SELLING AUTHOR

MARIE
BOSTWICK

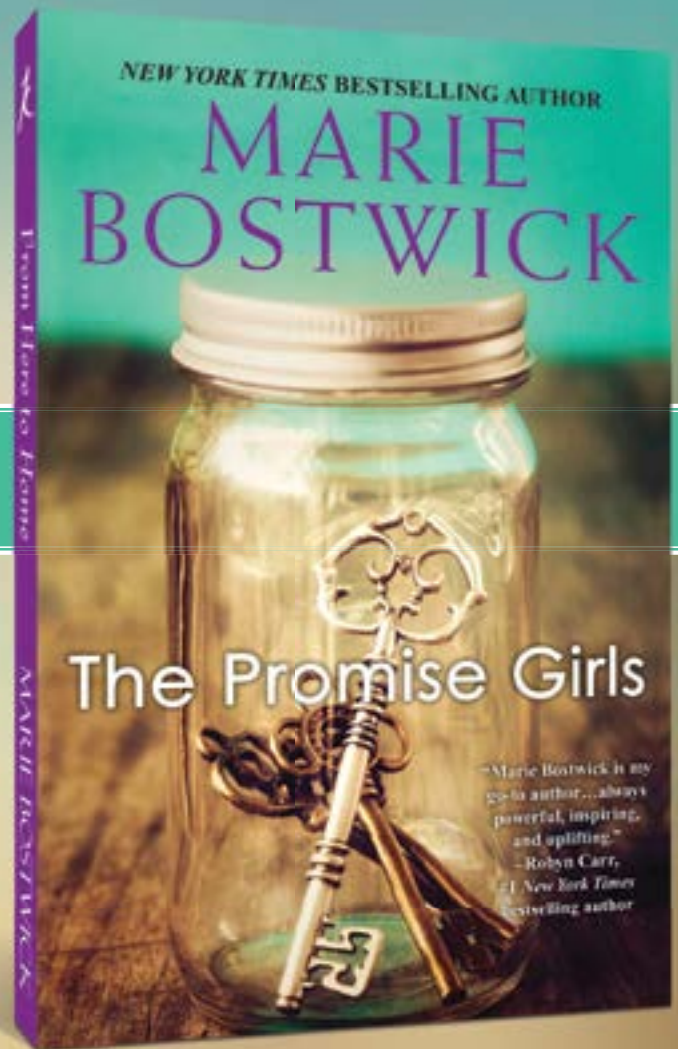
The Promise Girls

On Sale March 28
Preorder Now

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Kensington Books | March 2017 Trade Paperback
ISBN: 978-1496709219 | \$15.00 U.S./ \$16.95 CAN.



From the beloved author of the Cobbled Court Quilt novels, *New York Times* best selling author Marie Bostwick delivers an emotionally rich and captivating new novel that reunites three sisters whose deep bond is rooted in an unconventional past.

"THE PROMISE GIRLS is a beautiful story about the ties that bind—love, laughter, memories, even secrets kept so long they become a part of the fabric of a family. Marie Bostwick exquisitely tells the tale of the three Promise girls, former child prodigies who learn to heal the scars of a bitter past so that they can love—and forgive—again."

—**Melanie Benjamin**, *New York Times* Best Selling author of *The Swans of Fifth Avenue*

"Reading Marie Bostwick is like wrapping yourself up in a warm, hand-crafted quilt. Her books, rich in character and plot, are stitched together by a skilled wordsmith."

—**Debbie Macomber**, #1 *New York Times* bestselling author



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 Frey Organic Wines



moda
ONCE UPON A CHICKEN
FABRIC by *MaryJane*♥

We're all familiar with the concept of Chicken Soup for the Soul. And who among us can dispute the soulful therapy that quilting provides? (Generations of women have proven the unequalled therapeutic value of quilting.) Well, I thought, how about going double-duty and combine the two? The result? An heirloom-quality chicken-feather quilt!

With every purchase of my Once Upon a Chicken fabric (available at MaryJanesFarm.org), we'll include a free copy of the 56" x 70" feather quilt pattern shown below. (You'll find a list of the fabric you'll need to make the quilt under the fabric's product description.)

-OR-

Simply buy my Once Upon a Chicken **Quilt Kit** (includes the fabric you'll need for the quilt top and the quilt back, along with detailed instructions and templates for the feathers). The supplies you'll need to gather up are: thread, batting, 2 ½ yards of fusible webbing for appliqué (should you choose), and basic quilting supplies for cutting and stitching.

My fabric is also available at FatQuarterShop.com and your local quilt shop.

DON'T DELAY!
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PROJECT
F.A.R.M.
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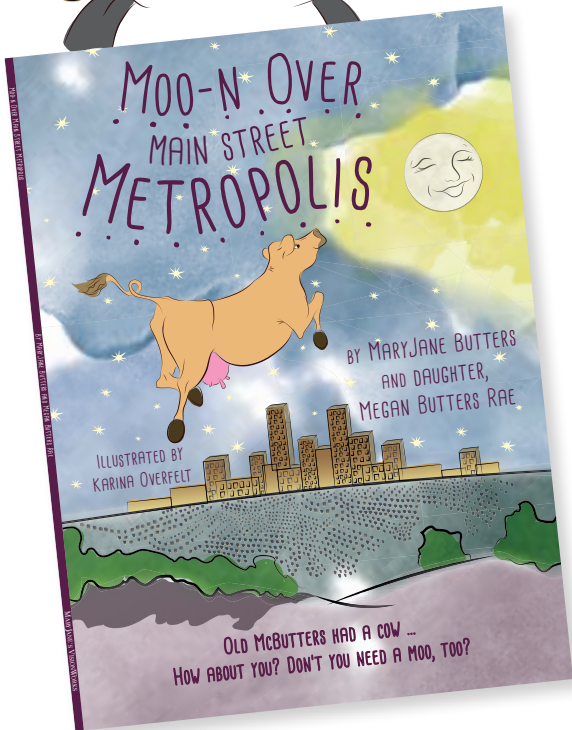




MOO-N OVER MAIN STREET METROPOLIS

It's about time! MaryJane and daughter, Megan, have finally written a children's book, illustrated by Karina Overfelt—a 34-page cowpanion to MaryJane's fifth book, *Milk Cow Kitchen*. Give or get the gift of this adorable adventure story about a milk cow named Sally O'Mally, who finds love in the home of a single mom and her daughter who never gave up hope that someday, they'd have a backyard milk cow.

Includes 5 reader-to-child educational pages that are jam-packed with conversational questions, including an irresistible hands-on project.



TO ORDER A COPY FOR ONLY \$9.89,
GO TO MARYJANESFARM.ORG

While you're there, pick up a copy of MaryJane's *Milk Cow Kitchen*, a 400-page cowpendium with 1,100 how-to photographs that detail everything you need to know to keep a 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.

“ Move over dogs, cats, and hamsters—milk cows are making the ‘moo-ve’ to be your next household pet. With songs to sing, fun facts, and colorful illustrations, *Moo-n Over Main Street Metropolis* is a wonderful reader-to-child experience that connects children to their food, one milk cow at a time. ”

— Suzanne Gibbs Taylor, Creator of BabyLit®



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MOO-RAH, MOO-RAH ...

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“ All the good ideas
I ever had came to me
while I was milking a cow. ”

- Grant Wood



Make it Easy



Happy Hearts Make Light Work

{ MAKE IT EASY } with CJ Armstrong | to earn a Sisterhood badge in our { MAKE IT EASY } 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](#).

Farmgirl Swap

Happy New Year, farmgirls! That may be a bit late, but it's my first opportunity to greet you for the new year. It's already March, and spring is on the horizon. I know that many of you have been buried in a lot of snow and some of us have been mucking a lot of mud. I, for one, will be glad to not have mud for a while. I'm looking forward to spring, green grass, flowers, the return of hummingbirds, and some warm sunshine.

I wanted to share information about a few new Farmgirl Connection swaps that might just help you get in the mood for spring:

Judy Mills is hosting the "Altered Egg Carton for Spring Swap," which sounds like a lot of fun and a great way to re-use an egg carton. Perhaps this is one you could do with your kids or grandkids. Check it out [here](#).

With Easter in mind, Julie Hofmann is hosting the "Here Comes Peter Cottontail" swap, which involves making an Easter basket with goodies for your partner. This would be a great one for any age. For more information and to sign up, click [here](#).

Sarah Hall hosted the first "Pennant Swap," which was a great success, with farmgirls creating some beautiful triangles for their partners. You can check out photos of some of the triangles created in the first swap and sign up for the next one [here](#).

So shake off those winter doldrums, make yourself a lovely cup of tea, dig out those pastels and fresh craft supplies, and let's brighten each other's lives with some springy good cheer! I also wish you all a Happy St. Patrick's Day in March, a Blessed Easter in April, and I'll see you again in May!!



PAY DIRT FARM SCHOOL

est. 1997





Ek Ongkar is a marketing coordinator at Mountain Rose Herbs. She was born and raised in Eugene, Oregon, but is no stranger to the ancient Indian philosophy of Ayurvedic medicine. You can often find her sipping chai, taking long walks near the ridgeline trail, and doing origami.

Spring Salads with Fire and Zing!

Bright, juicy salads are an undeniable joy of spring and summer. One of our employee benefits at **Mountain Rose Herbs** is the option to participate in a CSA (community supported agriculture) with a local organic farm, so freshly picked lettuce makes a regular appearance in our weekly produce deliveries to the office.

We developed this vinaigrette to let these greens shine! Made-from-scratch dressing is so much tastier than what you can find at your grocery store, and you'll rest easy knowing it's free from chemicals and preservatives.

For the oil in the recipe, any culinary oil will do. But for a truly special salad dressing, select a more unique oil like organic **avocado oil** or organic **pumpkin seed oil**. Or for those overachieving home chefs, consider making **infused herbal oil**—one of our favorite combos includes organic **lemongrass**, organic **anise seed**, and organic **orange peel**.

Easy Vinaigrette with Fire Cider

- 4 T organic culinary oil (see suggestions above)
- 2 T **Fire Tonic No. 9** or homemade **fire cider**
- 2 t mustard (**homemade mustard** is truly easy and so much tastier than store bought!)
- 1 t organic ground pepper, like our **rainbow pepper blend**
- pinch of **Cyprus Flake Salt**

Combine first four ingredients in a mixing bowl and whisk vigorously or mix in a blender. Toss mixture with your favorite organic salad greens. Top with a pinch of flake salt for an additional crunch and salty pop of flavor. Serve immediately.



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Making Mustard from Scratch

Once you've discovered how truly easy it is to prepare this spicy condiment, you'll be creating all sorts of delicious combinations. We like to mix both yellow and brown mustard seeds together as a base, but you can stick with just the yellow seeds if you like your mustard a little more mild than hot. Feel free to play around with different kinds of vinegar, sweeteners, salts, fruits, and herbs. Or try different wines, beer, and liquor. Some fun flavors to play with include **curry powder**, cranberries, maple syrup, **cayenne**, **smoked salt**, **caraway seeds**, garlic, white wine, stout, grilled peaches, and on and on. If you're looking for that classic yellow color, just add a little **turmeric powder**.

These delicious spreads can be smeared on sandwiches, mixed into potato salads, used to emulsify dressings, made into marinades and glazes, added to cheese sauce recipes, used as a dip for hot pretzels, and just about any other way you like your mustard. Here's our favorite recipe creation so far.

Brandied Honey Mustard Recipe

- 6 T **organic yellow mustard seeds**
- 2 T **organic brown mustard seeds**
- 3 T brandy (optional)
- 2/3 cup organic apple cider vinegar
- 1/2 cup local honey
- 1 1/2 t **fine sea salt**

Combine mustard seeds, 1/3 cup water, brandy (if using), and vinegar in a bowl and stir well to completely submerge the seeds. Cover and allow to soak at room temperature for 3 days. Swirl the bowl around a little each day to see the transformation. After 3 days, pour the mixture into a blender, add honey and salt, and blend until smooth. Store in a sealed jar and refrigerate. We recommend using a plastic lid or using some kind of barrier to keep the vinegar from corroding the metal.

For variations, follow these tips:

- Add 1 t to 1 T of aromatic seeds during the soaking process.
- Dried fruit should be added during the soaking process.
- Add dried herbs, seasoning powders, or fresh fruit just before blending. For less sweet mustards, cut the sweetener by half.





Cleaning Up

The Work of Our Hands



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

Spring Clean Your Virtual Space

You've sorted the closets, scrubbed the tub, and dusted away all traces of fusty ol' winter ... but there's one space you might have forgotten to spring clean: your virtual world. Take a good look at the devices you use daily, and you'll likely notice a buildup of electronic gunk and cyber clutter in the technological crannies of your daily routine, from your e-mail inbox to your social networks. Spiffing up your virtual space may take a day or two to complete, but the effort is a surefire way to help you feel brighter, fresher, and ready for a new season of success.

Start Smart

- The most obvious place to begin is with your constant companion: the trusty smartphone. Scan it for stale apps and delete them with delight (if you accidentally delete an app you wish you hadn't, it should be saved in the Cloud on your account so you can re-download it).
- Scroll through your contacts—are there some you haven't dialed in ages (and probably won't dial again)? Look for last year's school teachers, casual contacts with whom you never connected, retired realtors, ditched doctors, and so on.

You're feeling freer already, aren't you?



De-clutter your Computer

- Scour your files and delete anything you no longer need. If deletion makes you nervous, transfer all of your "I might need that someday" files from your computer to a flash drive and label it with the date. Next year, review the drive and pitch files you haven't touched since saving them. (Remember to empty your computer's recycle bin after deletions to complete cleanup.)
- Consider using the site called **Dropbox** to store files online—especially large photo or video files—and easily share them with friends, family, and business associates. That way, your computer won't be bogged down by the excess.
- If you're pretty tech-savvy, search your computer for software programs you don't use and uninstall them (if in doubt, seek assistance with this one).

Erase E-mails

- This task can be tough and time consuming, but it is well worth the trouble. Start with your inbox. Scroll through and file or delete every single e-mail.

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If you don't have a file designated for certain subjects, create one. The crisp, white space of an empty inbox is almost as refreshing as a perfectly clean closet, really.

- The next order of business is deleting files or e-mails within files that you don't need. Check your Drafts and Sent folders, too, because they seem to grow exponentially over time.
- Finally, unsubscribe from blogs, newsletters, updates, and ezines you don't read. Generally, you can scroll to the bottom of this kind of e-mail and find an "unsubscribe" link that will guide you through a quick online sign-off. If you have dozens of unwanted subscriptions, check out [Unroll.me](#), a free online service that speeds up the process of unsubscribing from multiple mailing lists.

Streamline Social Networks

- Comb through your bios and "about me" sections on each of your social networks. A few nips, tucks, edits, and updates will not only spruce up your online presence, it will give you a refreshing sense of reinvention.
- Review posts that show up in your Facebook feed. Does someone post WAY too much or post topics you'd rather not see? You don't have to delete or unfriend these contacts; simply hide their posts by clicking the little drop-down icon in the upper right corner of one of their posts and selecting the option that removes their posts from your feed. If you want to review a "hidden" friend's posts, just hop over to her page and peruse, like, or comment as you normally would.
- In Twitter, clean up your list by simply unfollowing people whose posts don't please you any longer or who don't ever post at all. You may also want to unfollow people who aren't following you back. A free online tool at [Untweeps.com](#) can help you tidy up Twitter, too.
- Pinterest is a place full of creative inspiration, but it is also the social media site that has the greatest potential for clutter—LOTS of clutter. Make sure all of your boards are actively in use (i.e. you pin to them weekly or more frequently). If you have a ton of boards, you may consider consolidating and/or eliminating a few rows. This may sound painful, but it can actually feel incredibly liberating once your cuts are complete.

Last, but not least ...

- Some sources say that your smartphone is dirtier than a toilet seat (yuck!). We assume this foul fact must apply to tablets, keyboards, and mice, too. So, moisten a microfiber cloth with some rubbing alcohol and thoroughly wipe down all of the devices you touch, making sure not to soak the crevices. Repeat weekly to keep these surfaces' germs and goo at bay.



MaryJane 

SISTERHOOD SUPPLIES

Raising Jane® Pantaloons

(Sister Loonies)

Now available
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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 you 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.

PROJECT
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Creme Complete - Ultimate Therapy for
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"This product works. I have tried everything for lichen sclerosus including cortisone creams. I have been using it less than a week and the itching is gone and so are all the other symptoms. I also am putting it on some dark spots from sun damage and they are going away."

- Customer review of the Creme Complete.

A Multifaceted Approach to Skin Health and Rejuvenation Using an array of Vitamins and Antioxidants.*

A little over 10 years ago we decided to formulate a skin cream with only the healthiest ingredients. That product was the Creme Complete. It is our most therapeutic moisturizing cream, containing an array of vitamins and antioxidants—from Alpha Lipoic Acid to Vitamin E. These ingredients work together to slow down cellular damage, caused by free radicals and oxidation.

Antioxidants are substances found in many fruits and vegetables and inhibit cellular damage by fighting free radicals and oxidation, and slowing the damages caused by UV rays. Certain antioxidants – such as CoQ10 and Alpha Lipoic Acid – are made naturally by our bodies, while other antioxidants such as Vitamin C and E are obtained through diet. They all can diminish over time, especially without proper diet and supplementation. As we age, UV rays deplete vitamins and antioxidants from our skin and increase our chances of developing skin abnormalities, such as actinic keratosis, also called solar keratosis. Studies show that vitamins C and E as well as other antioxidants help control problematic skin conditions such as actinic keratosis, which can sometimes progress to skin cancer. Antioxidants have also been shown to be beneficial in combating lichen sclerosus.

Made with organic aloe vera, organic beeswax, organic cocoa butter, essential oils, and vegetable oils, the Creme Complete contains vitamins C and E, along with numerous other antioxidants (including alpha lipoic acid, CoQ10, grape seed extract, and resveratrol) to promote healthier skin and to help your skin respond better to the damage caused by age and environment.*



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Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospers. III John, verse 2

*These products and/or statements have not been evaluated by the Food and Drug Administration and is not intended to diagnose, treat, cure or prevent disease.

Sister Loves

{ our favorites ... just a click away! }

Cyndnie's
PICKS
(JUST A CLICK AWAY)

You can find colored Mason jars online for your DIY!

Use three-tiered shelves to create a unique tea display!



GRAPHIC DESIGNER
(SISTER #2396)



Domestically Speaking



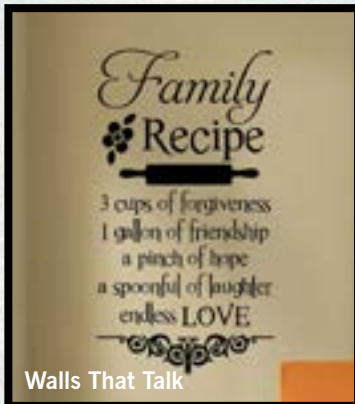
Ginny's Girls Treasures



The Happy Housie

Hi there! This intense winter season has me ready for some spring cleaning and fun DIY projects. First on the list is my kitchen. Here are a few ideas for some new kitchen organization as well as some neat projects for you to try yourself!

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



Walls That Talk



DIY in PDX

A fun DIY project for rustic kitchen shelves!



Overstock

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THE COMPANY THAT CARES

Caravan Roundup

FABRIC by *MaryJane*♥

Pretty-as-you-please paired with practicality chronicles the modern-day glammer, from her stirrup-ready boots to her bandanna—combination hair scarf, necktie, campfire hot-pad, and emergency coffee filter. Adorned in curlicues, polka dots, lacy motifs, and paisleys, glammers are guided by another notorious emblem, the compass rose. MaryJane Butters' Caravan Roundup do-si-dos the hard-working paisley with lacy lace and the compass rose, giving curtsy to the gloriously girly curlicue.

AVAILABLE AT FATQUARTERSHOP.COM

My fabric is also available at your local quilt shop.





Caravan Roundup Quilt Kit available at FatQuarterShop.com.





The Scoop

MaryJanesFarm News



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.



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!)



Our Glampers on the Loose Facebook page now has 24,285 members. Click [here](#) to check it out.





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

58

March 2017

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and
the...

Long-term! Farmgirl Sisterhood Membership

ONCE and for ALL

ON OCTOBER 25TH OF LAST YEAR, I ASKED FOR YOUR OPINION.

What do you think of this idea? We've been asked before but Brian was asked again recently:

“Hi Brian, Thank you for the reminder. I don't know how I missed the first reminder email but I did. *I would flip over nuts if my farmgirl sisterhood membership expired!!!* Is there a lifetime membership available that could be paid one time so I don't have the scare of missing the renewal? Take care and be blessed.”

What are your thoughts? I'm all ears.
Many posts later, we arrived at the following solution.
BUY FIVE YEARS, GET ONE FREE!

MaryJane 

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▲ Jesamine Quilt

Sweet blue blossoms lend a nostalgic quality to this lovely floral quilt. The pure cotton quilt features an all-over branching floral design on ivory with scalloped edges and floral patterned quilting. Blue Turquoise, Gray and Tarragon flowers on the front are backed in an ivory and soft blue stripe. Cotton. A variety of bedskirts are available and Jacqueline Euro shams coordinate.

Twin Quilt 66x86 \$103.95, **Queen Quilt** 90x92 \$129.95, **King Quilt** 108x92 \$161.95, **Shams** 20x26 \$34.95, **Euros** 26x26 \$44.95



◀ Anessa Quilt

This is a delightful floral botanical scene with ferns and flowers on a cream background. The unusual overall floral stitching pattern creates a unique design. 100% cotton shell and fill, this has a straight edge. The quilt reverses to a green on cream lattice pattern and the shams are backed in the botanical pattern. Anessa quilt shams have a flap closure with a 3-inch overlap to conceal your pillow insert. Manchester Fern or Green Matelasse add a lovely accent. The embroidered pillow is also available.

Queen Quilt 90x92 \$119.95, **King Quilt** 108x92 \$149.95, **Shams** 20x26 \$34.95, **Euros (2)** 26x26 \$59.95



◀ Lucianna Quilt

Start a bold new wave of fashion in your dream room with the classic colors of this traditional Jacobean floral bedding. This collection by C&F Enterprises is 100% cotton. The cream background is covered in floral and vine in muted shades of terra cotta, caramel, celadon, gold, toffee, peach and Aegean blue. Quilt has a straight edge and reverses to a linen-look print in solid Aegean blue. Shown with Manchester Aegean Euro shams and coverlet for accent. Also coordinates with Terra Cotta accents and our ruffled cream bed skirt. The embroidered pillow has heavy embroidery in an old-fashioned window shutter design.

Twin Quilt 66x86 \$95.95, **Queen Quilt** 90x92 \$119.95, **King Quilt** 108x92 \$149.95, **Shams** 20x26 \$34.95, **Euros (2)** 26x26 \$59.95

Ask about special: 15% OFF, free shipping, no tax!

Farmgirl Sisterhood

Share in the Fun!

Farmgirl Chatter

What are farmgirls chatting about?

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

Across the Fence: I did it! Submitted by catscharm74

For months now, as in almost 8 or 9, I have been wanting to minimalize as much as I can. This week, I did it! I gave away over 40% of what we had in this house to an animal rescue for their annual yard sale. I feel so free! I am heading down many new adventures in my life and I need to clean out, be simple, and be organized. I do not do well in chaos. I was going to have a yard sale, but the effort is not worth the reward. I am hoping karma will come back to me in some form at some point. :)

All I have left to do is clean the house, top to bottom, deep clean, and put things back. I am beyond excited! I have room in my closets, space in my cabinets, and cleaning is a lot easier!!!

Share your thoughts [here!](#)

Farm Kitchen: Bottled Frappuccinos. Submitted by forgetmenot

YES! Finally, I've come up with a recipe that works for DH. He drinks a few of those Starbucks Mocha Frappuccinos a day! Yes, it is getting too expensive. Neither of us drink coffee. It started out as something that did not taste that great that would keep him awake on a road trip.

The price on those drinks just went up twice in a month. I thought I might be able to find a recipe on the Internet. There are several. I found one basic recipe from "AnotherTeenMom." That was, after several batches: #1. Too chocolatey. #2. Too chocolatey and too sweet. 3. Too bitter and not enough coffee. 4. Too bitter and still too sweet. #5. Too bitter. (These attempts included changes in brands of coffee and going to 2% from whole milk.). #6. Eureka for this kitchen! The result is more of the coffee taste; but, he likes it! Yay! Here is the recipe:

- 1 1/2 cups brewed coffee. (Use 1/3 cup Folgers French Roast ground coffee and 2 1/2 cups water to brew.)
- 1/4 cup sugar
- 2 t 100% unsweetened, powered cocoa (I used Ghirardelli)
- 6 cups 2% milk

Brew your coffee. Pour into medium- to large-size pot. Add sugar and cocoa.



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continued ...

Stir until dissolved. Add milk and stir until well blended. Funnel into glass storage containers and refrigerate. (At first, I stored the batch in quart containers. Now, I funnel them into the used Starbucks glass bottles. I wash the lids and reuse them, also. One batch fills about 4 1/2 bottles. I made 2 batches yesterday, as this drink goes so quickly. And, this from a man who did not drink milk until just recently.)

It costs less than \$.50 per bottle to make compared to approx. \$2.46 per bottle. What do you think?

Share your recipes [here!](#)

Outpost: Counting Down the Days to Glamping. Submitted by katmom

Oh how my last few months have been soooo busy ... I am looking forward to when glamping season is here! Inspiration? MaryJane's lil' teardrop in Spokane, WA (top, right); my trailer in Elk, ID (second from top, right); Heather's Silver Lark on the river in WA (third from top, right); my solar drier at the campground (bottom, right). So looking forward to summer ...

Share your Glamping stories [here](#).

Across the Fence: Your happiest story in four words. Submitted by Ninibini

Okay, girls, I just saw this online and LOVED it! Let's give it a whirl: Write your happiest story in just four words. You can add to it every day, if you like! :)

Here's mine: Creating "Happily Ever After."
What's yours?

Share your happiest story [here!](#)



**MaryJane's lil' teardrop in
Spokane, WA**



**My trailer in
Elk, ID**



**Heather's Silver Lark on
the river in WA**



**My 'solar' drier at the
campground**

continued ...



continued ...

Across the Fence: Antique shop find. Submitted by quiltee

I found this beautiful framed sampler at an antique shop on our way home from Arizona the week before last. It so suits the farmgirl lifestyle. I have quite a few cross-stitch, embroidery, and needlepoint pictures up in my 1902 house—most were done by my mother and a few by me. I know how much time and work go into cross-stitch samplers, so thought my \$9 was well spent.

Join the conversation [here](#).

Farm Kitchen: Secret ingredient. Submitted by brianna.e

I'm curious. Do any of y'all have a weird or secret ingredient that you add to something you bake/cook? Something that no one would really think of adding, but that seems to make your dish just perfect?

I add coriander to my chicken noodle soup! Not sure how much (I am one of those folks who don't really measure when cooking), but maybe a 1/2 t? Just enough to imbue it with a little lemony, "what is this?" flavor. Ever since I starting doing that little thing, I have been getting crazy compliments about my soup!

Wanna share yours? Tell us [here!](#)

Garden Gate: Garden Plans 2017. Submitted by YellowRose

My favorite garden thing to do this time of year through the first of the New Year is to plan my new garden. Today I started by locating an online a source for Mexican oregano plants. The site is in my favorites and a note on Dec. 31 in my MJF planner so I won't forget.

When I get my 2017 planner, I'll start a page for garden notes. I need to make a list of herb plants I want to grow and whether they will be grown in containers or must be in the ground. I prefer containers.

What are your garden plans for 2017? Share your plans [here!](#)



continued ...



continued ...

Stitching and Crafting Room: Dolls for Mozambique. Submitted by Red Tractor Girl

My good friend here in town, who hosts our knitting group, is going to Mozambique in March to visit her son and family who are living there. Her son is working on a PhD in Public Health and doing some fieldwork in Mozambique on Malaria. About two weeks ago, his wife, who was part of our knitting group while they lived here, asked if anyone could make some dolls for a preschool where she is volunteering with their 18-month-old daughter. She said that Mozambique is very poor and that the school has few resources for the children to play with. My friend is only able to take a small suitcase because it must be able to fit in the overhead bins. It will take her 4 different connecting flights for 39 hours to get from the U.S. to her son in Mozambique.

I have been mulling over what I could make that would be washable and easy to pack, and here is what I came up with. I took a stuffed gingerbread doll, traced around it for a general form, made some changes, and created my pattern. Secondly, I remember my mother sewing dolls for pediatric patients at our local hospital, and they were cut with pinking shears and simply sewn together and stuffed. With some muslim fabric and bright fabric and rickrack, I created a sort of apron skirt. I also have this little box of buttons from my mom, who loved to make clothes for babies and children. The little strawberry buttons made perfect hearts for the dolls. As you can see, I kept the faces simple with colorful button eyes ... voila! The girls for the Mozambique Project are ready for departure and travel on March 15.

This little project was so much fun for me because it was a total distraction that took about 4 hours. It felt good to do something for children on the other side of the world who have so little and whose future could be very limited and diminished. Education is the key, and hopefully, getting an early start in a preschool will yield opportunities for work and a middle-class life out of poverty. I really hope the girls love their new little dolls to play with!

Share your thoughts [here!](#)



Girl Gab

GirlGab.com



the world as
our garden

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



food from scratch



lessons in
herbalism



farmgirl pets



farmgirl love

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.

To find out more,
scan here with
your smartphone. }



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MAKES: 4 CUPS

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¼ cup honey
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1. Add 2 cups cream and the vanilla to a medium bowl or stand mixer; set aside.
2. Bring honey and water to a simmer in a small saucepan over medium heat; slowly sprinkle in ChillOver Powder and continue to simmer for 3 minutes, stirring constantly. Remove from heat and whisk in remaining cream.
3. Begin whipping cream. Add honey mixture just before soft peaks form, then continue to whip into stiff peaks.
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* You'll find several jam recipes using our ChillOver Powder in the magazine section of our website: MaryJanesFarm.org/Recipes-Patterns-Instructions

TEAM RUBICON

BRIDGE THE GAP

&

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.

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for a hefty dose of inspiration, watch Team Rubicon on [YouTube.com/TeamRubiconUSA](https://www.youtube.com/TeamRubiconUSA)

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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*.



Farmgirl Sisterhood



Social Media

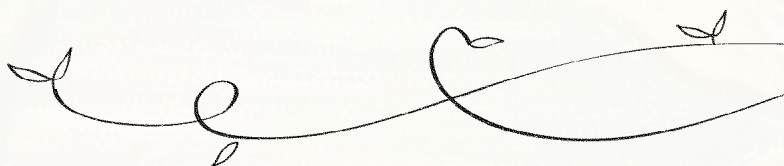
I'm doubling back to make sure you're aware of all the social media happenings at MaryJanesFarm, because you won't want to miss a thing—especially the moment when YOU'RE the sister featured on one of our Facebook pages simply because you're just so farmgirl awesome or you've earned a badge or your blog 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 7,328 (and counting), we've earned an amazing number of Merit Badges so far—10,240 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 darn 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



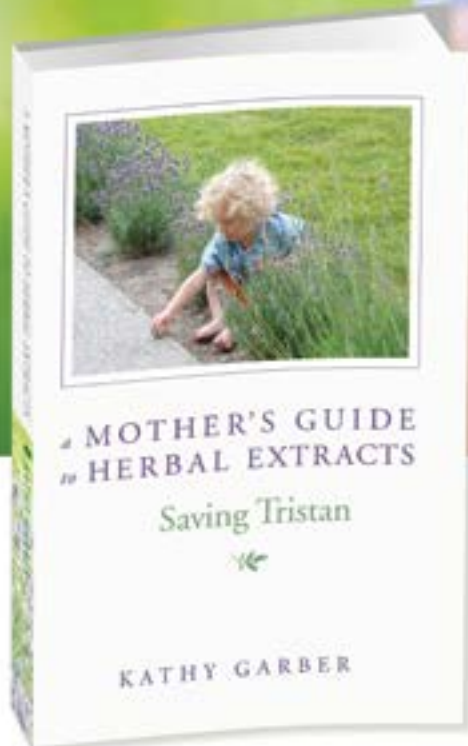
Elaine!!!

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,
Kim



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Merit Badge

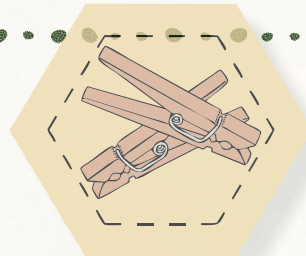
Awardees



Merit Badge Awardees

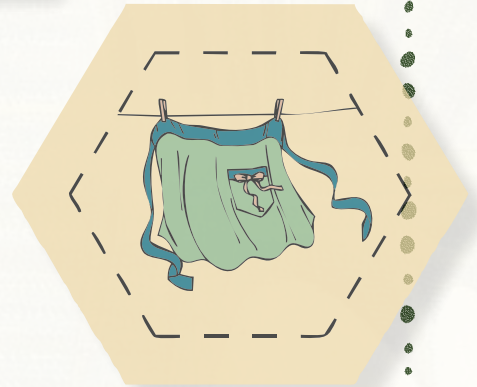
Andrea Chavez: achavez #7230

- Beginner badge: Cleaning Up / Recycling
- Beginner badge: Stitching & Crafting / Aprons
- Beginner badge: Stitching & Crafting / Quilting
- Intermediate badge: Cleaning Up / Recycling
- Intermediate badge: Stitching & Crafting / Aprons
- Expert badge: Cleaning Up / Recycling
- Expert badge: Stitching & Crafting / Aprons



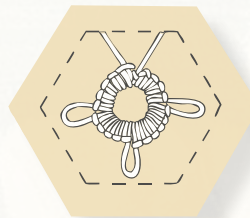
Arlene Woods: #7241

- Beginner badge: Farm Kitchen / Cheesemaking
- Beginner badge: Farm Kitchen / Get it Together
- Beginner badge: Garden Gate / Birds
- Beginner badge: Outpost / First Aid
- Beginner badge: Outpost / Pampered Pets
- Beginner badge: Outpost / Speak for the Trees
- Beginner badge: Outpost / Stargazing Chicks
- Beginner badge: Stitching & Crafting / Homespun Christmas
- Intermediate badge: Outpost / Speak for the Trees



Ashley Edstrom: #7053

- Intermediate badge: Garden Gate / Herbs
- Expert badge: Outpost / Pampered Pets



Becky Gilson: Bearprairiechick #6695

- Beginner badge: Farm Kitchen / Organic on a Budget
- Beginner badge: Garden Gate / Gaining Ground
- Beginner badge: Garden Gate / What's Your Beef?
- Beginner badge: Make it Easy / Make it Pretty
- Beginner badge: Stitching & Crafting / Crochet
- Beginner badge: Stitching & Crafting / Homespun Christmas
- Beginner badge: Stitching & Crafting / Knitting
- Beginner badge: Stitching & Crafting / Safe Toys
- Intermediate badge: Cleaning Up / Going Green



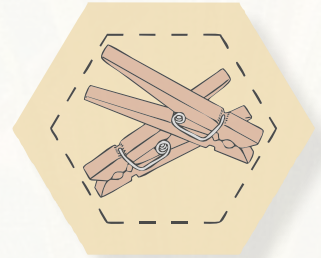
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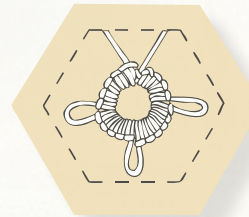
Beth Lohman: Cntybuff #2591

- Beginner badge: Cleaning Up / Shopping Green
- Beginner badge: Each Other / Entrepreneurial Spirit
- Beginner badge: Make it Easy / Furniture Makeover
- Beginner badge: Make it Easy / Make it Pretty
- Beginner badge: Stitching & Crafting / Homespun Christmas
- Intermediate badge: Make it Easy / Make it Pretty
- Intermediate badge: Stitching & Crafting / Crochet



Brenda White: #6769

- Beginner badge: Each Other / Languages/Culture



CJ Armstrong: ceejay48 #665

- Beginner badge: Make it Easy / Emergency Preparedness
- Beginner badge: Make it Easy / Mindfulness Meditation
- Intermediate badge: Make it Easy / Emergency Preparedness
- Intermediate badge: Make it Easy / Mindfulness Meditation

Cyrie Wilson: Pixiedustdevil #6941

- Beginner badge: Make it Easy / Carp-hen-try
- Beginner badge: Make it Easy / Relaxation
- Beginner badge: Stitching & Crafting / Homespun Christmas
- Beginner badge: Stitching & Crafting / Quilting
- Beginner badge: Stitching & Crafting / Scrapbooking
- Intermediate badge: Make it Easy / Relaxation
- Intermediate badge: Stitching & Crafting / Homespun Christmas
- Intermediate badge: Stitching & Crafting / Knitting
- Intermediate badge: Stitching & Crafting / Nellie Will-do
- Intermediate badge: Stitching & Crafting / Safe Toys
- Expert badge: Stitching & Crafting / Tatting
- Expert badge: Stitching & Crafting / UFOs



Denise Meister: Denisemgm #1976

- Beginner badge: Make it Easy / Mindfulness Meditation
- Beginner badge: Stitching & Crafting / UFOs

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Donna Kouri: #6893

Beginner badge: Stitching & Crafting / Safe Toys

Donna Rowe: Mrs Noah, #6295

Beginner badge: Make it Easy / Make it Pretty

Intermediate badge: Make it Easy / Make it Pretty

Elise Grant: #7156

Beginner badge: Outpost / Speak for the Trees

Ginger Dawn Harman: Ginger Dawn #6451

Beginner badge: Each Other / Her-story

Beginner badge: Farm Kitchen / Get it Together

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

Beginner badge: Make it Easy / Mindfulness Meditation

Beginner badge: Make it Easy / Music

Intermediate badge: Make it Easy / Mindfulness Meditation

Intermediate badge: Make it Easy / Music

Helen Ettlin: Grandma Helen #7130

Beginner badge: Cleaning Up / Recycling

Beginner badge: Cleaning Up / Shopping Green

Jennifer Ettlin: MsKathleen #7128

Beginner badge: Cleaning Up / Recycling

Beginner badge: Cleaning Up / Shopping Green

Beginner badge: Each Other / Blogging

Jill Yelland-Demooy: #6748

Beginner badge: Stitching & Crafting / Aprons

Beginner badge: Stitching & Crafting / Sew Wonderful

Beginner badge: Stitching & Crafting / UFOs

Intermediate badge: Farm Kitchen / Bread Making

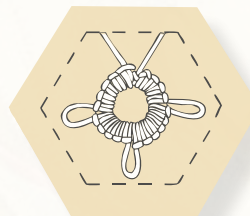
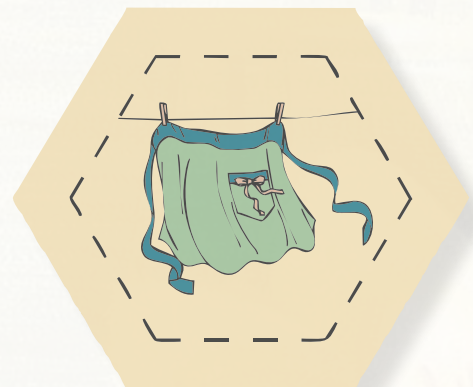
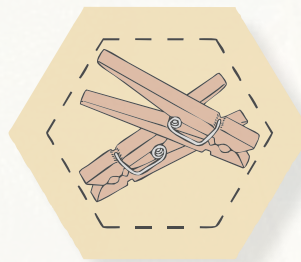
Expert badge: Farm Kitchen / Bread Making

Expert badge: Stitching & Crafting / Knitting

Joanna Green: Joanna #5965

Beginner badge: Cleaning Up / Recycling

Beginner badge: Make it Easy / Make it Pretty



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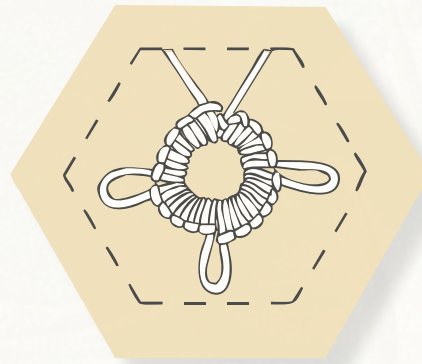


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Beginner badge: Stitching & Crafting / Crochet
Intermediate badge: Cleaning Up / Recycling
Expert badge: Cleaning Up / Recycling

Joyce Hein: GinghamGirl #6071

Beginner badge: Cleaning Up / My Fair Farmgirl
Beginner badge: Each Other / Families Forever
Beginner badge: Farm Kitchen / Get it Together
Beginner badge: Farm Kitchen / Unprocessed Kitchen
Beginner badge: Garden Gate / Backyard Farmer
Intermediate badge: Cleaning Up / My Fair Farmgirl
Intermediate badge: Each Other / Families Forever
Intermediate badge: Garden Gate / Backyard Farmer

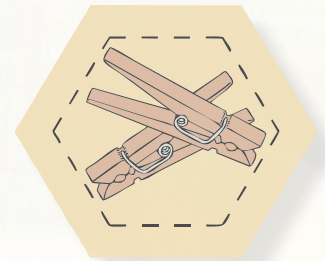


Julie Hilton: #7134

Beginner badge: Each Other / Community Service
Beginner badge: Each Other / Families Forever

Kiersten Childs: AutumnCountryGirl #7232

Beginner badge: Cleaning Up / Going Green
Beginner badge: Cleaning Up / Recycling
Beginner badge: Each Other / Languages/Culture



Lenora McMahan: firecatinc #7131

Beginner badge: Each Other / Blogging
Beginner badge: Farm Kitchen / Get it Together
Beginner badge: Farm Kitchen / Recipes
Beginner badge: Garden Gate / 3 R's Rule (Reuse, Recycle, Revive!)
Beginner badge: Garden Gate / Gaining Ground
Beginner badge: Garden Gate / Herbs
Beginner badge: Make it Easy / Relaxation
Beginner badge: Stitching & Crafting / Cross-Stitch
Intermediate badge: Each Other / Blogging
Intermediate badge: Garden Gate / Herbs
Intermediate badge: Make it Easy / Relaxation
Intermediate badge: Stitching & Crafting / Cross-Stitch
Expert badge: Make it Easy / Relaxation



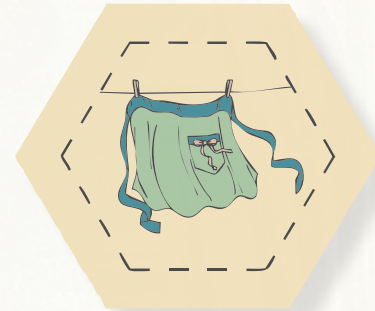
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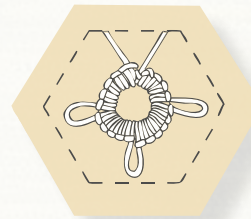
Marcy Lundy: Marcy #170

- Beginner badge: Cleaning Up / Going Green
- Beginner badge: Cleaning Up / My Fair Farmgirl
- Beginner badge: Cleaning Up / Recycling
- Beginner badge: Each Other / Languages/Culture
- Beginner badge: Garden Gate / Birds
- Beginner badge: Make it Easy / Mindfulness Meditation
- Beginner badge: Make it Easy / Music
- Beginner badge: Stitching & Crafting / UFOs
- Intermediate badge: Cleaning Up / Recycling
- Intermediate badge: Each Other / Languages/Culture
- Intermediate badge: Make it Easy / Music
- Intermediate badge: Stitching & Crafting / Quilling
- Expert badge: Cleaning Up / Recycling
- Expert badge: Make it Easy / Music



Marie Bostwick: MarieBee54 #7185

- Beginner badge: Farm Kitchen / Cheesemaking
- Beginner badge: Make it Easy / Emergency Preparedness
- Beginner badge: Stitching & Crafting / Aprons
- Intermediate badge: Make it Easy / Emergency Preparedness



Melody Hingl: GoatieGirl #6700

- Beginner badge: Garden Gate / Backyard Farmer
- Beginner badge: Outpost / Wild Game

Nancy Kinder: Tumbleweed #7236

- Beginner badge: Cleaning Up / Shopping Green
- Beginner badge: Stitching & Crafting / Crochet
- Beginner badge: Stitching & Crafting / Knitting
- Beginner badge: Stitching & Crafting / Tatting
- Intermediate badge: Stitching & Crafting / Tatting

Rebecca Alvarez: TinyChinaCows #7224

- Beginner badge: Cleaning Up / Recycling
- Beginner badge: Outpost / Speak for the Trees

Rebecca Riccio: ladybek9756 #4932

- Beginner badge: Cleaning Up / Recycling

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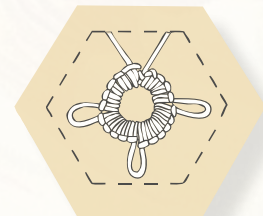
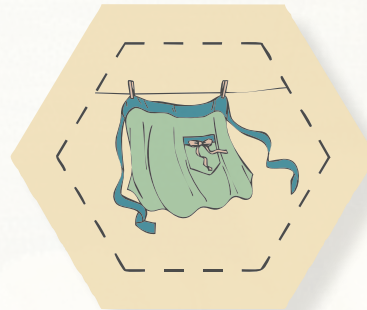
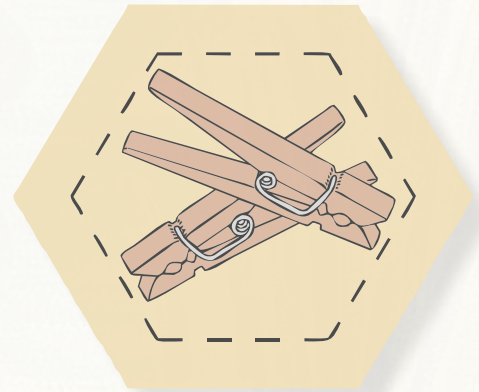
Beginner badge: Farm Kitchen / What's Your Beef?
Intermediate badge: Cleaning Up / Recycling
Expert badge: Cleaning Up / Recycling

Sarah Hall: mrssarahhall #5223

Beginner badge: Outpost / First Aid

Shannon Hudson: hudsonsinaf #5349

Beginner badge: Cleaning Up / Home Insulation
Beginner badge: Each Other / Her-story
Beginner badge: Each Other / Know Your Roots
Beginner badge: Each Other / Languages/Culture
Beginner badge: Farm Kitchen / Apples
Beginner badge: Farm Kitchen / Breadmaking
Beginner badge: Farm Kitchen / Canning
Beginner badge: Farm Kitchen / Food Allergy Awareness
Beginner badge: Farm Kitchen / Get it Together
Beginner badge: Farm Kitchen / Know Your Food
Beginner badge: Farm Kitchen / Recipes
Beginner badge: Farm Kitchen / Unprocessed Kitchen
Beginner badge: Make it Easy / Music
Beginner badge: Outpost / Disconnect to Reconnect
Beginner badge: Outpost / Pampered Pets
Beginner badge: Outpost / Rocks & Minerals
Beginner badge: Outpost / Wild Game
Beginner badge: Stitching & Crafting / Buttoned Up
Beginner badge: Stitching & Crafting / Crochet
Beginner badge: Stitching & Crafting / Nellie Make-do
Beginner badge: Stitching & Crafting / Nellie Will-do
Beginner badge: Stitching & Crafting / UFOs
Intermediate badge: Cleaning Up / Going Green
Intermediate badge: Cleaning Up / Water Conservation
Intermediate badge: Each Other / Know Your Roots
Intermediate badge: Each Other / Languages/Culture
Intermediate badge: Farm Kitchen / Breadmaking
Intermediate badge: Farm Kitchen / Canning
Intermediate badge: Farm Kitchen / Food Allergy Awareness
Intermediate badge: Farm Kitchen / Recipes
Intermediate badge: Farm Kitchen / Unprocessed Kitchen



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- Intermediate badge: Make it Easy / Mindfulness Meditation
- Intermediate badge: Make it Easy / Music
- Intermediate badge: Stitching & Crafting / Aprons
- Intermediate badge: Stitching & Crafting / Sew Wonderful
- Expert badge: Cleaning Up / Water Conservation
- Expert badge: Farm Kitchen / Canning
- Expert badge: Farm Kitchen / Food Allergy Awareness
- Expert badge: Farm Kitchen / Unprocessed Kitchen

Sherrilyn Askew: Sherri #1350

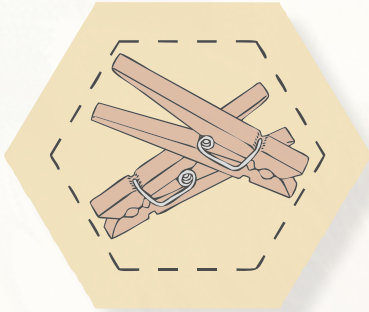
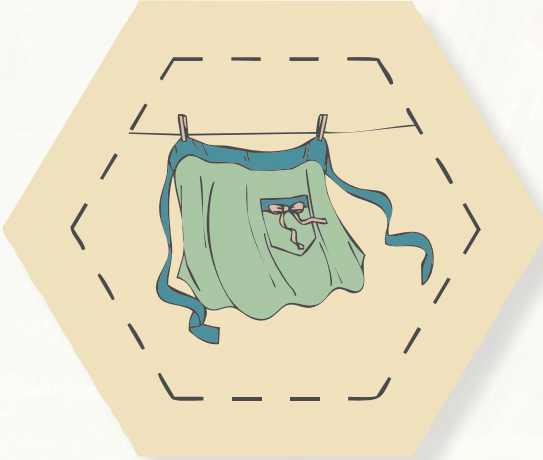
- Intermediate badge: Stitching & Crafting / Scrapbooking
- Expert badge: Farm Kitchen / Unprocessed Kitchen
- Expert badge: Stitching & Crafting / Homespun Christmas
- Expert badge: Stitching & Crafting / UFOs

SuZan Brown: imascholar2 #4394

- Beginner badge: Each Other / Greatest Generation
- Beginner badge: Stitching & Crafting / Scrapbooking

Suzy Rhoades: distizmoi #6922

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



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3 Add water to the reservoir and...*Watch 'Em Grow!*



Brown Thumb? It's EASY being green!

Simple instructions show you when and what to plant. Then **The GrowBox™ automatically adds the right amount of water and fertilizer for you.** No guessing, no schedules, nothing to learn. Works perfectly – even for 1st timers.

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4 Just plant it and forget it! The indoor/outdoor GrowBox is portable, neat, easy to use and is re-usable for years and years.

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Mother Earth News
Magazine subscriber



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Farmerettes & Young Cultivators

Merit Badge Awardees

Jessi Hilton: Young Cultivator of Julie Hilton #7134

Beginner badge: Each Other / Families Forever

Beginner badge: Each Other / Thank You!

Beginner badge: Farm Kitchen / Table Talk

Beginner badge: Garden Gate / Farmyard to Kitchen

Beginner badge: Outpost / I'm a Survivor

Beginner badge: Outpost / Rock Out

Intermediate badge: Cleaning Up / Water Conservation

Intermediate badge: Each Other / Thank You!

Intermediate badge: Farm Kitchen / Table Talk

Intermediate badge: Outpost / Rock Out

Expert badge: Each Other / Thank You!

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

Awesome Kids

Today, I have a treat for you ... three awesome kids with big accomplishments. First, I'll introduce you to Lennon and Maisy.

Photo, LennonAndMaisy.com



Lennon and Maisy are sisters, just 17 and 13 years old, who are phenomenal singers. They've been appearing on the TV drama "Nashville" since 2012. The girls come by their talent naturally—their parents are the country music duo The Stellas, who finished fourth place on the CMT singing competition "Can You Duet" and have since gone on to make albums and tour with the Zac Brown Band. And their grandfather was once a member of the 1950s mega-group, The Platters. I'm not the only one bedazzled by Lennon and Maisy's talents—their You Tube channel has over 60 million views! **Click here** to see my favorite.

Since I'm not much of a TV watcher, I hadn't seen Lennon and Maisy on "Nashville." Instead, I was introduced to them by another amazing kid, a little guy with a big name: Kid President (KidPresident.com). His motto? "Don't be IN a party; BE a party!"

Kid President, 12-year-old Robby Novak, is a YouTube sensation, with scores of videos produced by his brother-in-law, Brad Montague, that have gathered over 75 million views. Robby has osteogenesis imperfecta, or "brittle bones disease" (Robby says, "That means I break easy."), resulting in over 70 fractures in his short life. Brad was so inspired by Robby's positive attitude throughout his trials that he knew they could inspire others with their videos. In the words of Kid President, "Life is too short to not be awesome." He's even written a book called **Kid President's Guide to Being Awesome**. Robby and Brad have inspired



Photo, KidPresident.com

continued ...

Farmerettes & Young Cultivators

continued ...

millions to “dance, celebrate life, and throw more parades.” I’ll bet that after you watch Robby’s take on “**20 Things We Should Say More Often**,” you’ll be watching more Kid President videos.

The icing on the cake? These three amazing kids, together in one video! Enjoy “A Love Song from Kid President and Lennon & Maisy.”

MaryJane 

More Awesome Kids

Our February Young Cultivators class got its start on the chatroom on January 1, when Joyce, Sister #6971 (GinghamGirl) asked:

My daughter (10, almost 11) has repeatedly been asking me over the past year to organize a swap she can be part of, as she too, loves to craft. If there is any interest, I'd love to do a swap for Farmerettes and Young Cultivators :) It seems as if there is enough interest! Wonderful. I thought we could split it up according to age to include Farmerettes and Young Cultivators. If you could let me know the age of the child, if you haven't already, then I can organize the swap according to age.

I think it would be great for the girls to swap something homemade. We'll do signups until January 15, and mail out January 31. Feel free to swap favourite colours/likes/interests to help with the homemade item you'll be making your partner.

It resulted in our first children's swap:

Partners were as follows:

Hailey, age 15 (lovinRchickens) and Katie, age 13 (hudsoninaf)
Stella Jane, age 10 (MaryJane) and Lily-anne, age 10 (GinghamGirl)
Mia Marie, age 8 (MaryJane) and Sofia, age 7 (Sobyn)
Adria Ruth, age 6 (MaryJane) and Sammi, age 7 (Hudsoninaf)

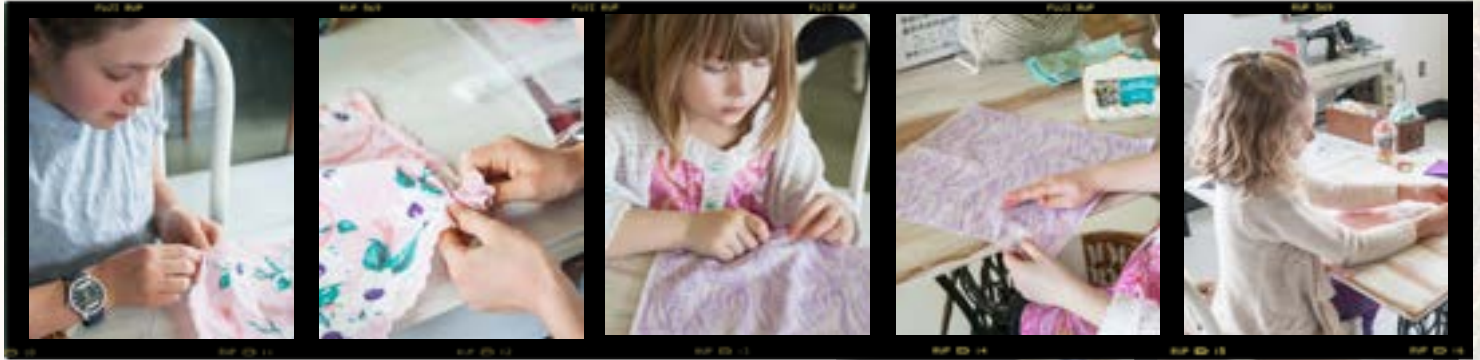
Feel free to swap interests/favourite colours etc. before having the girls send out their homemade item. Mailouts will be February 15, instead of January 31. Happy Swapping!!

I jumped at the chance to introduce my grandgirls to the joy of swapping ...

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First, we ironed vintage hankies and gathered the edges to make headbands. (Adria had picked out fabric she liked at JoAnn's.)

We let them pick out what the term they'd use for their stitch because that kind of stitch has three names, a running, basting, or gathering stitch. Mia chose running (she's athletic), Stella chose gathering (she's good at creating togetherness and community), Adria chose the more proper term basting (she helps her mother make quilts).

Then, we learned how to "thread" elastic through a channel of fabric to create the bottom of the headband.

After our headbands were done, we moved on to the making of hairclips using a combination of sewing and gluing.



continued ...

Farmerettes & Young Cultivators

continued ...



Adria (above) loved her gifts. She'd told her swap pal that her favorite color is hot pink and she loves anything outer space, the cosmos, stars, moon, and planets (she got a telescope for Christmas). She also loves her two dogs. One is a beagle and one is a bloodhound. And she loves to help her mommy in the kitchen. (Her mother, Ashley, does our recipe development and food styling, so Adria is very keen on kitchen duty. Also, Ashley, is always working on a quilt. Quilting has become an affair for the whole family.) Momma Ashley snapped a few photos of Adria and her sister Alina opening her swap pal gifts.



Mia was delighted with her gifts, too (right). She'd told her swap pal that she: loves playing the piano, singing, giraffes, Legos, and sledding. She really LOVES giraffes. Her favorite color is teal.



Stella's gift (far right) from Lily-anne took a while coming from Canada because it was delayed due to bad weather. But Stella said, "It's worth the wait!" Stella had told her swap pal that teal is her favorite color and music is her thing. She plays both the clarinet and piano and takes voice lessons. Stella loved Lily-anne's long handwritten letter the very best and is anxious now to write a long one back.



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For our next class, Mia sorted through her neighbor's front yard lending library box and suggested a Young Cultivators lesson making one of the crafts in it. So, for our next project, we're going to make smocks covered in hand printed fabric. I've already rounded up the supplies we'll need.



And for a future lesson (once winter leaves), we're going to plan a day-long, bird-watching excursion. One of my good friends (we both have milk cows and love to talk about them), sent all four of my grandgirls little glass bird whistles along with this note: "You put water in the whistles and blow. When I was a young girl, my grandmother gave me a similar bird whistle. I fell in love with birds from that time on."

MaryJane 



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Coming Soon to a Magazine Near You

Our Apr/May issue (Spring Fever) will hit newsstands on March 7. In it, you'll find recipes for unique picnic fare and grab-and-go snacks; learn all about vintage sewing machines; make a budget patio stool; find out how to grow lemons and limes indoors; and more. Don't risk missing *MaryJanesFarm* magazine on newsstands. Subscribe [here!](#)



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Meet our Bloggers

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 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 (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 new-fangled ingredients.

suburban FARMGIRL



Nicole Christensen, our current **Suburban Farmgirl Blogger**, calls herself "a knitter, jam maker, and vintage enthusiast who never met an antique sewing machine she didn't like." Born and raised in the great state of Texas, she now resides in picturesque, suburban Connecticut, just a stone's throw from New York State.

Married for over 20 years to her Danish sweetheart, Nicole has worked in various fields and has been a world traveler, entrepreneur, and homemaker, but considers being mom to her daughter her greatest accomplishment of all. In addition to blogging, she also teaches knitting professionally and is a Certified Master Gardener. 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 yard-sale furniture into 'Painted Ladies'! I'm passionate about living a creative life and encouraging others to 'Make Each Day their Masterpiece.'"

continued ...

continued ...



ranch FARMGIRL



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

Lo-Lo Bar Head to Toe Moisturizer

Usually by this time of year, my skin, especially on my hands, can be so dry and uncomfortable. Things don't improve much with spring's start because of frequent hand washing as I start planting seeds and tackle spring cleaning. In the past, I have found some wonderful natural products and remedies that have helped, but nothing works as great as my latest find!

In January, pals and I went to a large knitting event in New York City. The marketplace was huge, filled with all sorts of items, not just yarn and needles. As sensitive and allergic as I can be with many products and scents, my best friend is even more sensitive. She rarely likes anything with *any* kind of scent. As we walked by one booth, the most intoxicating but pleasant scent lightly wafted through the air. We both finally had to see what smelled so wonderful. I am so glad we stopped, because I'm over the moon for **Lo-Lo Bar Head to Toe Moisturizer!**

Lo-Lo Bar Head to Toe Moisturizers by Bar-Maids are products unlike any I have tried before. Packaged in the cutest, environmentally-friendly and recyclable round tins, the Lo-Lo Bar is not a balm, but a solid bar. Made of high-quality, pure, simple, organic ingredients, **Lo-Lo Bar Head to Toe Moisturizers** are made in small batches from locally sourced, skin-quenching goodies like beeswax, coconut, and cocoa butter. **Lo-Lo Bars** are meant to be rubbed into your skin, concentrating on dry spots. Free of parabens, gluten, mineral oil, water, or alcohol, the luxurious product will penetrate the most dry and cracked skin, leaving it soft and supple. There's no greasy after-feel, and my hands are comfortable and soft after use, even after repeated hand washings. It's easy to apply to rough, dry elbows and cracked heels, as well. I love how there are so many other uses for **Lo-Lo Bars**, as well! Use to finish your hairstyle and tame frizz and fly-aways. Condition wooden knitting needles so they don't crack. Soothe skin irritation, tame raggedy cuticles, and calm itchy bug bites ... the list goes on!

Heavenly scented with essential oils, **Lo-Lo Bars** come in a variety of intoxicating scents. There are over 35 delicious essential-oil blended scents with names like "Pearl Knits" and "Betty Boo" (or try unscented Plain Jane or Buck Naked bars). I chose the sensuous, unisex "Chestnut and Cedar," while my bff fell head over heels for flirty "Blue Gardenia." Online shoppers can also customize their **Lo-Lo Bar** scents and package labels!

There are two sizes available with purse-friendly prices, and **Lo-Lo Bars** last (shelf life is 18 months!). I keep the .8-oz, \$7.95 "To Go" size in my knitting bag to use whenever I knit, so dry spots don't snag delicate yarns. A full-sized, 3-oz "Body Bar" is only \$14.95 and should last at least nine months with daily use. Solid, the bars are great for travel. You will never want to moisturize with anything else again!

Check out the "Buy Local" button on their website to find local shops near you, or buy your **Lo-Lo Bar** directly at **Bar-Maids.com**.



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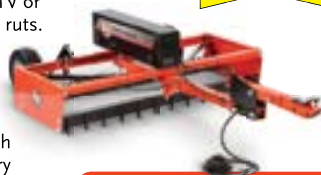
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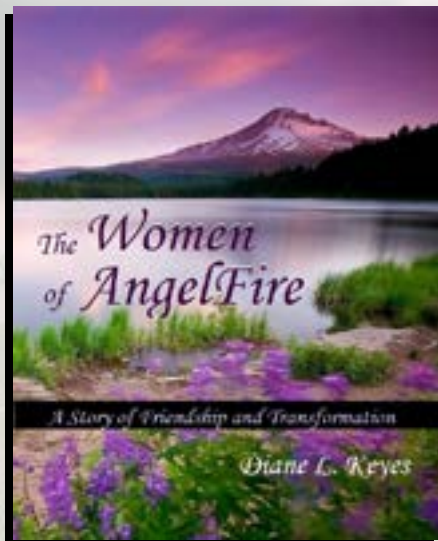
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Magazines, Books & More



Our Apr/May issue (Spring Fever) will hit newsstands on March 7. In it, you'll find recipes for unique picnic fare and grab-and-go snacks; learn all about vintage sewing machines; make a budget patio stool; find out how to grow lemons and limes indoors; and more.

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

If you're a subscriber, you should receive your magazine by about March 1. (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 2017 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:

- March 1 ~ Ash Wednesday
- March 3 ~ Employee Appreciation Day
- March 4 ~ National Grammar Day
- March 8 ~ International Women's Day
- March 9 ~ Popcorn Lovers' Day
- March 10 ~ International Day of Awesomeness
- March 12 ~ Daylight Savings Time (*Spring ahead!*)
- March 14 ~ International Ask a Question Day
- March 17 ~ St. Patrick's Day
- March 18 ~ National Quilting Day
- March 19 ~ National Poultry Day: *Hug a Chicken Today!*
- March 20 ~ Vernal Equinox: First Day of Spring
- March 21 ~ National Agriculture Day

March
Sisterhood
Special!
(see p. 60)

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!](#)



**7,328 Sisterhood members and
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