

MaryJane's Cluck™

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

March 2012



Life made us FRIENDS, MaryJanesFarm made us SISTERS!

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{HELLO FROM SISTER #1} with MaryJane

Come Glamp with Me ...

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

When Kampercatt (Zoe from Wisconsin) wrote on our **Farmgirl Connection chatroom**,

"Are there any plans for the Farmgirls on the Loose getting together this year in 2012? Maybe some regional outings? I'm anxious to get out with the glamper this year and meet up with some of the sisters!"

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

MaryJane 



Give a big clucking welcome to my daughter-in-law, Ashley Ogle.

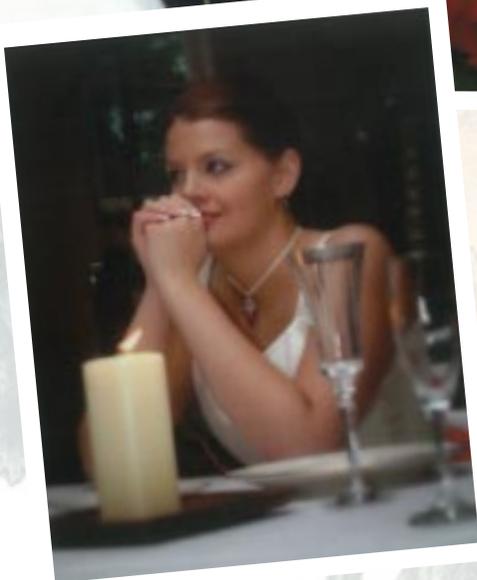
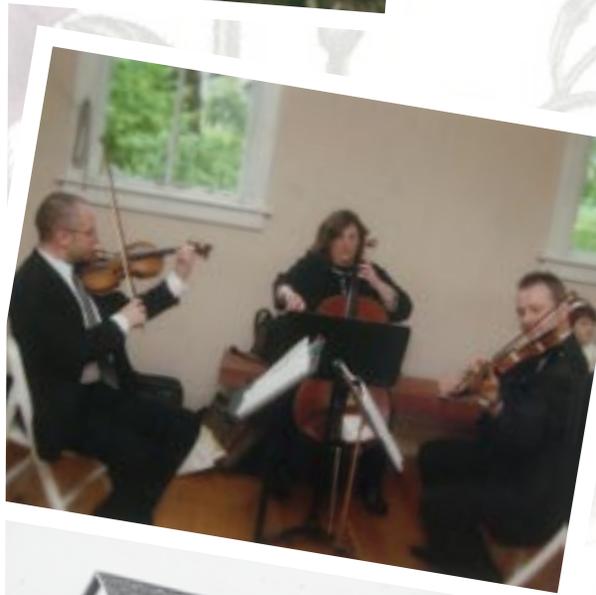
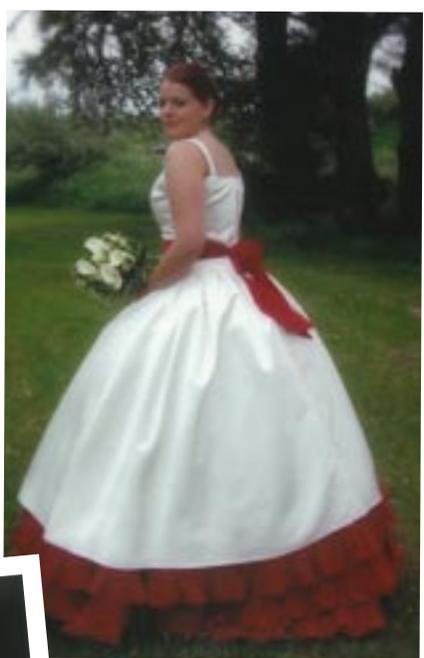
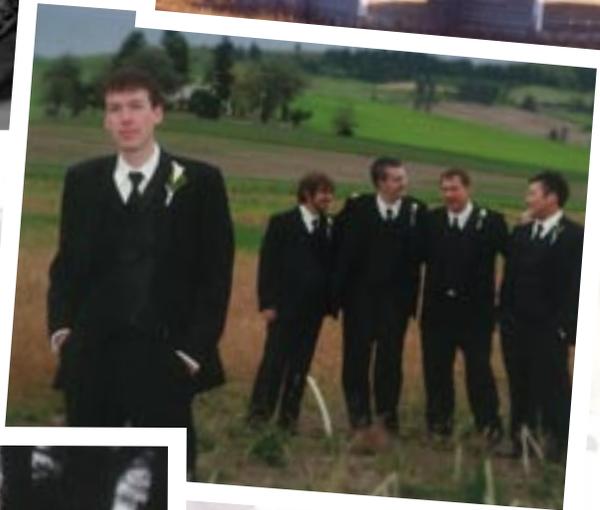
Ashley, who has joined her husband, my son Brian, as a full-time employee here (employing my children is a dream come true for me), will be taking over our Farm Kitchen section (p. 6), replacing Alyson Oüten. (Alyson is going to focus her efforts on helping me with the magazine.) It didn't take me long to realize that my new DIL had the kind of kitchen talent I'd been looking for all these years. My search for a good recipe developer/food stylist is finally over! With an "artisan bread book" and "milk-cow kitchen" book in the works, I was in serious need of help.

Ashley and Brian are fixing up the old Ogle homestead where my husband's mother lived as a child, right next door to the one-room schoolhouse where his father attended school, now owned by our community (a handful of neighbors). It's used for square dances, family reunions, and weddings!!! Yes, Ashley and Brian were married in our one-room schoolhouse, the ceremony performed by my husband, Nick, the Right Reverend Ogle.

I might add that Ashley is also a great seamstress. Ashley and the women in her family sewed all the dresses, including hers, for the wedding, using red and purple as her theme colors. Who doesn't love wedding pictures? I just had to share.

(Also, welcome our new Rural Farmgirl Blogger, Alexandra Wilson, p. 49.)





Slaine Church June 26, 1896. Belle Estes teacher Slaine School

Each Other

In the Shelter of Each Other

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

EACH OTHER | FARM KITCHEN | GARDEN GATE | STITCHING & CRAFTING ROOM | MAKE IT EASY | OUTPOST | CLEANING UP



Megan Rae (Sister #2) grew up “on the farm”—MaryJanesFarm. She attended Gonzaga University and received a bachelor’s degree in Journalism. After marrying her college sweetheart, they moved to Kansas and bought their first home on a cobblestone street. Her love for writing, editing, and well, her Mom, finally brought her back to the farm. Raising her 5-year-old and 3-year-old farmgirls and working alongside her husband, mother, and family is the perfect lifestyle mix for Megan. She rounds it out with travel across the country to visit her five dearest college girlfriends who she loves with all her heart (they’ve all been in each other’s weddings), and one of her favorite farmgirls that she met when she lived in Kansas (scheduled around working the cows, of course).

St. Patrick's Day

Here’s an interesting historical tidbit ...

St. Patrick was not actually Irish. After a band of pirates captured the young boy from his home in Britain, they sold him into slavery in Ireland. He escaped after six years of imprisonment and joined a monastery. He then returned to Ireland to build schools and monasteries in hopes of helping the Irish people.

The day we celebrate as St. Patrick’s Day, March 17, is the day St. Patrick died, and while it began as a Catholic holiday celebrating Irish culture and prosperity, it has evolved into a secular holiday with a long list of Irish traditions and legends. I am a big fan of many of them. Who doesn’t like to think that there’s a pot of gold at the end of a rainbow somewhere with their name on it? And corned beef, well, it’s my favorite meal of the year. I love to spend the day making a massive pot of corned beef and fixings for friends and family. But sometimes, it’s nice to change it up. So this year, I have a dish that counts as my centerpiece AND the perfect accompaniment to the main course.

Meg





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

MARYJANES FARM

RAINBOW OF ROASTED VEGGIES

yellow beets
carrots
purple potatoes
red peppers
Brussels sprouts

1. Preheat oven to 400°F.
2. Toss veggies with a bit of olive oil and salt, just enough to coat them.
3. Bake the beets, carrots, and potatoes for 15 minutes. Add the red peppers and Brussels sprouts and bake for another 15 minutes.
4. Serve warm with Pot of Gold Dipping Sauce.

POT OF GOLD DIPPING SAUCE

6 1/2 cups grated cheddar cheese
2 cups vegetable broth
3-8 oz Neufchatel cheese

1. In a 2-quart pot over medium-low heat, combine 6 cups cheddar cheese and broth and cook, stirring occasionally, until cheese is melted and mixture is smooth.
2. Add the Neufchatel cheese and cook until cheese is melted. Sprinkle remaining 1/2 cup cheddar on top and serve warm.





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



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

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

Red Clam Chowder

There's something about this time of year that makes me crave clam chowder. I was flipping through old cookbooks when I stumbled upon a recipe for "Manhattan Clam Chowder." After a quick scan of the ingredients list, I learned that it's a tomato-based chowder. At first, I was a little wary—I've been attached to that bowl of creamy potato goodness for so long, why should I change? Then I decided to take the plunge, only to run into disappointment when I looked up a few more recipes. Many of them said "just follow the instructions for New England Clam Chowder, but add tomatoes instead of milk." I wanted to try this "new" recipe—but it just seemed like a letdown to dump in tomatoes instead of milk. So I decided I would make my own recipe. This is my version of a tomato-based clam chowder with an accompanying recipe for a red pepper/butter spread that can be slathered on bread and broiled.

RED CLAM CHOWDER

PREP TIME: 20 MINUTES

COOK TIME: 35 MINUTES

MAKES: 8 CUPS OR 4 MAIN COURSE SERVINGS

- 3 T olive oil
- 1 medium red onion, peeled and finely minced
- 1 red bell pepper, seeded and finely minced
- 1 celery heart, thinly sliced (about 4 cups)
- 5 cloves garlic, peeled and minced
- 1/2 t salt
- 1/4 cup fresh parsley, minced, plus about 2 T for garnish
- 2 sprigs fresh thyme
- 1 bay leaf
- 2 medium red potatoes, peeled and cut into 1/2" cubes
- 2 14.5-oz cans diced tomatoes
- 1 6-oz can tomato paste
- 1 T butter
- 16 Littleneck clams, scrubbed (just over 1 lb)
- 3/4 cup red wine
- shredded Parmesan for garnish

1. In a large pot, heat olive oil over medium heat. Add onion, pepper, celery, garlic, and salt. Cook for 5 minutes, stirring frequently. Add parsley, thyme, bay leaf, and potatoes. Cook for an additional 5 minutes.

2. Add diced tomatoes with canning liquid and tomato paste. Simmer for 10 minutes, stirring occasionally.

3. Meanwhile, melt butter in a large skillet over medium-high heat. Add clams and quickly stir to coat them with the butter. Add the red wine and cover. Steam for about 5 minutes. After 5 minutes, all of the clams should have opened (discard any that haven't opened). Remove clams from the skillet, set aside, and reserve the cooking liquid.

4. Remove and discard the bay leaf and the thyme sprigs from the chowder. Pour in the cooking liquid from the clams and simmer for about 5 minutes to cook off any remaining alcohol from the wine.

5. Garnish soup with clams, Parmesan, and reserved parsley.

ROASTED RED PEPPER SPREAD

PREP TIME: 1 HOUR

MAKES: 3/4 CUP

- 1 red bell pepper
- 2 cloves garlic, peeled
- 1 T olive oil
- 5 T butter, softened
- 1/4 cup Parmesan, shredded
- 1/4 cup fresh parsley

1. Preheat oven to 375°F.

2. Remove the core and seeds from the pepper. Place the pepper on a 12" square of aluminum foil, then drop the garlic cloves in the center of the pepper and drizzle olive oil over the top. Wrap in the aluminum foil and place inside a small baking dish. Roast pepper for 45 minutes, or until fork tender.

3. Remove the pepper from the foil and allow it to cool for about 10 minutes before handling. After cooling, remove garlic and set aside. Peel away the skin of the pepper and discard it.

4. Place the peeled portions of the pepper and the garlic cloves in a food processor and pulse for 20 seconds, then add the butter and pulse for another 20 seconds. Scrape the sides and then add the Parmesan and parsley. Pulse until all ingredients are well combined.





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Caring For Garden Tools

Cleaning Your Tools

When you bring in a muddy tool, clean the worst of the dirt off with a piece of wedge-shaped wood. Keep the piece of wood handy by drilling a hole near the top and hanging it on a string by the door of your garage or tool shed. The best way to keep the blades of garden tools clean is to keep a small sandbox—a sturdy wooden box filled with sand and a little bit of old vegetable oil—inside the door of your tool shed. Whenever you bring a tool into the shed, plunge the blade into the sandbox several times until the dirt has been worn off and the blade is once again preserved with the rust-inhibiting oil.

Once a year, coat the wooden handles of your garden tools with boiled linseed oil. Found in most hardware stores, it can be applied with a brush or rag. Oiling the wooden parts of your tools is a good winter project that adds years of life to your tools. Make it an annual habit.

Sharpening Your Tools

The easiest way to sharpen a hoe or shovel is with a vise and a file. Mount a vise, waist high, somewhere along a workbench in your shed. Plan for plenty of room—the length of your handles—on both sides. Once it's clamped into place, you can bear down with your file and sharpen your tools quickly and routinely. You might think a grindstone is faster, but the heat generated can take the temper out of the metal, making it permanently soft.

If your tools are sharpened routinely, it isn't difficult to keep a "hair-shaving" edge on them. Before sharpening, examine the shape of the edge and check for scars and notches—places where you've hit a rock when digging or hoeing. Always keep to the original angle of the edge of the blade. If you find a nick that is deep, you might have to use your file to blunt the entire edge of the tool in order to get an even edge again. Afterwards, use the file to create an angled, sharp edge.

If your filing has been dramatic, you might have a burr on the backside. Simply pass the file a few times—without much pressure—over the backside of the edge. As you file, make sure you knock the metal shavings from the file. As you work, tap the file onto your workbench to freshen its shaving and sculpting ability.





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Stitching & Crafting Room

Stitches of Fun & Laughter!



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



Rebekka Boysen-Taylor, (Sister #40) was born in Spokane, Washington, right around the time Mount St. Helens blew her top. She studied Geography at Portland State University and taught grade school in the Bronx and inner-city Los Angeles. She lives with her family on the Palouse. As a stay-at-home mama to two organically growing little ones, Rebekka rounds out her organic lifestyle by volunteering at the Moscow Food Co-op, working as an instructor for MaryJane's Pay Dirt Farm School, embracing a DIY ethic, winning blue ribbons at the county fair, and living simply.

Basic Earrings

Earrings are my favorite homemade gifts. They are simple to make in a variety of styles. You will need two pair of needle-nosed pliers, a wire cutter, ear wires, headpins (2–3" long wires with flat ends), and beads. If the hole on your bead is bigger than the flat end of the headpin, you will need to slip a small bead or spacer on the headpin first; this bead keeps your larger bead from falling off the headpin. For these earrings, I used clay beads—they are lightweight and I love the modern shape and finish. You can also use any glass, stone, or metal bead that is drilled vertically. Once you put your bead onto the headpin, grab it with the needle-nosed pliers, bend the wire back at a 90-degree angle, and then pull it around the pliers to make a loop. Figure out where to cut your headpin to complete the loop (see photo), and snip off the excess. Close your loop, attach an ear wire, and repeat. Buy more headpins than you need so you can practice. Another simple earring style is made with a set of charms. Just open the earwire and slip on a charm. If you don't have a bead store down the street, you can find a lovely beading tool kit at **French General**, and they also sell gorgeous vintage beads and findings.





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

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



Shery Jespersen (Sister #753) is a Wyoming cattle rancher who's been horse-crazy all of her life. Shery is a leather and lace cowgirl. Her other interests include "junktiques," creating eclectic "make do" arts and crafts, collecting antique china, and cultivating mirth.

Farmgirl Pillowcases

Mix-and-match bedding complements farmhouse style in the same way that daisies in a blue Ball jar perk up a kitchen table. Making your own pillowcases is easy, and they add homemade charm to your "bedscape." There are many details that can be added, such as a scalloped second cuff, a buttonhole stitch on the seam between the cuff and body of the pillowcase, or crochet trim. I opted for a basic version (standard size) and chose a bold, homespun plaid for the cuff. A special pillowcase is a nice gift for a young farmgirl—make it to match her room décor. Or, better yet, teach her to stitch it up herself. This would be an excellent project for the novice seamstress. This pillowcase also features French seams so there are no raw edges.

You'll need: (for one pair of standard pillowcases)

2 yards of fabric (for the body of the pillow)

3/4 yard of fabric for the cuff

Pointer: For a visual aid, use one of your own pillowcases as a guide for dimensions.

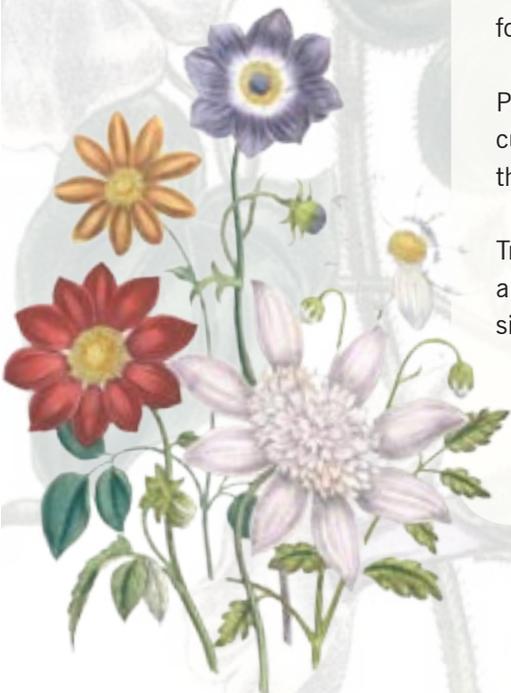
The finished measurements for my pillowcases are 20" x 30". Also, pillow fullness varies considerably. You may want to alter the dimensions a little so that your case isn't too tight or too loose.

Directions:

Cut out your pieces for the body and the cuff. 8 1/2" x 45" for the cuff, 26 1/2" x 20 1/2" for the body. Use 1/4" seam allowance.

Pin cuff piece to the pillowcase body, right sides together. Then, roll the body toward the cuff (refer to photos). Pin, then stitch with a 1/2" seam allowance. Unpin and gently pull the case through the "tube." Press.

Trim excess cuff off to match the pillow. With wrong sides together, sew across the top and down the side, using a 1/4" seam allowance. Turn the case out and press. With right sides together, sew down the side again using a 1/4" seam allowance. Turn out and press.



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





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

Thieves Oil

There is something so intriguing about recipes that have been used for centuries and passed down by oral tradition and folktales. This recipe is believed to have originated from thieves during the 15th century. According to popular theory, the concoction was created by a group of thieves and grave robbers to protect themselves from contracting the plague while robbing the bodies of the gravely ill and deceased. When apprehended, the thieves admitted to using the oils and disclosed the formula in order to receive a less severe punishment for their crimes. We don't know whether or not this story is true, but the essential oils are antiseptic, antiviral, antibacterial, and anti-infectious. They will stimulate the immune, circulatory, and respiratory systems, and help protect against the flu, colds, bronchitis, pneumonia, sore throats, cuts, and more. Modern testing has also proven the effectiveness of this blend and studies have found it to have a high kill rate against airborne bacteria. This is a classic recipe for Thieves Oil, but you can customize it by adjusting the quantities or adding other antibacterial essential oils such as Tea Tree, Oregano, Thyme, Sage, Ravensara, Lavender, Juniper Berry, Hyssop, Bay Laurel, or Scotch Pine.

- 40 drops organic Clove Bud essential oil
- 35 drops organic Lemon essential oil
- 20 drops organic Cinnamon Bark essential oil
- 15 drops organic Eucalyptus essential oil
- 10 drops organic Rosemary essential oil



Mix all essential oils together in a dark glass bottle. There are many ways that you can use the blend; here are some of the most common applications:

- To sanitize and purify the air in your home or workplace, place 2–3 drops in a diffuser, nebulizer, or a pot of simmering water on the stove. Diffuse for approximately 20–30 minutes. This is especially beneficial if someone in your home or workplace is sick.
- Make an antibacterial all-purpose spray for cleaning and disinfecting your home or workplace. This is perfect for office spaces and shared areas. Fill a spray bottle with water and add 1 drop of the Thieves Oil blend for each ounce of water. Spray on countertops, desks, and other surfaces. Make sure to shake before using, as the oil and water will naturally separate.

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- The above combination (1 drop of essential oil blend to each ounce of water in a spray bottle) is great for spritzing on insect bites, poison oak, and poison ivy rashes. It reduces inflammation, pain, itching, and irritation.
- Mix 1 drop of the Thieves Oil blend with 4 oz organic Jojoba or Olive oil. Use as a massage oil for sore muscles, or for the lower back, neck, and feet. It can also be dabbed on skin throughout the day for general cold and flu prevention and immune support.
- When congested, mix 1 drop of the Thieves Oil blend with 4 oz organic Jojoba or Olive oil, and rub under the nose or on the chest. Or place 1–2 drops in a bowl of hot, steaming water and inhale the vapors from under a towel placed over your head to relieve congestion.





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



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

A Farmgirl Gonna-Be

Rebekah Teal's most recent farmgirl **blog article** touched me. She has high hopes of owning a farm very soon. When (I'm trying to help with positive thinking) her farm is up and running, her family will consider their choices in farm animals. Farmgirls take to animal stewardship naturally; it is our nature to nurture. If you have canine or feline pets, you already have the basics in order.

But there are a few things you'll need to know if you're going to “farm up.” Much of what you'll find most valuable will come with hands-on experience. Don't expect to be fully prepared by books. Many things that you've never done before, you'll **have** to do ... and you **can** do them!

There is an old saying, “If you're going to have livestock, you're going to have dead stock too.” Farming is fun, but it will involve trials and tribulations. The hard places in a farming lifestyle can break your heart and the hearts of your children. Nothing can prepare you for losing the battle to save an animal's life. But we farmgirls are a determined lot. Coping involves mobility of spirit. You have to move on and take care of the living. Lessons learned on a farm will prepare your children for **life**.

One important practical matter to attend to is having a veterinary first-aid kit on hand. Your veterinarian can tell you what you need. A thoughtful vet will teach you how to do those things that you can (and should) do yourself. You'll need to learn how to deal with many health issues and emergencies. Every challenge you meet and overcome will build confidence.

The homesteading farmgirl will be reminded of MaryJane's concept, “Here for Life,” many times. Farmgirls who heed the call of the barnyard never look back!





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

The Truth About Laundry Starch

EXCERPTED FROM THE FARMGIRL CONNECTION
www.maryjanesfarm.org/farmgirl-connection

from Sharon (Julian, California) and Cecelia (Depew, New York)

Cecelia asked: *Does anyone know where I can buy the old-fashioned laundry starch powder (Argo brand)? The grocery store no longer carries liquid or powder starch, only the spray stuff. I checked ALL my catalogs and can't find it anywhere. Thanks!*

Sharon replied: I found the following information on the Web at www.authentic-campaigner.com. Laundry starch is corn starch. However, because it is not intended for human consumption, it's not cleaned as well. Any corn starch from a grocery store should work equally as well as laundry starch with either of the following sets of directions:

Boiled Starch

Heavy Starch: In large sauce pan, mix 1/2 cup corn starch with 1 cup cold water. Gradually stir in 2 qts water. Stirring constantly, bring to a boil over medium heat and boil 1 minute. (Note: 1 minute of boiling, no more or less, produces the best starch solution.)

Medium Starch: Dilute Heavy Starch solution with 2 qts water.

Light starch: Dilute Heavy Starch solution with 4 qts water.

Quick Starch

Heavy Starch: Mix 1/2 cup corn starch and 1 cup cold water. Gradually stir in 2 qts boiling water. (Mixture should be translucent.)

Medium Starch: Dilute Heavy Starch solution with 2 qts cold water.

Light Starch: Dilute Heavy Starch solution with 4 qts cold water.

For best results, fabric should be clean, wet, and unfolded before dipping into the starch solution. Use starch solution while warm. Iron fabric while damp.



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MARYJANES FARM





The Scoop

MaryJanesFarm News

The Scoop from MaryJanesFarm



Indexes Available!

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

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

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

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

[TIP] Use the search/find tool in your browser to look up keywords in the Magazine Index and the back issues of *The Cluck*.

Farmgirls Unite!

If you are hosting a farmgirl event, open to all farmgirls, send the event description, date, location, and contact info to megan@maryjanesfarm.org. Megan is going to start a calendar to keep Sisters up-to-date on upcoming gatherings. (See p. 24 for upcoming events.)

If you're a Sisterhood member, [click here](#) to download a FREE Farmgirls on the Loose logo!

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

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



March

Farmgirl Sisterhood Specials

FREE SHIPPING!

on any order over \$50

(Offer applies to UPS Ground and Parcel Post only.)

You must use your account when checking out to get free shipping.

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

Get your **FREE** glamping bumper sticker!

Send a self-addressed, stamped, standard-sized envelope to:

GLAMPING

Box 8691

Moscow, ID 83843

(limit one per address)

I'd rather be 
glamping

www.nationalglampingweekend.com

Farmgirls on the Loose Past Events



It started with cabin fever in the dead of winter. Farmgirl Sisterhood member Wende Wagner, from Kansas City, Missouri, dreamed of a prairie pilgrimage to the Laura Ingalls Wilder museums and home sites and posted her idea on our Farmgirl Connection chatroom (www.maryjanesfarm.org/snitz). She envisioned a group of women, many of whom had never met outside of the chatroom, zigzagging across the country through six states by caravan to stops near and dear to Laura Ingalls Wilder, the quintessential farmgirl responsible for the *Little House on the Prairie* series.

And along the way, she envisioned giving back to her mentor by organizing work hours at each of the locations to help preserve these important pieces of farmgirl history (Project Giving).

Other farmgirls were quick to rally around the idea, and the Farmgirls on the Loose modern-day wagon train embarked on the adventure of a lifetime.



Fancy Feathers Farmgirls Annual Farmgirls on the Loose Campout

2011 Campout

(taken from fancyfeathersfarmgirls.blogspot.com)

Our Farmgirl Campout was a great success. All the ladies had a wonderful time and really enjoyed the local bee man that came out and gave us a wonderful presentation on "How to Start Your Own Beehive" from the ground up. We had fabulous weather for camping out, but we were still under a burn ban and unable to have campfires, so we grilled out on the pit. It was a great success. We had a fantastic amount of great food and desserts and learned how to crochet and knit from some of our own farmgirls. We even had some little "bees" running around having a great time. Looking forward to next year and seeing all the ladies again!



Farmgirl Chatter

Share in the fun!

Farmgirl Chatter

What are farmgirls chatting about?

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

.....

Outpost: Sisterhood Get-Together 2012. Submitted by Kampercatt

Are there any plans for the Farmgirls on the Loose getting together this year in 2012? Maybe some regional outings? I'm anxious to get out with the glamper this year and meet up with some of the sisters! I'm in WI, any ideas out there? [Join in here.](#)

Outpost: Sisterhood Get-Together 2012. Submitted by Meg, MaryJane's daughter

Last issue, I posted this: Mom and I are toying with the idea of a Farmgirls on the Loose event in our neck of the woods also. Wouldn't it be fun if gatherings sprouted up all over the country? So far, we're thinking we'll hold our "glamp-out" in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, the weekend of June 1 (May 31–June 3). We're going to set aside some campsites, cabins, and hotel rooms (for those not so big on tents or glampers) and then come up with a list of amazing options for what to do all weekend—everything from boat rides to horse rides to shopping to potlucks to fishing to tating lessons. Plus, we have our store in Coeur d'Alene, where sisters could stop by for round-the-clock free chocolate or something like that. :) Anyway, with it snowing here non-stop today, we're enjoying thinking about glamping with our sisters next summer! I've been calling some of our favorite campgrounds, etc. in Coeur d'Alene and it looks like those are going to be our dates for sure (May 31, June, 1, 2, and 3) because it fits into our B&B schedule that has already been set in stone and Mom agreed a month or so ago to be a keynote speaker for a gathering of professional women in the construction trade on Sunday evening at the Coeur d'Alene resort. It would be four full days of ya-ya sisterhood! Won't you join us? Click [here](#) to join the conversation.

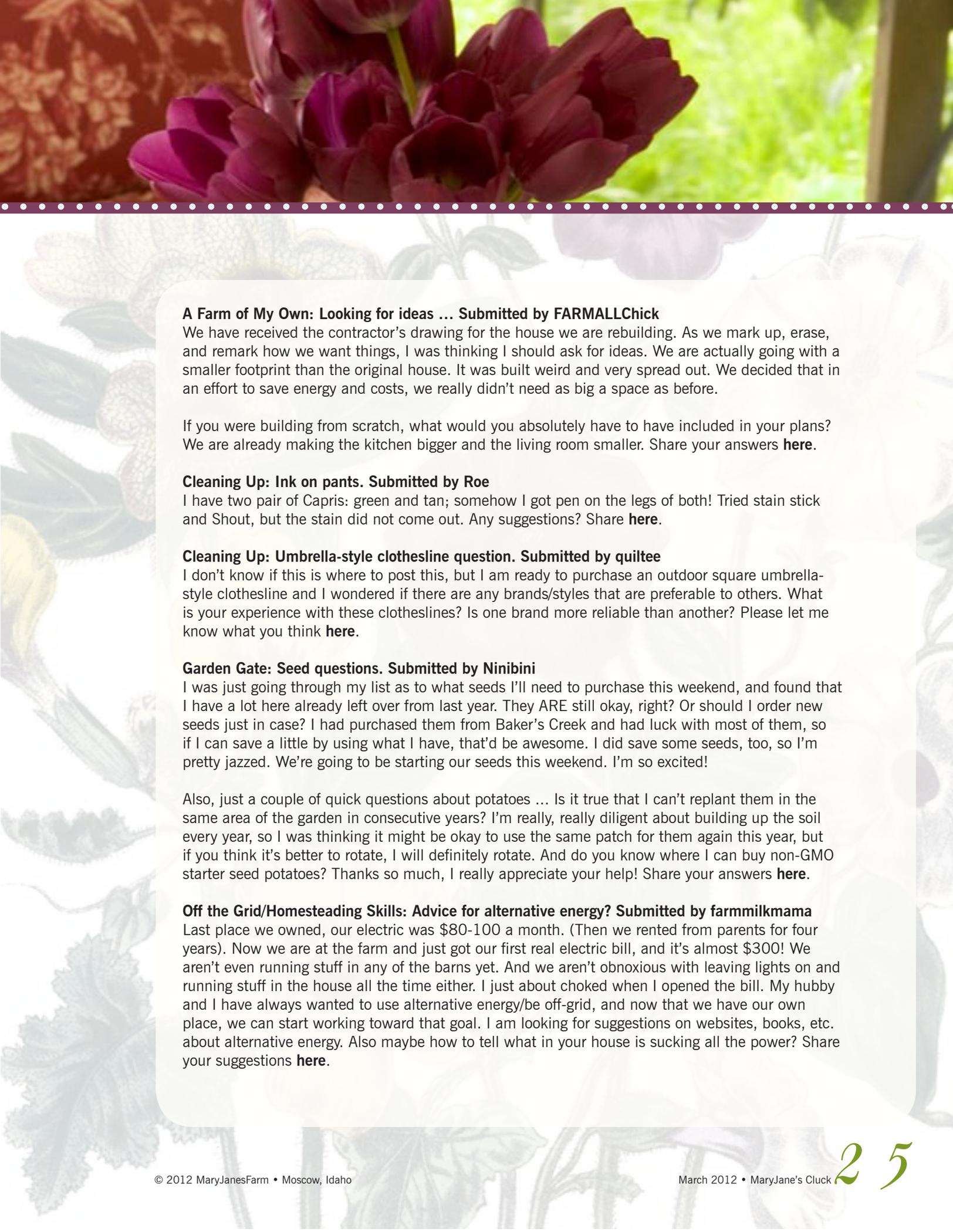
Update: Since I first posted this, big things have been happening! We decided to designate the first weeked in June "National Glamping Weekend" and have even made a website dedicated to it. [Visit our website](#) for more details and to get your FREE glamping bumper sticker.

HomeSafeHome: Dry skin in the winter? Cool house? Submitted by Alee

Did you know moist air holds warmth better than dry air? If your house is feeling a bit chilly but the furnace is always running, and if your skin starts to feel a bit dry, you might need to increase the humidity in your house.

A great-smelling way to do this is to boil or simmer a large pot of water on the stove and simply add some cloves, cinnamon, and vanilla extract to the water. It will smell like you are making some luscious dessert!

Another way to add more heat and humidity to your house is to buy a dry-vent converter. With this device, you run your dryer hose into a contraption that looks like a coffee can with a domed lid. You fill the converter with water and then turn on the dryer. Any dryer lint gets caught by the water, but the humidity and heat get released into the air. These converters usually cost about \$5 and can be found at most hardware stores. See topic [here.](#)



A Farm of My Own: Looking for ideas ... Submitted by FARMALLChick

We have received the contractor's drawing for the house we are rebuilding. As we mark up, erase, and remark how we want things, I was thinking I should ask for ideas. We are actually going with a smaller footprint than the original house. It was built weird and very spread out. We decided that in an effort to save energy and costs, we really didn't need as big a space as before.

If you were building from scratch, what would you absolutely have to have included in your plans? We are already making the kitchen bigger and the living room smaller. Share your answers [here](#).

Cleaning Up: Ink on pants. Submitted by Roe

I have two pair of Capris: green and tan; somehow I got pen on the legs of both! Tried stain stick and Shout, but the stain did not come out. Any suggestions? Share [here](#).

Cleaning Up: Umbrella-style clothesline question. Submitted by quiltee

I don't know if this is where to post this, but I am ready to purchase an outdoor square umbrella-style clothesline and I wondered if there are any brands/styles that are preferable to others. What is your experience with these clotheslines? Is one brand more reliable than another? Please let me know what you think [here](#).

Garden Gate: Seed questions. Submitted by Ninibini

I was just going through my list as to what seeds I'll need to purchase this weekend, and found that I have a lot here already left over from last year. They ARE still okay, right? Or should I order new seeds just in case? I had purchased them from Baker's Creek and had luck with most of them, so if I can save a little by using what I have, that'd be awesome. I did save some seeds, too, so I'm pretty jazzed. We're going to be starting our seeds this weekend. I'm so excited!

Also, just a couple of quick questions about potatoes ... Is it true that I can't replant them in the same area of the garden in consecutive years? I'm really, really diligent about building up the soil every year, so I was thinking it might be okay to use the same patch for them again this year, but if you think it's better to rotate, I will definitely rotate. And do you know where I can buy non-GMO starter seed potatoes? Thanks so much, I really appreciate your help! Share your answers [here](#).

Off the Grid/Homesteading Skills: Advice for alternative energy? Submitted by farmmilk mama

Last place we owned, our electric was \$80-100 a month. (Then we rented from parents for four years). Now we are at the farm and just got our first real electric bill, and it's almost \$300! We aren't even running stuff in any of the barns yet. And we aren't obnoxious with leaving lights on and running stuff in the house all the time either. I just about choked when I opened the bill. My hubby and I have always wanted to use alternative energy/be off-grid, and now that we have our own place, we can start working toward that goal. I am looking for suggestions on websites, books, etc. about alternative energy. Also maybe how to tell what in your house is sucking all the power? Share your suggestions [here](#).

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

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- MaryJanesFarm Gabbers & Gushers**
- MaryJane Butters **Raising Jane Farmgirl**
 - Rebekah Teal **City Farmgirl**
 - Libbie Zenger **Rural Farmgirl**
 - Nicole Christensen **Suburban Farmgirl**
 - Shery Jespersen **Ranch Farmgirl**
 - Cathi Belcher **Mountain Farmgirl**
 - Debbie Bosworth **Beach Farmgirl**

Posted on Circumference by Kathleen Smith, Sister #3863

Find out what *MaryJane's* **Farmgirl Sisterhood** is all about.

Remember, it's not WICKED you live, but SOW you live

[CLICK TO E-MAIL Us for More Info](#)

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Who's Gabbing and Who's Gushing

killing the oily beast

Posted on February 29, 2012 by Amy Dingmann, Sister #1086



At our former farmish place, we had a wood stove for heat. I love me some wood heat. At our new farm, we have hot water heat run by this! ... [Read more](#)

go-go-go-cart

Posted on February 29, 2012 by Amy Dingmann, Sister #1086



Two years ago, I bought the frame and wheels of a go-go-cart at an auction for ten bucks. Someday, this will be a nice project for the boys. I said ... and I was right ... [Read more](#)

mindfulness-one step directions for our lives

Posted on February 29, 2012 by Cameron Kempson, Sister #3813



As I prepare to go about my work today, may my intention to live in your present moment be the pattern for this day and my life. With your help, may I forever do only one thing at a time-always in communion with you, my Beloved, with all my heart and mind and soul. ~Modern prayer by Edward Hays, USA

When I began my training as a teacher, one of the most valuable lessons I learned was how to give a young child directions. Often teachers and parents get frustrated because we expect young children to follow long sentences overflowing with multiple commandments ... [Read more](#)

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 - Aleah Grims, Sister #3338 [No Red Lipstick](#)
 - Amanda Childress, Sister #1390 [My Little Country](#)
 - Amber Conger, Sister #3912 [Refined Industrial Revelations](#)
 - Amy Dingmann, Sister #1086 [A Farmish Kind of Life](#)
 - Amy Dingmann, Sister #1086 [The Humm ... schooling Hom](#)
 - Amy Haleise, Sister #2744 [Crafting by Candlelight](#)
 - Amy Marquardt, Sister #3706 [Far North Farmgirl](#)
 - Amy Marquardt, Sister #3706 [Marquardt Health Coaching](#)
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Aprons



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Video

Wordless Wednesday #2

Posted on February 29, 2012 by Candy Conrad, Sister #977



The miniature donkeys, Esmeralda and Mercedes. Linking to Wordless Wednesday at Kent Weakley Photography ... [Read more](#)

Two more blocks done ... !

Posted on February 29, 2012 by Carole Prevost-Meier, Sister #3610



I can see Santa arriving to town soon...! Lots to show and tell here. I've been keeping my hands busy. You know the maxim "idleness is the root of mischief". Yea, you can say I've stayed out of trouble ... amongst other places! :o) ... [Read more](#)

And Winter Arrives

Posted on February 29, 2012 by Cris Cantin, Sister #2910



It's only three months late. Who's on a schedule, anyway? Not Mother Nature. That fickle chick has her own time frame, and it apparently coincided with my needing to drive from a long distance to home at the end of a long work day. It wasn't a bad day, just long. When the sleety-mix of nastiness started falling at 3:00 PM, and I was heading into a long meeting, I thought: Well, dang ... [Read more](#)

Farmgirl Sisterhood

Posted on February 29, 2012 by Dolly Sarrio, Sister #3883



I am now a member of MaryJane's Farmgirl Sisterhood. Member #3883. I chose this for my farmgirl picture, it is from a Simplicity Pattern. It must be out of print, but I found it on Ebay so guess I'll make it. Isn't it cute? I love to garden, to cook and love aprons just like my grandmama. Click on this picture for more information ... [Read more](#)

a gift

Posted on February 29, 2012 by Elaine Tolson, Sister #45



a quiet gift came in the night. it made everything fresh and beautiful and it brought the reminder of why i love winter so very much. cash and i were the first to disrupt it as we went out early to milk. my chickens and goats love to romp around outside but they don't care for it. it stole my footing once as i forgot about the ice that lie underneath ... the landing was soft and fluffy, the birds are singing this morning and they seem to appreciate how well mr. t takes care of them, i'll make a large pot of soup ... [Read more](#)

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NEED DIRECTIONS TO
MARYJANESFARM STORE?

NEW Merit Badges for Farmgirl Sisters!

.....

WATER CONSERVATION for Cleaning Up:

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

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

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

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

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

BLOGGING for Each Other:

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

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

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

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

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

GREATEST GENERATION for Each Other:

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

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

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

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

RECIPES for Farm Kitchen:

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

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

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

BIRDS for Garden Gate:

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

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

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

MUSIC for Make It Easy:

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

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

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

continued ...

... continued

ROCKS AND MINERALS for Outpost:

Beginner: Research the difference between rocks and minerals.

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

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

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

FISHING for Outpost:

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

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

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

WILDGAME for Outpost:

Beginner: Research different types of wild game. Research safe handling of wild game meats.

Research the laws in your area concerning wild game. A good place to start is your state's Department of Fish & Game website.

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

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

BASKETRY for Stitching & Crafting:

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

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

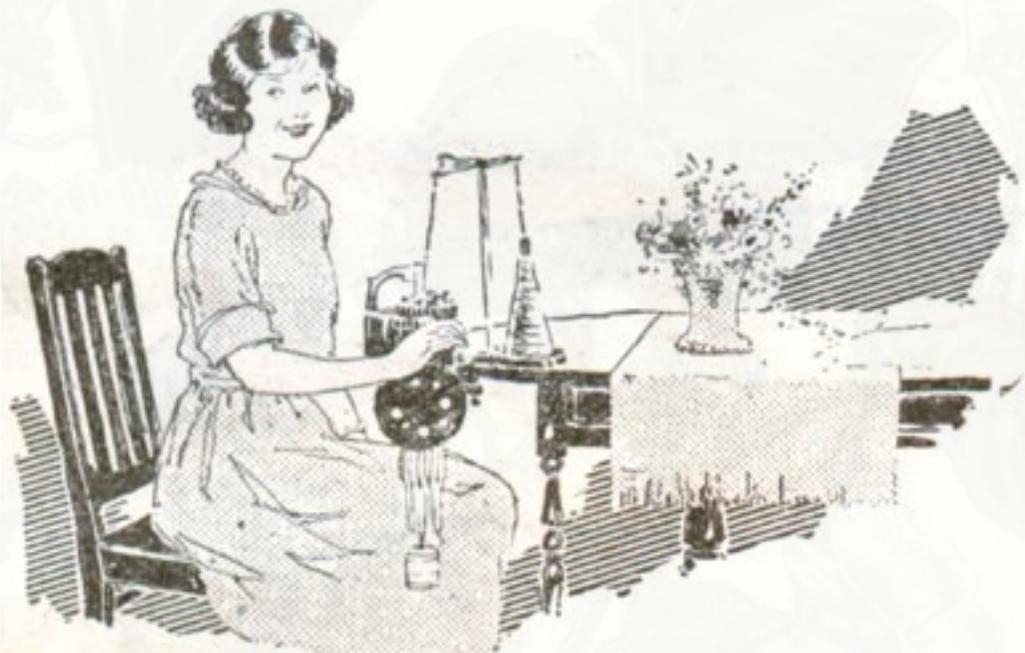
Expert: Start and finish a basket of expert level. Create a gift basket for a friend, using one of your homemade baskets. A minimum of 20 hours is required for this badge.

QUILLING for Stitching & Crafting:

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

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

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





Merit Badge Details: Farmgirl Legend

Become a Legend in Your Own Time!

There are now two ways to become a **Farmgirl Legend**. Become a “Schoolmarm” when you complete all the badge requirements in any one category. For example, in Each Other, you would need to complete the beginner, intermediate, and expert levels in Community Service, Community Action, Public Service, Lend a Hand to Families, Lend a Hand to Farm Families, Little Squirts, Plant It Forward, Connecting Growers and Eaters, Farmgirl Gratitude, Get ‘er Done, Farmgirl Spirit, Families Forever, and Entrepreneurial Spirit.

Once you become a “Schoolmarm,” the next step is to become a “Head Mistress” when you obtain the Schoolmarm title in **ALL** categories.

When you become a Schoolmarm or a Headmistress, you will be awarded a certificate and your new lofty title will be applied to your Farmgirl Connection chatroom I.D.





Exclusive for Sisters!

Sisterhood Necklace

We've partnered with Elaine Tolson of Washington to offer this lovely bit of vintage-style jewelry—for Sisterhood members only. Your necklace will be emblazoned with your own unique Sisterhood number, setting your braggin' rights in stone. Whether you wear it as a secret code for those in-the-know, or as a conversation starter about the Sisterhood, is up to you. **Click here to order yours.**



Hello Elaine!

Hi, my name is Veronica and you made a charm for me. It is a Farmgirl Sisterhood charm necklace and I just had to e-mail you.

First off, I never expected such quality and attention to detail. When I saw my name on the package, I thought it was from someone I knew! Then when I opened the package and saw the little burlap pouch, I smiled and my daughter (who is 3) said, "Mama, what's that?" Then, when I pulled out the necklace, I literally gasped.

It's so beautiful! I knew what it would look like from a photo on the MaryJanefarm website, but this necklace exceeded my expectations. I loved the length of the chain. I have bought some necklaces on Etsy.com and I'm always disappointed that the ball chains are sooooo short. The charm looks small to me on the website, so when I saw it, I was like, this is the perfect size!

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

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

Sincerely,
Veronica Laviolette

Merit Badge Awardees

Amanda Henning, Mamahenning #2492
Beginner badge: Entrepreneurial Spirit / Each Other

Amanda Tressler, AmandaT555 #3804
Beginner badge: Knitting / Stitching & Crafting
Beginner badge: Music / Make It Easy
Beginner badge: Shopping Green / Cleaning Up
Beginner badge: Crochet / Stitching & Crafting

Angela Coffman, Quilting Angie #3445
Beginner badge: Gaining Ground / Garden Gate
Beginner badge: What's Your Beef? / Garden Gate
Beginner badge: Going Green / Cleaning Up
Intermediate badge: Shopping Green / Cleaning Up

Angela Landis, QueenBee Angela #3795
Beginner badge: Shopping Green / Cleaning Up
Beginner badge: Get It Together / Farm Kitchen
Beginner badge: Woman-at-Arms / Outpost

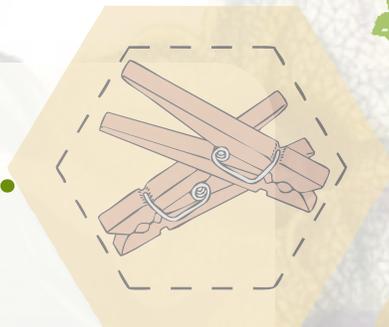
Ashley Hotter, AshleyH #3108
Beginner badge: Buttoned Up / Stitching & Crafting
Beginner badge: Safe Toys / Stitching & Crafting
Beginner badge: Sew Wonderful / Stitching & Crafting
Intermediate badge: Safe Toys / Stitching & Crafting
Intermediate badge: Sew Wonderful / Stitching & Crafting
Expert badge: Blogging / Each Other

Barbara Roberts, Healthy Eating #2237
Beginner badge: Spinning / Stitching & Crafting
Intermediate badge: Going Green / Cleaning Up
Expert badge: Going Green / Cleaning Up

Bea Campbell, Quiltingbea #2575
Beginner badge: Aprons / Stitching & Crafting

Beth Pierce, Tree Sister #2557
Intermediate badge: Going Green / Cleaning Up

Cameron Kempson, Avlfarmgirl #3813
Beginner badge: Knitting / Stitching & Crafting
Beginner badge: Homespun Christmas / Stitching & Crafting



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

– Charles Dickens

Merit Badge Awardees

Candace Hostetter, Sweettea #3135

Beginner badge: Make It Pretty / Make It Easy

Beginner badge: Tatting / Stitching & Crafting

Carrie Meerwarth, Carrie M #147

Beginner badge: Entrepreneurial Spirit / Each Other

Beginner badge: Water Conservation / Cleaning Up

Beginner badge: Greatest Generation / Each Other

Intermediate badge: Entrepreneurial Spirit / Each Other

Intermediate badge: Water Conservation / Cleaning Up

Intermediate badge: Greatest Generation / Each Other

Expert badge: Entrepreneurial Spirit / Each Other

Expert badge: Water Conservation / Cleaning Up

Expert badge: Greatest Generation / Each Other

Chris Pruitt, Chip #3669

Beginner badge: Quilting / Stitching & Crafting

Beginner badge: Knitting / Stitching & Crafting

Beginner badge: First Aid / Outpost

Beginner badge: Get It Together / Farm Kitchen

Intermediate badge: Aprons / Stitching & Crafting

CJ Armstrong, Ceejay48 #665

Beginner badge: Music / Make It Easy

Beginner badge: Greatest Generation / Each Other

Beginner badge: Water Conservation / Cleaning Up

Intermediate badge: Music / Make It Easy

Intermediate badge: Water Conservation / Cleaning Up

Intermediate badge: Greatest Generation / Each Other

Expert badge: Music / Make It Easy

Expert badge: Recipes / Farm Kitchen

Expert badge: Water Conservation / Cleaning Up

Cynthia Christen, #1570

Beginner badge: Recipes / Farm Kitchen

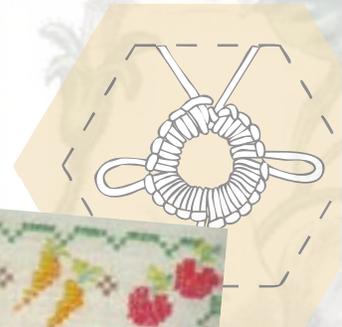
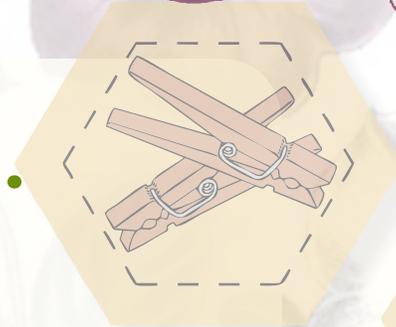
Beginner badge: Crochet / Stitching & Crafting

Beginner badge: Grease Chicks / Make It Easy

Intermediate badge: Crochet / Stitching & Crafting

Intermediate badge: Recipes / Farm Kitchen

Expert badge: Recipes / Farm Kitchen





Merit Badge Awardees

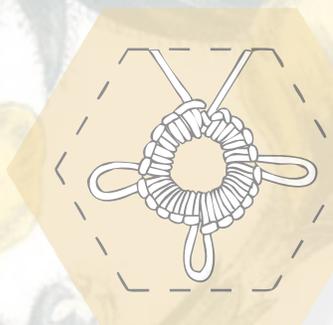
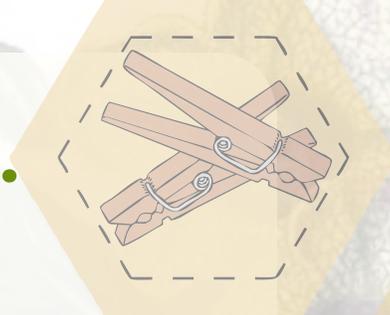
Denise Meister, Denisemgm #1976
Beginner badge: Birds / Garden Gate
Beginner badge: Carp-hen-try / Make It Easy
Beginner badge: Ink Slinger / Stitching & Crafting

Deserae Emmett, deserae #3021
Beginner badge: Shopping Green / Cleaning Up
Beginner badge: Buttoned Up / Stitching & Crafting
Beginner badge: Aprons / Stitching & Crafting
Beginner badge: Sew Wonderful / Stitching & Crafting
Beginner badge: What's Your Beef? / Garden Gate
Beginner badge: Birds / Garden Gate
Intermediate badge: Shopping Green / Cleaning Up
Intermediate badge: Aprons / Stitching & Crafting

Elaine Drane, Lainey Lou #3848
Beginner badge: Fishing / Outpost
Beginner badge: Rocks and Minerals / Outpost
Beginner badge: First Aid / Outpost
Beginner badge: Make It Pretty / Make It Easy
Intermediate badge: Fishing / Outpost
Intermediate badge: Rocks and Minerals / Outpost
Intermediate badge: First Aid / Outpost
Expert badge: Fishing / Outpost
Expert badge: Rocks and Minerals / Outpost
Expert badge: First Aid / Outpost

Elizabeth Guerrero, Etsuerrero #3709
Beginner badge: Shopping Green / Cleaning Up
Beginner badge: Blogging / Each Other
Beginner badge: Birds / Garden Gate
Beginner badge: Let's Get Physical / Make It Easy

Elizabeth Metz, #2251
Beginner badge: Farmgirl Gratitude / Each Other





Merit Badge Awardees

Jenny Schmidt, Djschmidtsj #3485

- Beginner badge: Backyard Farmer / Garden Gate
- Beginner badge: Community Service / Each Other
- Beginner badge: Know Your Roots / Each Other
- Beginner badge: Shopping Green / Cleaning Up
- Beginner badge: Bustin' Out / Farm Kitchen
- Beginner badge: Recipes / Farm Kitchen
- Beginner badge: Sew Wonderful / Stitching & Crafting
- Beginner badge: Aprons / Stitching & Crafting
- Beginner badge: Safe Toys / Stitching & Crafting
- Beginner badge: Quilting / Stitching & Crafting
- Beginner badge: Buttoned Up / Stitching & Crafting
- Beginner badge: Scrapbooking / Stitching & Crafting
- Intermediate badge: Community Service / Each Other
- Intermediate badge: Know Your Roots / Each Other
- Intermediate badge: Bustin' Out / Farm Kitchen
- Intermediate badge: Recipes / Farm Kitchen
- Intermediate badge: Aprons / Stitching & Crafting
- Intermediate badge: Safe Toys / Stitching & Crafting
- Intermediate badge: Quilting / Stitching & Crafting
- Expert badge: Quilting / Stitching & Crafting

Jo Tompkins, Blue Berry Girl #3800

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

Joan Nordquist, Simple Living #3842

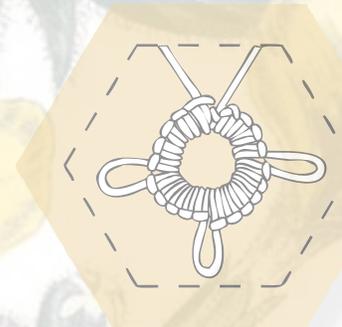
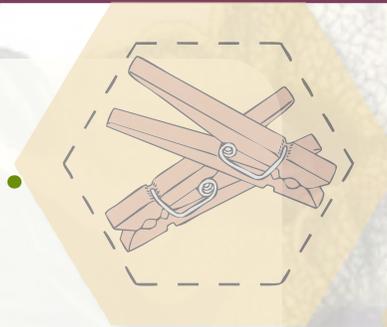
- Beginner badge: Shopping Green / Cleaning Up
- Beginner badge: Scrapbooking / Stitching & Crafting
- Intermediate badge: Shopping Green / Cleaning Up

Justine Thompson, JThomp #2904

- Intermediate badge: Families Forever / Each Other

Kristen Brockmeyer, Hepkitten #3858

- Beginner badge: Going Green / Cleaning Up
- Beginner badge: Sew Wonderful / Stitching & Crafting
- Beginner badge: Carp-hen-try / Make It Easy



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

– Scott Adams

Merit Badge Awardees

Kristina Nelson, FieldsofThyme #800

Beginner badge: Blogging / Each Other
Beginner badge: Greatest Generation / Each Other
Beginner badge: Music / Make It Easy
Intermediate badge: Recipes / Farm Kitchen
Intermediate badge: Blogging / Each Other
Intermediate badge: Quilling / Stitching & Crafting
Intermediate badge: Music / Make It Easy
Expert badge: Recipes / Farm Kitchen
Expert badge: Blogging / Each Other
Expert badge: Music / Make It Easy

Laurie Conner, Montrose Girl #1587

Beginner badge: Greatest Generation / Each Other
Beginner badge: Recipes / Farm Kitchen
Intermediate badge: Farmgirl Grammar / Each Other
Intermediate badge: Water Conservation / Cleaning Up
Expert badge: Unprocessed Kitchen / Farm Kitchen
Expert badge: Water Conservation / Cleaning Up

Mary Roberts, Maryburb #921

Beginner badge: Sew Wonderful / Stitching & Crafting

Monica Baro, SpookyChick #3811

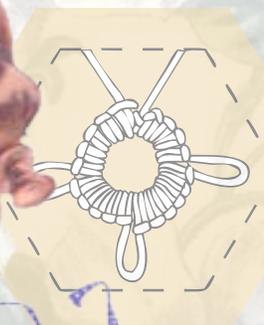
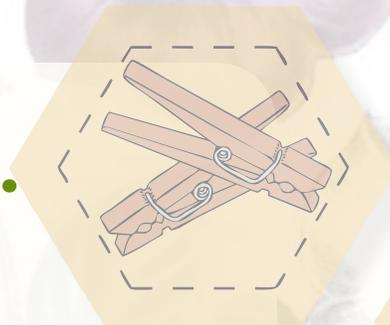
Beginner badge: Birds / Garden Gate
Beginner badge: Backyard Farmer / Garden Gate
Beginner badge: Aprons / Stitching & Crafting
Beginner badge: Buttoned Up / Stitching & Crafting
Beginner badge: Horse Dreams / Garden Gate

Nancy Smith, Minismith #1991

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

Nancy Witko, Annielaurel #2301

Beginner badge: Shopping Green / Cleaning Up
Beginner badge: Know Your Roots / Each Other



NEEDLE BOOK

Merit Badge Awardees

Nicole Christensen, Texdane #1155

Beginner badge: Recipes / Farm Kitchen
Intermediate badge: Recipes / Farm Kitchen
Expert badge: Bustin' Out / Farm Kitchen
Expert badge: Recipes / Farm Kitchen

Patty Byrd, Thebyrdhaus #1840

Beginner badge: Homespun Christmas / Stitching & Crafting
Beginner badge: Carp-hen-try / Make It Easy
Intermediate badge: Going Green / Cleaning Up
Intermediate badge: Shopping Green / Cleaning Up
Expert badge: Buttoned Up / Stitching & Crafting

Paula Black, Sheepless in Seattle #2953

Beginner badge: Shopping Green / Cleaning Up

Penny McGee, Acelady02 #3343

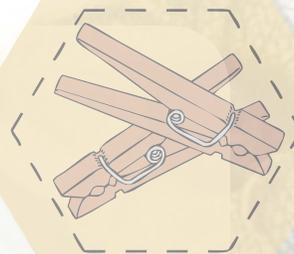
Beginner badge: Crochet / Stitching & Crafting
Intermediate badge: Crochet / Stitching & Crafting

Penny Smith, Forever Young #1815

Beginner badge: Embroidery / Stitching & Crafting
Beginner badge: Know Your Roots / Each Other
Intermediate badge: Bustin' Out / Farm Kitchen

Rose Lynn, Christmasgal #1486

Beginner badge: Families Forever / Each Other
Beginner badge: Going Green / Cleaning Up



“Gardening requires lots of water—most of it in the form of perspiration.”

— Lou Erickson

Merit Badge Awardees

Sarah Houlihan, Houligan19 #3828

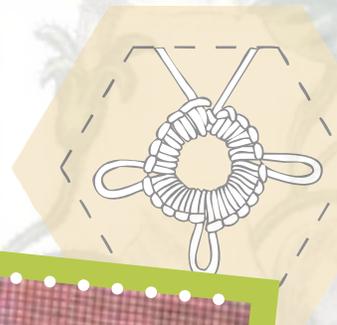
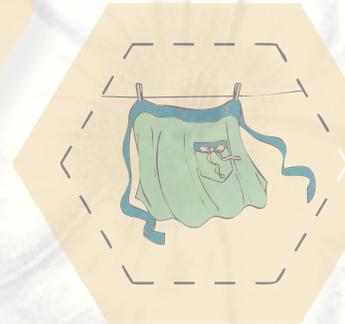
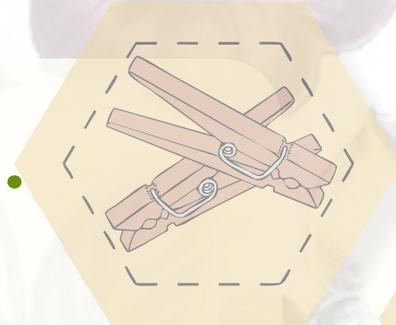
Beginner badge: What's Your Beef? / Garden Gate
Beginner badge: Shopping Green / Cleaning Up
Beginner badge: Icing on the Cake / Farm Kitchen
Beginner badge: Gaining Ground / Garden Gate
Beginner badge: Heirlooms Forever! / Garden Gate
Beginner badge: Farmgirl Grammar / Each Other
Beginner badge: Buttoned Up / Stitching & Crafting
Beginner badge: Quilling / Stitching & Crafting
Beginner badge: Birds / Garden Gate
Beginner badge: Water Conservation / Cleaning Up
Beginner badge: Homespun Christmas / Stitching & Crafting
Beginner badge: Make It Pretty / Make It Easy
Beginner badge: Knitting / Stitching & Crafting
Beginner badge: Let's Get Physical / Make It Easy
Beginner badge: Aprons / Stitching & Crafting
Intermediate badge: Heirlooms Forever! / Garden Gate

Sharon Smith, Sharon Denise #3754

Beginner badge: Shopping Green / Cleaning Up
Beginner badge: Community Action / Each Other
Beginner badge: Connecting Growers and Eaters / Each Other
Beginner badge: Bustin' Out / Farm Kitchen
Beginner badge: Get It Together / Farm Kitchen
Beginner badge: What's Your Beef? / Garden Gate
Beginner badge: Birds / Garden Gate
Beginner badge: Build It Green / Make It Easy
Beginner badge: Rocks and Minerals / Outpost
Intermediate badge: Shopping Green / Cleaning Up

Stephanie Schaefer, BoPeep #2920

Beginner badge: Backyard Farmer / Garden Gate
Intermediate badge: Shopping Green / Cleaning Up





Merit Badge Awardees

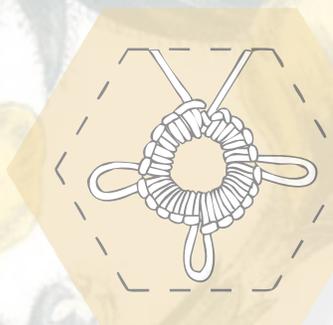
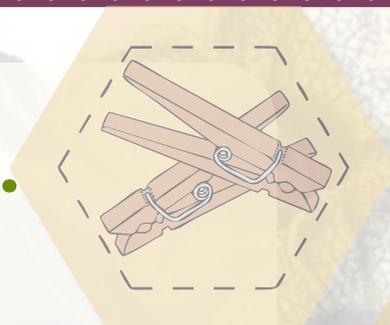
Suzanne Holland, Suzannah #3608
Beginner badge: Shopping Green / Cleaning Up

Tamara Burger, GrammyTammy #2495
Beginner badge: Gaining Ground / Garden Gate
Intermediate badge: Farmgirl Gratitude / Each Other
Beginner badge: Water Conservation / Cleaning Up

Teresa Julian, #1348
Beginner badge: Homespun Christmas / Stitching & Crafting
Beginner badge: Buttoned Up / Stitching & Crafting
Beginner badge: Birds / Garden Gate
Beginner badge: Know Your Roots / Each Other
Beginner badge: Greatest Generation / Each Other

Victoria Montoya, EastTXFarmgirl #549
Beginner badge: Icing on the Cake / Farm Kitchen
Beginner badge: Know Your Roots / Each Other
Beginner badge: Know Your Food / Farm Kitchen
Beginner badge: Backyard Farmer / Garden Gate
Beginner badge: Self-sufficiency / Farm Kitchen
Beginner badge: Let's Get Physical / Make It Easy
Beginner badge: Birds / Garden Gate
Intermediate badge: Icing on the Cake / Farm Kitchen
Intermediate badge: Know Your Roots / Each Other
Intermediate badge: Get It Together / Farm Kitchen
Intermediate badge: Backyard Farmer / Garden Gate
Intermediate badge: Self-sufficiency / Farm Kitchen
Intermediate badge: Let's Get Physical / Make It Easy
Expert badge: Icing on the Cake / Farm Kitchen
Expert badge: Self-sufficiency / Farm Kitchen
Expert badge: Get It Together / Farm Kitchen
Expert badge: The Secret Life of Bees / Garden Gate
Expert badge: Aprons / Stitching & Crafting

Wendy Pauly, Cowpeas #3149
Beginner badge: Backyard Farmer / Garden Gate
Beginner badge: Heirlooms Forever! / Garden Gate



“Use the talents you possess—for the woods would be a very silent place if no birds sang except for the best.”

— Henry Van Dyke



QUILTING BEE

Grandma made thrifty use of cloth “scraps” that might otherwise be discarded. She warded against waste by making things last longer.



NEW Merit Badges for Young Cultivators!

WATER CONSERVATION for Cleaning Up:

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

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

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

COMMUNITY SERVICE for Each Other:

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

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

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

ICING ON THE CAKE for Farm Kitchen:

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

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

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

GET BUGGY for Garden Gate:

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

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

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



Farmerettes & Young Cultivators

MUSIC for Make It Easy:

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

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

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

ROCK OUT for Out There Kids:

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

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

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

TOYS for Stitching & Crafting:

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

Intermediate: Make your own paper dolls or finger puppets.

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



Farmerettes & Young Cultivators

Merit Badge Awardees

• • • • •
Anna Goad, Young Cultivator of Carrie Goad #3028
Beginner badge: Let's Go To Town / Each Other

Elizabata Wilbur, Young Cultivator of Tamara Burger, #2495
Beginner badge: Icing on the Cake / Farm Kitchen
Intermediate badge: Icing on the Cake / Farm Kitchen
Expert badge: Icing on the Cake / Farm Kitchen

Vivian Orr, Young Cultivator of Stephanie Orr, #1545
Beginner badge: Trash Talk / Cleaning Up

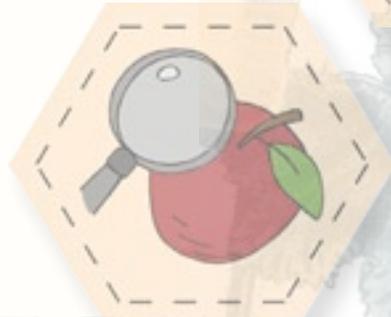
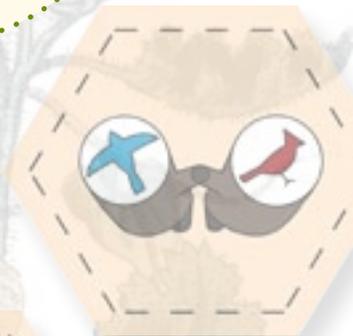
What's a Farmerette?

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

What's a Young Cultivator?

Young Cultivators are girls and boys between the ages 6 and 13. They can work with Farmgirl Sisterhood members to earn badges, but have their own unique program. **Click here to find out more.**

Waa-ahoo!





Young Cultivators Group

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

Comfort Zone

Recently, our Young Cultivators visited MaryJanesFarm to learn about her heritage cows. My girlfriend, Jeneille, and I packed her minivan full of giggly girls and drove out to learn how to properly milk a cow. Kim was our guide at the farm—she's great with kids and taught us about the basics of animal husbandry. She introduced us to the cows and made sure that each child participated in the dozen or so chores that make up a milking session. Over the course of a few hours, the girls fell in love with Maizy and her gorgeous calf, Etta Jane. They tried to avoid stepping in cow pies and learned how to pasteurize fresh milk. The afternoon went by in a flash. I kept thinking to myself that from approaching cows and bulls to cleaning and readying an udder for milking, each of us stepped outside our comfort zone. What a skill to cultivate; the ability to be uncomfortable is at the heart of real learning. Our ride home was full of exclamations about what each child liked and disliked, but the overall mood was one of excitement. The girls loved being so close to the cows; they used their courage to overcome fears and felt the satisfaction that comes from being brave. No matter what you are working on with your Young Cultivator, think about the limits of your comfort zones and go a little further. The rewards are sweet.



meet our bloggers



Farmgirls are tapping away at their keyboards to bring you news from the homefront, no matter where you live or what your interests. Rebekah Teal, a former judge, writes about being a farmgirl in the city; Libbie Zenger blogs from the rural perspective; Nicole Christensen gives you the suburban viewpoint; Cathi Belcher shouts-out from her mountain top, Shery Jespersen shares the ranch view from Wyoming, and Debbie Bosworth writes from the beach. You can click to our farmgirl blogs right on our home page (www.maryjanesfarm.org). While you're there, sign up for our e-mail blog alerts and recipe of the week.

city FARMGIRL



Rebekah Teal is a farmgirl who lives in a large metropolitan area and brings you our **City Farmgirl Blog**. She's a lawyer who has worked in both criminal defense and prosecution, and she has been a judge, a business woman, and a stay-at-home mom. She's not only "down-home" citified, she's a true-blue farmgirl ... in a pair of stilettos!

"Mustering up the courage to do the things you dream about," she says, "is the essence of being a farmgirl." Learning to live more organically and closer to nature is Rebekah's current pursuit.

rural FARMGIRL



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

suburban FARMGIRL



Nicole Christensen, our current **Suburban Farmgirl Blogger**, calls herself a "knitter, jam-maker, and mom extraordinaire". Born and raised in the great state of Texas, she now resides in suburban New England in picturesque Connecticut, just a stone's throw from New York state.

Married for 18 years to her Danish-born sweetheart, Nicole has worked in various fields and has been a world-traveler, entrepreneur, knitting teacher, and homemaker, but considers being a mom her greatest job of all. Loving all things creative and domestic, Nicole considers her life's motto to be "Bloom where you are planted."

mountain FARMGIRL

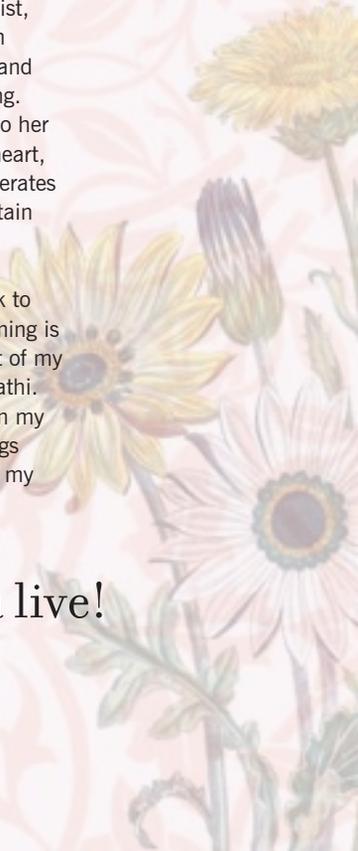
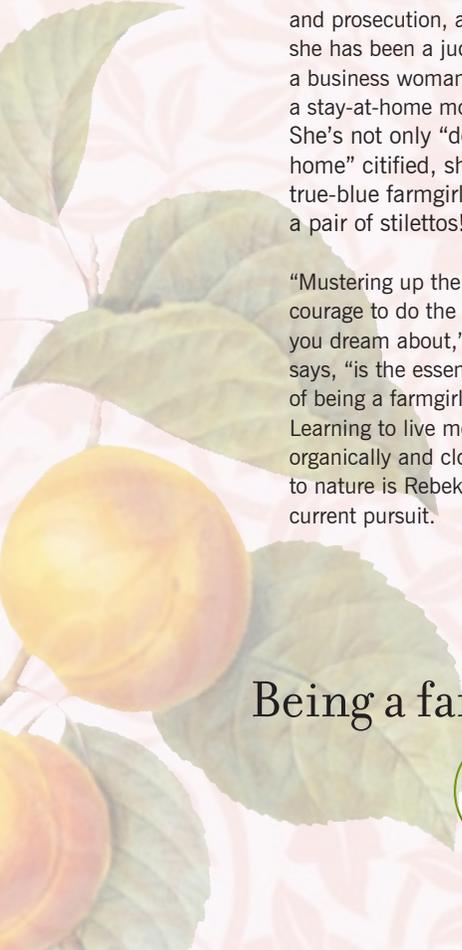


Cathi Belcher, who pens our **Mountain Farmgirl Blog**, lives in the White Mountains of New Hampshire. As a "lifelong learner," she fiercely values self-reliance, independence, freedom, and fresh mountain air. She's also a multi-media artist, with an obsession for off-grid living and alternative housing. Cathi is married to her childhood sweetheart, and owns and operates a 32-room mountain lodge.

"Mountains speak to my soul, and farming is an important part of my heritage," says Cathi. "I want to pass on my love of these things to others through my writing."

Being a farmgirl isn't *where* you live, but *how* you live!

www.maryjanesfarm.org



NEWS FROM THE HOMEFRONT ...

whether that home is

city, rural, suburban,
mountain, ranch, or beach



ranch

FARMGIRL



Shery Jespersen, Wyoming cattle rancher and outpost writer, shares the view from her saddle in our **Ranch Farmgirl Blog**. Shery is a “leather and lace cowgirl” who’s been horse-crazy all of her life. Her longtime love is Apple Pi “Dolly” Rose, a 20-year-old Morgan otherwise known as “The Best Darn Horse in the Universe.”

Her other interests include “junktiques,” creating eclectic “make do” arts and crafts, collecting antique china, and cultivating mirth.



beach

FARMGIRL



Debbie Bosworth left her lifelong home in the high desert of northern Nevada 10 years ago and washed up on the shore of America’s hometown, Plymouth, Massachusetts, where she, her “beach-bum Yankee” husband of 20 years, and her two homeschooled kids are now firmly planted.

“I found a piece of my farmgirl heart when I discovered MaryJanesFarm. Suddenly, everything I loved just made more sense! I enjoy unwinding at the beach, writing, gardening, and turning yard-sale furniture into ‘Painted Ladies’! I’m passionate about living a creative life and encouraging others to ‘Make Each Day their Masterpiece.’”



meet our new Rural Farmgirl blogger, Alexandra Wilson

Alexandra Wilson is a budding rural farmgirl living in Palmer, Alaska—the agricultural seat of the last frontier. Alex is a graduate student at Alaska Pacific University, pursuing an M.S. in Outdoor and Environmental Education. She is focused on developing a program to inspire young women to become beginning farmers. She lives and works on the university’s satellite campus at



Spring Creek Farm. The 700-acre educational farm is home to fun and farming of all shapes and sizes, and she feels incredibly lucky to be a part of the exciting opportunities it presents to students and the community. As an instructor, she spends the school year teaching eager Alaskan children through place-based and environmental education methods and will spend the summer working on the farm’s CSA. When Alex has time outside of graduate school, she loves to rock climb, repurpose found objects, cross-country ski on the hay fields, travel, practice yoga, and cook with new-fangled ingredients.

Alex grew up in a suburb of the Twin Cities in Minnesota, spending many of her summer days and nights working with her father in his extensive garden or on her mother’s old farm in central Minnesota. The farms of Wisconsin that she drove past enroute to college at UW-Madison, however, are what got her hooked on agriculture. The perfectly painted barns and rolling green hills were something that she longed to include in her future. After graduating from college, she taught English as a second language to rural middle school students in South Korea, where she biked past verdant rice paddies and old women selling their homegrown produce from sidewalk stoops on her daily commute. She was introduced to MaryJanesFarm after returning to the states from Korea and found in it what she had been searching for—a group of incredible women who are living their lives in ways that benefit their families, their communities, and the greater environment. What an amazing group of farmgirls to be a part of!

Magazines, Books,

& More



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

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

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

MaryJanesFarm 2012 Calendar

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

Current Holidays:

- March 2 ~ Read Across America Day
- March 7 ~ Purim Begins
- March 8 ~ Purim Ends
- International Women's Day
- March 11 ~ Daylight Savings Time Begins
- March 12 ~ Plant a Flower Day
- March 17 ~ National Quilting Day
- St. Patrick's Day
- March 20 ~ Vernal Equinox: First Day of Spring
- March 21 ~ National Common Courtesy Day

Magazine "Goodies" on the MJF Website

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

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



Magazines, Books, and More continues ...

Gift Items

Inspire yourself or inspire a friend with tote bags, Sisterhood memberships, candles, dolls, and other gifts from MaryJane. From the kitchen to the campfire, there's something special here for every farmgirl-at-heart. **Click here** to shop our gift items.

Product Shop

Don't forget to visit our "Product Shop" ... **Click Here.** You will find everything from beautiful organic bed sheets and bed sets to aprons, chocolate and over 60 organic instant or quick-prep meals and desserts as well as much, much more!



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



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

For other questions or general inquiries, e-mail FarmgirlSisterhood@maryjanesfarm.org.

**Over 1,353 Farmgirl Chapters have been started in all 50 states
and 8 countries with 3,941 Sisterhood members —
growing stronger every day!**