

MaryJane's Cluck™

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



September 2012

Life made us FRIENDS, MaryJanesFarm made us SISTERS

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{HELLO FROM SISTER #1} with MaryJane

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This issue, Sister #5, Lisa Kivirist, is a guest writer for our Garden Gate section. Lisa plays with dirt, decoupage, and doughnut recipes with her family on their farm and bed & breakfast in southwest Wisconsin, Inn Serendipity (www.innserendipity.com), completely powered by the wind and the sun. Co-author of *Farmstead Chef* (www.farmsteadchef.com), *Rural Renaissance* (www.ruralrenaissance.org), and *ECOprenuring* (www.ecoprenuring.biz), Lisa also directs the Rural Women's Project (www.mosesorganic.org/womensproject) of the Midwest Organic & Sustainable Education Service, supporting women farmers and food-based entrepreneurs.

Her Garden Gate article is a little departure from our usual gardening fare. Instead, she introduces you to Donna Neuwirth, an organic farmer and cofounder of the Wormfarm Institute in Reedsburg, Wisconsin, which focuses on the connection between the arts and agriculture. Lisa says, "At this time of seasonal fall abundance, when my kitchen counter is covered in tomatoes and root crops from our growing fields, I need that boost from Donna to remind me to both see and appreciate the artistic side all us farmgirls share."

The darling photo you see here is just one of Donna's examples of the "multisensory celebration of farming" you'll find in Lisa's Garden Gate article.

MaryJane





Welcome!

It's been a few months since I've welcomed new Sisters and renewing Sisterhood members, each one by name, each one dear to our hearts. So, for this issue of the *Cluck*, I'd like to shine a light on all our new (and renewed!) Sisters. Thank you all!

MaryJane 

Adrienne Klotz-Floyd
 Agnes Loveall
 Aimee Charboneau
 Alan Waters-Piper
 Alexandra Wilson
 Alice Smith
 Alice Minasian
 Alisa Strunk
 Alisha Grinus
 Alma Skates
 Alyssa Mackey
 Amanda Vandusen
 Amanda Mack
 Amanda Whitten
 Amanda Ramsey
 Amy Reichert
 Amy Dingmann
 Amy Malaise
 Amy Morgan
 Amy Lund
 Amy Reihl
 Amy De St. Jean
 Amy Hickman
 Amy Jo Garner
 Andrea Gomez
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 Andria Brass
 Andria Beers
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 Angela Neikirk
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 Angela Flinchbaugh
 Angela Altenhofen
 Angela Camelbeek
 Angie Robinson
 Ann Long

Ann Riddle
 Ann Shipway
 Ann Hake
 Ann Mattson
 Anna Wicklander
 Anna Wolfe-perez
 Anne Littlebird
 Anneke Penn
 Annette Lessmann
 April M Choate
 Arlene Petersen
 Arlyne Giles
 Ashley Hotter
 Audrey Brackett
 Aurore Stubbs
 Ava Lynn
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 Betty Jo McCabe
 Betty Anne O'mar
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 Beverly Fischer
 Beverly Ott
 Bitsy Barraclough
 Bobbie Minns
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 Bridget Coyle
 Brooklyn Declusin
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 Camille Lane
 Candace Hostetter
 Candace Cummins
 Candace Willard
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 Cara M. Kroll
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 Carla Crawford
 Carly Kahl
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 Carol McElroy

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 Carol Cox
 Carol Lorts
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 Carol Jones
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 Cheryle Duffy-Lehrer
 Chris Abrahams
 Chris Sanchez
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 Chrisena Leverton



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Cindy Hailey
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Claudia Wheeler-Anthione
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Debra Baker
Debra Canada
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Gretchen Lohrbach
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Hallie Anne Day
Hannah Swann
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Heather Nicole Richards

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Marylyn Roark
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Maureen Ferriter

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Michelle Pagni
Michelle Fisher
Michelle Didomenico
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Mischell Tong
Miss Irene Cecilia Falcomer
Miss Wilma Gilbert
Misty Edwards
Moli Waldron
Molly Culbertson
Mona Dunckel
Mona Tucker
Monica Huber

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Nan Arseneault
Nancy Coppock
Nancy Altizer
Nancy Smith
Nancy Evans
Nancy Fluke
Nancy Berger
Nancy Orrell
Nancy Marshall
Nancy Chadbourn
Nancy Oliver
Nancy Nunnenkamp
Nancy McGrew
Nancy Sullivan
Nancy Thomas
Natalie Books
Natalie Thurman
Natasha Psenicka
Nellie Breuer
Nena Turning
Nicole Strait
Nicole Mondloch
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Wendy Deckman
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Wilma Gibson
Winifred Nielsen
Yvette Cochran



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

{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 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).

Party Planning

I’m currently working on one of the larger gatherings I’ve ever hosted, a late summer masquerade ball. Certainly, it’s the largest party I’ve ever hosted in my own home. I’m not sure what I love more, getting together or planning a party. I can daydream about a party for months. In fact, I began thinking of this year’s Halloween party the beginning of last November. This will be a one-of-a-kind party, unique to me and most of my guests. I’ve spent months planning it.

There are parties and then there are PARTIES. I am thankful to have a fabulous group of friends who always make the party a party. So here are a few of my party tips.



Dracula Queen & Pirate (aka MaryJane & Nick)
• Megan’s 2011 Halloween Party •



For the hostess (Practice these tips and your guests will want to return! They're super simple, but make a huge difference.)

- 1. Be clear in your invitation.** Send it early. If there is a dress theme; or if you want guests to bring food, beverage, or a donation; or if they should RSVP, be sure to tell them. I still mail out invitations because they're great to stick on a fridge for a reminder.
- 2. Plan well.** Make sure you have ample time for planning and don't forget the little details, like where your guests will park, can your toilet handle that many guests, etc. Those details can be the most important. Ask for help if you need it—my friends love to help me plan my parties.
- 3. Welcome your guests.** As the hostess, you should greet your guests, introduce them to each other, keep folks comfortable, and offer them food and beverages. You *did* sign on to be the hostess.
- 4. Don't stress.** You are the only one that will know if something falls apart at the last minute. So enjoy your party, and your guests will, too!
- 5. Have fun!** Thank your guests for coming. If someone arrives late or with an unexpected +1, don't worry about it. There are more important things to worry about.

For the guests (These are equally easy, but make or break the party.)

- 1. RSVP!** You should know how to get hold of the hostess. In this day and age, there are a lot of options. If you are **ABLE** to attend or **UNABLE** to attend, let the hostess know either way.
- 2. Offer to help if you can.** If you have time and a skill to share, do so. You aren't obligated for every party, but helping can be part of the fun. Why not get together and taste-test appetizers with the hostess beforehand?
- 3. Arrive on time.** Fashionably late is old news. Someone has to get there first. If everyone got there first, it would be way less awkward for the few that are punctual.
- 4. Play by the rules.** If you've been asked to dress a certain way, do so. If you've been asked to bring something, do so. In fact, go above and beyond—it will not go unappreciated, I promise.
- 5. Have fun!** Thank your hostess and enjoy the company of the other guests.

For all party goers

If you are supplying a bite-size appetizer, the general rule of thumb is that each guest will eat six per hour. If you are supplying a hot dish, salad, or dessert, the rule of thumb is to bring enough for 10 large portions. More food at a party is **much** better than too little! Then the hostess can send people home with the extras. **Very farmgirl.**



Farm

Where the cookin' begins!

Kitchen



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

{*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.

Oven-Fried Chicken with Milk Gravy

It's time to say goodbye to the sweltering heat, and hello to crispy air and chilly nights. There is something settling about the beginning of fall. In the summer, I find myself trying to spend as much time outside and away from home as possible—but when the heat wanes and the days get shorter, I start dreaming of hearty meals and glowing fireplaces. This recipe gives me serious nostalgia, and the milk gravy, for me, is the ultimate comfort food. It is one of the things that I most remember my mom cooking. Whether she made it for biscuits, potatoes, or to cover her Oven-Fried Chicken, it was always the same delicious gravy. My milk gravy definitely hits the spot, but in the end, nothing beats Mom's!





MILK GRAVY

PREP TIME: 5 MINUTES
COOK TIME: 10 MINUTES
MAKES: 1¾ CUPS

- 2 T butter
- 3 T flour
- 2 cups milk
- ½ t salt
- ¼ t pepper

1. Melt butter over medium low heat in a medium saucepan. Stir in flour and cook for 1 minute. Slowly pour in milk while whisking.
2. Continue stirring while the gravy cooks and thickens (about 8 minutes).
3. Stir in salt and pepper.

OVEN-FRIED CHICKEN

PREP TIME: 12 MINUTES
COOK TIME: 35-40 MINUTES
MAKES: 4 PIECES

- ½ cup flour
- 1 t paprika
- ¼ t celery seed
- ¼ t salt
- 2 garlic cloves, peeled and minced
- 1 T shortening (try Spectrum's non-hydrogenated Organic Vegetable Shortening)
- ½ chicken, cut into 4 pieces (breast, wing, thigh, leg)

1. Preheat oven to 450°F. In a medium bowl, combine flour, paprika, celery seed, salt, and garlic. Rub shortening over a baking sheet.
2. Dip each piece of chicken in flour mixture; coat evenly. Place on baking sheet, skin side down.
3. Bake for 18 minutes, flip over, and bake an additional 18 minutes, or until the internal temperature reaches 165°F in the center of the breast.



Garden

Bloom Where You're Planted

Gate



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

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

Creative Detours: Four Ways to Cultivate Your Inner Farm Artist

by guest writer Lisa Kivirist, www.innserendipity.com

“Farmers and artists have creation in common,” shares my friend Donna Neuwirth, a seasoned organic farmer and cofounder of the Wormfarm Institute in Reedsburg, Wisconsin. At this time of seasonal fall abundance, when my kitchen counter is covered in tomatoes and root crops from our growing fields, I need that boost from Donna to remind me to both see and appreciate the artistic side all us farmgirls share.

A national pioneer in championing that connection between arts and agriculture, Donna started the Wormfarm Institute (www.wormfarminstitute.org) with her partner, Jay Salinas, to help folks sense that integral and intimate connection between farming and the arts. “The Latin root of the word ‘culture’ actually means ‘to till the soil,’” Donna explains.

“As farmers, gardeners, and all of us connected to the land, we need to cultivate a deeper connection and express it in creative ways that help others see all the possibilities in our rural landscape.”

That creative surge manifests itself every October here in Wisconsin with the Wormfarm Institute’s Fermentation Fest (www.fermentationfest.com), a food and farming celebration of all types of “live cultures,” from learning how to craft your own fermented foods from kombucha to kefir to connecting with the creative side of the rural farm scene. The Farm/Art DTour (www.fermentationfest.com/farmart-dtour-the-land-is-alive), part of the Fermentation Fest that runs October 12–21 this year, rocks the rural back roads with a self-guided 50-mile loop through central Wisconsin to discover various large-scale, on-farm art installations. Some installations came from professional artists like the “Boots” installation on p. 1, but some of the most popular came from farmers themselves. My favorite: A 350-foot long silage cover that a farmer-and-son duo transformed into a colorful caterpillar.

“We farmers are well-seasoned in taking the skills and tools we already have and adapting them to new situations,” observes Donna. For example, a farmer created a large sculpture of a sheep and collie dog, innovatively using their existing machinery to stack the bales and then fastening the bales together with regular farm twine. I’m excited to see this year’s new creations, including a sculpture involving a tractor integrated into a stack of wood: Komíny-Tractor (“Komíny” means “stacks” in Czech).

Ready to channel your inner farmgirl artist?

Here’s some creative fuel from Donna to get us started:

• Use what you have

“Look around your farm and seek out new ways to use what you have lying around,” offers Donna. When we were converting our old granary on our farm into a strawbale greenhouse (www.innserendipity.com/inn/strawbale.html) a few years ago, one of our farm interns saw an opportunity to use old barn board to create a beautiful and symbolic sun over the front building door.



• Beautify the everyday

“Just because something is functional doesn’t mean it can’t be innovative and engaging,” Donna adds. Wormfarm Institute’s Roadside Culture Stands (<http://fermentationfest.com/artist>) exemplify this idea and will be on display during the Farm/Art DTour, transforming the expected simple roadside stand to sell farm produce into a unique, beautiful structure.



• Think seasonal and simple

Sometimes art doesn’t need to do more than enhance and showcase the beauty of the landscape. The “Farmed Frame” Farm/ Art DTour installation welded rusted, defunct farm parts to fashion an ornate formal frame that then captures the beauty of the landscape. Who needs a painting when you have the real thing, in this case, in full-throttle autumn colors?

• Stir the local culture pot

“Artists help us see our familiar farmland in new ways engaging neighbors and others in the community in a multisensory celebration of farming,” suggests Donna. “Especially as women connected to the land, we are natural multitaskers and can see and communicate the layers of meaning and value within our working lands. Be sure to bring your best creative selves to the work.”

continued ...



continued ...

We did this on our farm and B&B, Inn Serendipity (www.innserendipity.com) when we participated in a local initiative called "Green County Barn Quilts (www.greencountybarnquilts.com)," where quilt block patterns would hang on various outbuildings throughout our county. Over the fourth of July holiday, we gathered friends to paint a pinwheel-patterned quilt block that now hangs on our dairy barn, the shape inspired by the wind turbine (www.innserendipity.com/inn/wind.html) that completely powers our farm.

"Above all, remember to give yourself permission to play and look at your farm as a big green canvas on which you can create," sums up Donna. "Do something different and unexpected and reconnect in your own way with our farm-based, creative roots. Come visit us at Fermentation Fest and the Farm Art DTour this October for some Wisconsin inspiration!"

barn quilt photos, courtesy John D. Ivanko/farmsteadchef.com

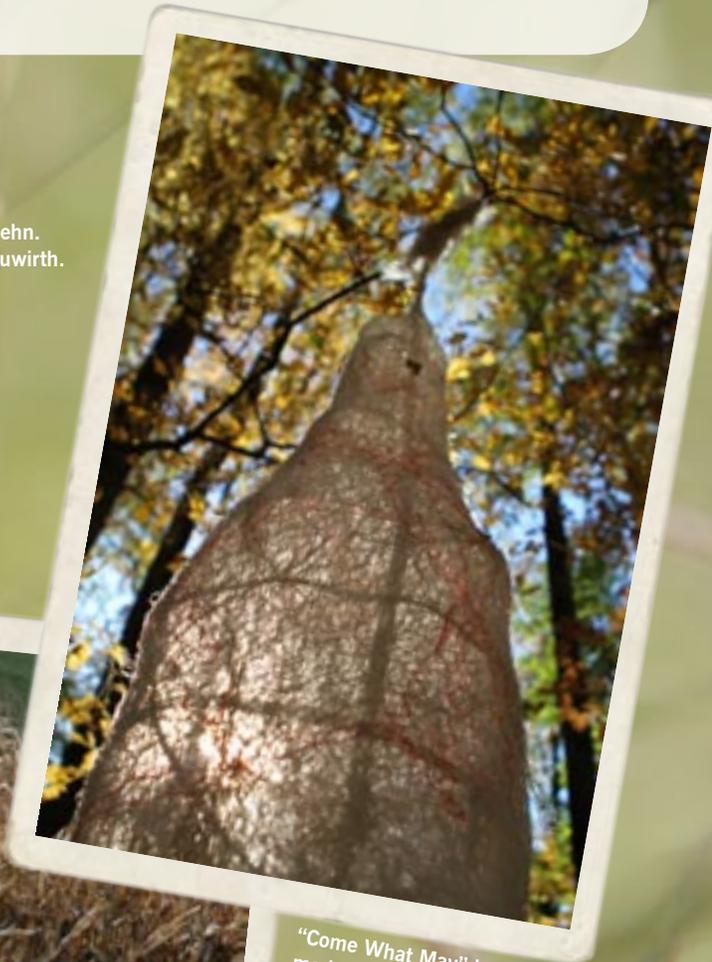
More about Wormfarm Institute:

The Wormfarm Institute is an award-winning non-profit organization working to build a sustainable future for agriculture and the arts by fostering vital links between people and the land. Generating, supporting, and promoting these links among our creative selves, our work, and our place on earth are essential for a thriving community.

www.wormfarmstitute.org



"Corn Field Notes"
frame by Homer Daehn.
Photo by Donna Neuwirth.



"Come What May" by Katie Schofield,
made from recycled hay bale wrap.
Photo by Ann Foley.



"Field Weave" by Randy Walker. Photo by Katrin Talbot.

Stitching & Crafting Room

Stitches of Fun & Laughter!



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

Black Linen

Black linen is my new best friend in the kitchen. Since we stopped using paper towels, our cotton towels have taken a beating. We cook daily and use a cast-iron skillet that needs a good wiping after being rinsed. The wear and tear sent me straight to the fabric store to find material that would last a bit longer, and I came home with black linen. When you buy linen, make sure it is 100% linen and not a blend, since blends feel a little itchy. Linen is a great fabric to use in your kitchen, and the longer you use it, the softer it is to the touch. It also dries quickly.



“Start where you are.
Use what you have.
Do what you can.”

– Arthur Ashe

Directions:

I stitched up two different styles of towels for my kitchen. The first was a long rectangle that I hemmed, then folded in half, and stitched around the edges again so it is nice and thick. Use your favorite-sized towel as a guide for the width and double the length, allowing 1/2" all around for hemming. The second style I made is perfect for hanging from the bar on your stove. It is the same finished length and width as the first style (but not doubled), hemmed around the edges. If the selvedge edge is pretty like the linen I found, leave it raw. I added two 5" lengths of grosgrain ribbon that tie together to each end to keep the towel from slipping off the bar (photos, right).





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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.

Outpost Baubles

True confession: My favorite book of MaryJane's thus far is *MaryJane's Outpost*. It was love at first sight—every page! I really enjoy making beaded jewelry, and when I saw the fishing-lure earrings in the book, I had to make a pair for myself. I like jewelry sets, so I went shopping for lures in the sporting goods section of a nearby hardware store. Like I said, I am a beader and I have findings on-hand. But, these pieces of jewelry don't require anything special or difficult to find. All you need to make them are lures, basic beading findings, a few beads that fit your color scheme, and a little imagination. I added little fetish beads because they reminded me of the wildlife you see while fishing ... birds, turtles, and hopefully, fish! I also added other charms like freshwater pearls (after all, this is glamping jewelry!), fish, tied fly lures, pinecones, and bits of turquoise.

For the necklace, I used the tiny ball-style keychain and I made mine quite long (26"). I chose one large lure as the focal bead. To make jewelry loops to hang the charms from, you'll need to carefully nip the hook tips off with wire snips and then bend them inward with pliers. I made my baubles without drawing blood, but DO be careful!

After you've prepped your lures, hang your charms from the hook loops with tiny jump-rings. I remove some of the three-prong hooks from the lures because they get in the way, and I removed the hooks entirely from the fly lures on this particular necklace. For the bracelet, I used striped lures (1" long) in the center and then attached a pearl charm and a three-prong hook with tiny beads on the tips on the middle ring between the lures. I chose a circle/bar toggle for the closure. Note: barely nip the tips of the fish-hooks and then place a teensy-weensy dab of super-glue gel on the end of each hook. Place small, round beads on the hook tips. The earrings are super easy—all you need to do is trim the hook tips, place beads on them, and hang them from earring hoops! Refer to the photos—they offer the best guide to making all of these pieces. If you're an Outpost sort of girl, you already know that these baubles will go with anything ... be it bluejeans or that little black dress. Enjoy!

I'm going to wear my Outpost baubles on an upcoming glamping trip to the Black Hills with my farmgirl pals. I needed just the right accessories for dress-up night—the evening we're going to glam up our glampsite and prepare a sit-down dinner, complete with lace tablecloths, antique china, oil lamps, and fresh flowers. I'll share the glamorous details next month, so stay tuned!





simply glamorous



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

Herbal Harvest Projects

September is a traditional harvest month, a time to finish gathering all of those goodies from your garden and transform them into provisions that provide nourishment and enjoyment all winter long. Here are some simple herbal products that you can create and enjoy throughout the winter months. Make extra and you'll have a head start on the holiday season—they make wonderful gifts!

Herb Sachets

Quick to make and so useful! The lingering herbal aromas that herbal sachets impart are perfect for tucking into dresser drawers, and clothes smell wonderful when sachets are placed in the dryer.

- Herbs: I often use Lavender or Cedar Tips), but any fragrant herb or spice can be used. Try Eucalyptus, Lemongrass, Lemon Verbena, Rose petals, Rosemary, Rosemary, Peppermint, Chamomile, Spearmint, or whichever scents inspire you!

- Bags: I used pre-made cotton muslin bags from Mountain Rose Herbs, but you can also make your own bags with cotton or muslin fabric. Sometimes, I'll stamp the sachets with images of birds or botanicals (especially if giving as gifts).

Coarsely grind herbs and spices in a coffee grinder to release their scent. Stamp the bags if desired, then stuff with herbs and spices. You may add a few drops of essential oil if you wish for a stronger aroma.





Fresh Bath Bouquets

One of the simplest, yet most delightful bath treatments! If you have a bounty of fresh flowers and herbs in your garden, save a few sprigs for this decadent and medicinal bathing experience.

Pick fresh herbal sprigs from the garden. Some favorites include Calendula, Chamomile, Echinacea, Eucalyptus, Lavender, Lemon Balm, Lemon Verbena, Peppermint, Red Clover, Rosemary, Sage, Spearmint, Thyme, and Oregano. Bundle the botanicals with twine, and hang under the faucet allowing water to run through the herbs. Once the tub is full, you can allow the herbs to float freely in the bathtub or simply enjoy their beauty as they hang from the faucet.

Herbal Syrups

Herbal syrups are luxurious atop pancakes, waffles, ice cream, cakes, fresh fruit, crepes, or when stirred into lemonade, iced tea, or cocktails. You can even mix them with soda water to create herbal sodas.

- Herbs and Spices of choice, some options are: Fresh or dried organic Basil, Lavender flowers, Lemon Balm, Lemon peel, Lemon Verbena, Lemongrass, Orange peel, Peppermint, Rose petals, Rosehips, and Spearmint.

- Organic sugar

Bring two cups of water to a boil and then add two cups of organic sugar. Allow the sugar to dissolve, then remove from the heat and add fresh or dried herbs. Cover the pot, and allow the herbs to steep until the mixture cools. You can remove the herbs sooner if the syrup reaches the flavor that you desire before it finishes cooling. Or, you can allow the mixture to sit overnight if you prefer a stronger syrup. Once you are satisfied with the flavor, strain out the herbs and pour the remaining liquid into pretty glass bottles. The syrup should last for at least 6 months if stored in a refrigerator.

Infused Vinegar

When vinegar is infused with herbs, it adds a special twist to salad dressings, marinades, dipping sauces, vinaigrettes, and any other recipe utilizing vinegar.

- Vinegar: Distilled white vinegar, apple cider vinegar, wine vinegar, or rice vinegar. Use milder vinegars when infusing delicate herbs and stronger flavored vinegars for robust herbs.

- Organic herbs, fresh or dried (see list above).

continued ...

Infused Vinegar (continued)

Start by sanitizing a glass bottle or jar (instructions are in the link below). Wash fresh herbs and pat dry (omit this step if using dried herbs). Place the herbs or spices into the sterilized glass container and fill with vinegar of your choice. 3 dried herbs/spices or 3–4 sprigs of fresh herbs per pint of vinegar is usually a good amount. However, this depends upon the strength of the herb, spice, and vinegar used, so experiment with more or less. Cover the container tightly with a non-corrodible, nonmetallic lid, and place in a dark, cool place to steep. Allow the vinegar to infuse for 2–4 weeks, or until the desired flavor has developed. Once finished, strain the herbs out, and pour the infused vinegar into sterilized bottles or jars. Fresh sprigs of herbs, dried herbs, whole chili peppers, peppercorns, and berries can be added before sealing to make the bottle more attractive and to further enhance the flavor. Label with the ingredients and date, and you're finished! It's best to keep vinegars stored in a cool, dark place and use within 4–6 months or keep the vinegar refrigerated to retain the flavors longer. If you notice mold, cloudiness, signs of fermentation, or anything else that looks unusual, discard immediately. For more information about making infused vinegar, this informational sheet from the Oregon State University Extension Service is wonderful: http://extension.oregonstate.edu/lane/sites/default/files/images/flavored_vinegars.pdf





Garden Cologne

Utilize your favorite scents from the garden to make colognes that can be misted all around the home. A relaxing cologne could include Roses, Chamomile, and Lavender. Or, mix a rejuvenating blend from Rosemary, Peppermint, and Sage.

- Herbs: Fresh or dried botanicals of choice
- Vodka

Combine all ingredients in a glass Mason jar and add vodka until the liquid rises above the herbs by at least 1". Cap tightly and shake once or more per day. After 2–6 weeks, strain the flowers and pour the resulting cologne into a glass bottle with a mister top. Note: the vodka will take on the color of the herbs, so be wary of darker colors that may stain light-colored linens or clothing.



Herbal Infused Sugars and Salts

Herbal infused sugars and salts are a fun way to turn salt and sugar into something special! Use in the same manner as unseasoned sugar or salt, or use as a finishing touch to any dish. Just imagine Lavender sugar sprinkled over Crème Brulee, Lemon Verbena sugar sprinkled over shortbread cookies, or Chamomile sugar stirred into a mug of warm mint tea.

Herbal salts are a versatile ingredient delightful in soups, sauces, stews, and roasted vegetables or meats. Savory Rosemary salt may be sprinkled over homemade focaccia, Basil salt atop freshly sliced heirloom tomatoes, Sage infused salt on roasted root vegetables, or enjoy a margarita dressed up with a Chili Pepper salt rim. Yum!

- Organic sugar or sea salt (coarse or fine).
- Dried organic herbs of choice. Some options are: Basil, Cayenne, Chamomile flowers, Chili Peppers, Chives, Coriander seeds, Cumin, Dill, Garlic, Lavender, Lemon Balm, Lemon peel, Lemon Verbena, Marjoram, Mustard seeds, Orange peel, Oregano, Peppermint, Rose petals, Rosemary, Sage, Summer or Winter Savory, Tarragon, or Thyme.

Use 1 part herb or spice to 4 parts salt or sugar. Crush the herbs in a mortar and pestle, or whirl in a food processor or coffee grinder. Allow to infuse for 2–4 weeks, then remove the herbs and spices. The sugar or salt will be infused with the delectable flavor and aroma of the herb. Package in pretty airtight glass bottles, jars, or tins.

Happy harvesting!



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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.

Glampology on the Brain

In preparation for our farmgirl chapter’s first glamping trip together, I revisited MaryJane’s “Outpost” book. I skimmed recipes and marked pages. I’ve been stewing over how to dress my glampsite. And, I decided that on my glamping wardrobe must-have list, I need fishing-lure earrings ... which led me to make a complete set of Outpost baubles (see my Make It Easy section). MaryJane’s words also reminded me to not complain about the weather. Oh. I’ve been guilty of that most of the spring and all of this summer.

All of the western states are in deep drought. Normally, this region is referred to as the high plains, but this year it is a desert. Agriculture is 100% weather dependent, and 2012 has been hard for every kind of farming across this region. For us, it means sky-high hay prices and hauling water to cattle in one of our pastures because the reservoirs have dried up. For the last month, my daily routine includes hauling almost 2,000 gallons of water to one group of cows and calves. The chore isn’t hard work, but it sure is mundane. It involves three 14-mile round trips and add to that the time it takes to fill my tank three times. I’ve had a lot of time to think these past few weeks! There has been one predominant theme on my mind: Glamping! Oh, the planning! Oh, the details!



“I haven’t been everywhere, but it’s on my list.”

– Susan Sontag

MARYJANES FARM



While driving back and forth from the ranch to the water station, I have one **glamping** daydream after another. **Glampology** has also increased my vocabulary. So many words beg to be modified to fit the new **glampulary**. For example, did you know that **glamping** is really quite ancient? Yes, it all began in a primordial **glamp** (sort of like a swamp—only prettier). **Glampecules** went to work, and pretty soon, yurts, teepees, and tents evolved. As time passed, wagons, cabins, safari tents, Airstreams, and Shastas came into being. And, here we are now in the golden age of the **Glampaissance**. **Glampology** has arrived ... the era of the pampered camper. We lovingly line our **glamper** nests with vintage finery and study maps in search of our next **glampsite** ... a place deep in the woods or perhaps on a grassy hilltop with a **glamoramic** view. We long for the hypnotic flames of a **glampfire** and a glass of **glampagne**. And, although most **glampers** are fair-weather cowgirls, some are **glamparctic** explorers. Me, well, my **glamper** will be in her stall for the winter.

With an increase in crime these days, it is always wise to be cautious around strangers in remote areas. One never knows when you might run into a **glamp tramp**. The harmless variety goes by the same name—they’ll sleep with anyone ... er, that is to say they’ll sleep IN anyone’s **glamper**!

So, there you have it ... a sampler, I mean a **glampler** of words from the new-world **glampedia**. To learn more about the latest fashion in camping, follow the **glampede** to Amazon and get yourself a copy of *Glamping with MaryJane*. I hear it is absolutely **glamtabulous**!

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

Cleaning Up ... with a Twist

This isn't exactly cleaning up—rather it's cousin, cleaning down. Up or down, it's a handy tip ...

Let's take a break from all that cleaning up and get a little dirty this month. If you read my "Here for Life" section in the new issue (Oct/Nov) of *MaryJanesFarm*, you'll find that getting dirty is even good for you! With that in mind, this month's project could be called "Dirty Up, Farmgirl Style."

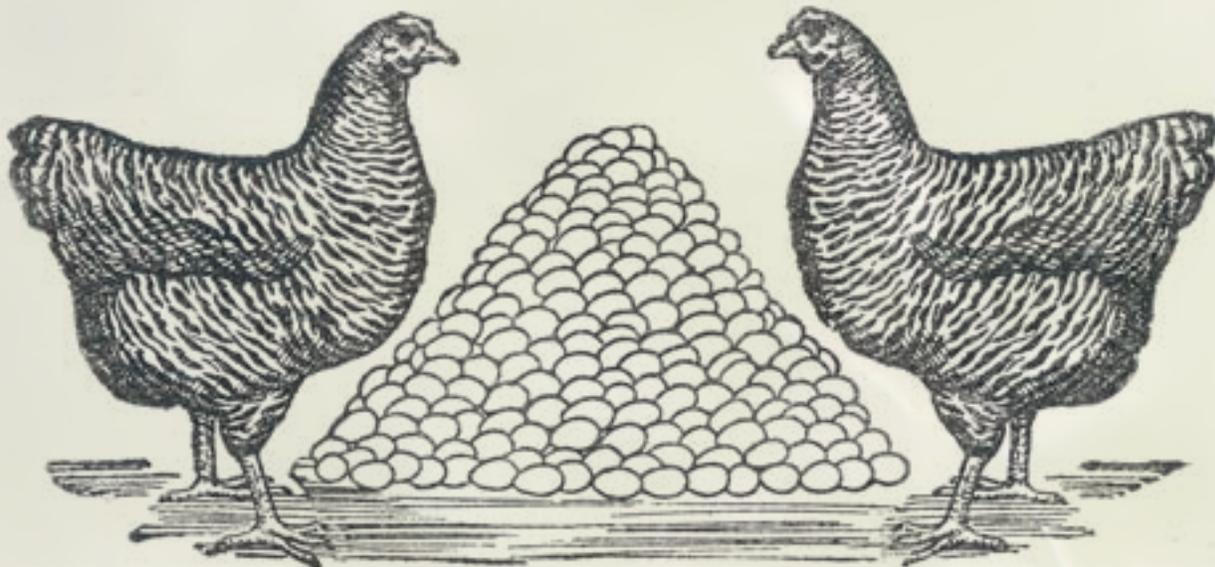
I bought a vintage mother-of-pearl necklace and earrings in an antiques store, but there wasn't any kind of dangle on the earrings. And I love a bit of dangle!

So I went to Michael's for some bling, found my drill, and got to work. I bought some "silver plated" beads with the idea of "tarnishing" them to match the tarnish on the rest of the set.

What's a farmgirl to do? The answer's in the henhouse! To easily tarnish any kind of silver, mash 1 or 2 hard-boiled egg yolks in an air-tight container that has room for your items, put the silver in, and let it sit overnight. The sulfur from the eggs will tarnish the silver, and you'll end up with old-fashioned, farmgirl-style jewels!

(You'll notice that the smaller beads at the bottom of my earrings are still bright silver. My tarnishing process didn't work on them, only on the larger ones. Obviously, the smaller beads weren't silver plated as advertised ... a little deceptive marketing. But I decided they added a little contrast and interest anyway. Farmgirl fab!)

MaryJane 





MARYJANES FARM





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

Upcoming: Minnesota glamping event & 3rd Annual Farmgirls on the Loose Get-Together (see p. 30).

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!)



SEPTEMBER

Sisterhood Special



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Farmgirl Sisterhood

share in the fun!

Farmgirl Chatter

What are farmgirls chatting about?

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

.....

Outpost: Glamping Adventure in Minnesota—Ya'll Are Invited! Submitted by sunshine4u

In honor of MaryJane's new book, **Glamping with MaryJane**, The River Valley Farmgirls invite you to a glamping adventure on my farm! Bring your tents and your campers and join in on the fun! September 13–16, 2012. Find out more [here](#).

Farmgirls on the Loose, 3rd Annual Get-Together. Submitted by Jennifer Porter

When: October 12–14, 2012

Where: Bedias, Texas

Contact: Jennifer Porter at whisperwindsarabians@arabians.com

For more info: visit fancyfeathersfarmgirls.com

Keeping in Touch: Farmgirl music list. Submitted by kelly22

What are some “must-have” songs for your play list, farmgirls? Share your songs [here](#).

Keeping in Touch: County Fairs? Submitted by Sue Feely

How many farmgirls have a county fair in their county? If so, what are some of your favorite places to visit there? Get excited about your county fair [here](#).

A Farm of My Own: What would you do with this area? Submitted by TheBeeCharmer

We just moved into our new place, “Sweet Crossing,” in January. Boxes still to unpack and all, but thinking about what I could do with this one area in our yard. There are a lot of big trees, but I think there has to be something we could do there ... grass doesn't grow much, so no planting, and I don't have extra furniture to put there ... any suggestions? Share them [here](#).

A Farm of My Own: Mobile Home ... Should I Tell? Submitted by mrstillery09

Sorry for such a vague subject line—I knew I couldn't fit it all in there! This may end up being a really silly question, but I'm kind of wondering what I should do. I've been lurking awhile, and ya'll have such great advice, so I thought I'd see what you have to say.

My husband and I just bought our first home, which happens to be a mobile home. This place just seems perfect for us—it'll be paid for in about 8 years, and it sits on 2/3 of an acre. It's not a lot of square footage, or a lot of acres, but it's great for starting out. My problem is, I was raised thinking that people who lived in mobile homes are white trash. Everyone in my family knows we have a home of our own, but they don't know that it's a mobile, and I don't know if

I should mention it. Part of me thinks a home is a home and it shouldn't matter what it is, and another part of me feels awkward not mentioning it. My plan was for people to come see it and me not even broaching the subject.

What do you ladies think, though? Am I worrying about nothing? Give your advice [here](#).

A Farm of My Own: The Farm Case for Support Submitted by coymichelle

I am in the very early stages of farm consideration. Somewhere in between daydreaming and research. In doing so, my husband asked that I build him an argument for this departure into uncharted waters. In my city career life, I am a fundraiser for an art museum. I'm going to use those skills to build an official Case for Support and deliver the hubs a full-one presentation of farm ownership merit.

Have any of you met the challenge of convincing someone this is a solid move? (Especially someone who is a cautious personality, not a risk-taker?) Any tips for my argument? Share your persuasion tips [here](#).

Across the Fence: When I put on my apron, it empowers me. Submitted by Dorinda

So I got up this morning with full intentions on cleaning the kids/guest bathroom. I just couldn't get moving on it. So a little while ago, I put my apron on, and it made me feel like Wonder Woman. I had that bathroom scrubbed and picked up in 20 mins. from top to bottom. Gotta love the apron better than a vitamin! LOL. Share your tales of aproned prowess [here](#).

Barnyard Buddies: Best place to order chicks? Submitted by farmmilkmama

Looking to order Cornish broilers so we can have one more batch to butcher after we process all our various breeds of roos next week. Anyone have experience ordering from McMurray or Hoovers? Is one better than the other or is it just personal preference? It looks like McMurray is a bit more \$\$ than Hoovers. Give your advice [here](#).



continued ...

“A late summer garden has a *tranquility* found no other time of the year.”

- William Longgood

Farm Kitchen: Bottoms broke off jars in canner—why? Submitted by farmmilkmama

I just got through canning pickles. The first batch went perfectly. The second batch, I had three jars that broke—the bottoms came right off while in the canner. Does anyone know why this would be? My dad said maybe because it was the second batch, the jars had cooled off (before I filled them) a little too much. (I always warm the jars up by running them through the dishwasher...) Someone else said they probably were cheap jars or had a crack in them that I didn't see. What do you gals think? Share your canning tips [here](#).

Farm Kitchen: What are you canning this week? Submitted by textdane

We picked peaches this week, so I am making peach jam over the weekend. Anybody else canning this week? What's cooking at your house? Join the jam talk [here](#).

Garden Gate: Goldfish in Your Rain Barrel? Submitted by Ninibini

My wonderful husband made me an awesome rain barrel for Mother's Day—he ROCKS!!! Collected rain water is one of the best ways to water your garden. It's extremely "green" and good for the earth's ecosystem. The water itself is "naturally soft" water, with dissolved minerals from the environment, which garden plants just thrive on—no chemicals other than what nature would normally bring. VERY organic, a natural "fertilizer," if you will. And because it's natural and soft, the plants just drink it up—pun intended, sorry ... couldn't resist! ;) The best thing to do is to attach a "drip hose" (for those of you who don't know what that is, it's a hose that has little nail holes in it so the water slowly drips out) and lead it into the garden underneath your thirsty plants. When you turn on your spigot, the water drips at the plant's roots, which is the best way to water your garden. You reduce your water AND sewage bills (every bit counts!), you help reduce flooding in your yard and

basement by capturing and directing water where you want it to go, and you're even slowly replenishing the precious groundwater supply. It's a good thing—a REALLY good thing! Captured rainwater is actually even better than treated tap water to wash your car and watering your indoor plants, too!

My wonderful rain barrel filled up with the first torrential rains this week ... I think we need another one for spill-over! LOL We get a lot of rain here in western PA. You'd think watering the garden wouldn't be necessary, but we do need to do it on occasion, so I thought this would be a great alternative. Why pay for water when you can get it free—and when it's as plant-nutritive as water comes? The garden will love it!

Somewhere I had read that you could (should?) keep goldfish in your rain barrel, not only to keep away the mosquitoes, but also because they eat any algae that might grow, and their waste is a real boon to the water when used for your garden. I cannot for the life of me find the article online or in any of my gardening and self-sufficiency books, and it's driving me nuts. I'm wondering if any of you have done this, and if there is anything special I need to be aware of or





do to keep the fish healthy? We don't have a crazy mosquito problem or anything, but I thought it might be something really great to try. I remember that once we bought goldfish at the fair and they died because we didn't realize our home water was chlorinated ... Do you know if there are similar concerns about rainwater? And how much should I feed them? Whatever you can share, I'll be very grateful!

Thanks so much! Share your fish tips [here](#).

Make It Easy: Storing Bed Sheets. Submitted by TheBeeCharmer

I cannot take credit for this since it was not my idea, but I want to share it with all of you since my linen closet can be one of the most disorganized areas of my home. Store all the sheets to a bed sheet set inside of one of the pillowcases. Now, why hadn't I thought of that?!! Respond to this tip [here](#).



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Posted on Christy's Farm Blog by Christina O'neal, Sister #1847

Who's Gabbing and Who's Gushing

What to My Wondering Eyes Should Appear!

Posted on August 15, 2012 by Andrea Farber, Sister #4019



I'm not a weaver. Several of my friends are! Kathe Todd-Hooker of Fine Fibre Press and Studio www.finefibrepres.com does exquisite tapestries. Joanne from *Cup On The Bus*, has made an enormous number of rugs in her life time. This morning in the intense sun I thought of them as the things I get to do today brought me together with the manzanilla vines ... [Read more](#) --

The Way To My Heart

Posted on August 15, 2012 by Cassidy Horne, Sister #4371

"And to all this she must yet add something more substantial, in the improvement of her mind by extensive reading." Mr. Darcy in *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen.

Jewelry?

Letters? ... [Read more](#) --

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

Remember, it's not **WALKING** you live, but **HOW** you live.

YOUR AD HERE!

- GirlGab.com Blogs
- Alice Mnasian, Sister #12
Alice's Wonderful Life
 - Alisa Grims, Sister #3338
No Red Lipstick
 - Amanda Childress, Sister #1390
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 - Amber Conger, Sister #2912
Refined Industrial Revelations
 - Amy Dingmann, Sister #1086
A Farmish Kind of Life
 - Amy Dingmann, Sister #1086
The Jensen ... schooling Mom
 - Amy Malais, Sister #2744
Crafting by Candlelight
 - Amy Marquardt, Sister #3706
Far North Farmgirls
 - Amy Marquardt, Sister #3706
Briar House Wellness
 - Andrea Farber, Sister #4019
Things I get to do today
 - Angela Croissant, Sister #2808
Lazy Jo Ranch
 - Ashley Montague, Sister #3466
My French Rotgen
 - Ray Woodyard, Sister #2613

The Country Homemaker Hop #33

Posted on August 15, 2012 by Heidi Gonzales, Sister #3844



Welcome Friends! May this post find you healthy and happy ... [Read more --](#)

The Country Homemaker Hop

Posted on August 15, 2012 by Heidi Gonzales, Sister #3844



Welcome Friends's. It's about 2:30 am and I am still awake.... canning peaches ... [Read more --](#)

Wordless Wednesday - Beach Train

Posted on August 15, 2012 by Jennifer Hunter, Sister #1872



We had a fabulous day taking the Roaming Camp Railroad train to the Santa Cruz Beach and Boardwalk and back. If you're in the area, I absolutely recommend doing this! ... [Read more --](#)

Bringing In The Hay

Posted on August 15, 2012 by Karen Bates, Sister #377



A beautiful evening with just the most beautiful light ... [Read more --](#)

Wordless Wednesday.

Posted on August 15, 2012 by Nancy Cleys, Sister #4043



... [Read more --](#)

Karen's deck

Posted on August 15, 2012 by Maryann Fox, Sister #2532



We all had such a great time playing with papers and paint on Karen's deck. The above photo shows the other side of her deck where it is a lovely peaceful oasis filled with beautiful plants and a water feature the birds play in. So beautiful! ... [Read more --](#)

Border Collies it is!

Posted on August 15, 2012 by Sandra Morris, Sister #4384

I have to say that I LOVE Border Collies!

We were looking for a dog for one our daughters to show at fair, but also would do well living on a farm with sheep, goats and chickens. We researched and decided to look into the Border Collie Breed ... [Read more --](#)

Bad Moon Rising

Posted on August 15, 2012 by Sarah Jose, Sister #116

So far today:

A package of cheese slices literally jumped out of the refrigerator, hit me in the face, and splattered all over the kitchen floor. My husband dripped his coffee all across my freshly mopped floor ... [Read more --](#)

Getting Soapy

Posted on August 14, 2012 by Cris Cantin, Sister #2910



I found myself in a crafting mood today, and wound up at a local crafters' paradise, Bargain Bilt's. This store has 2000 square feet dedicated to All Things Craft. They also have a year-round Christmas section, but I managed to avoid wandering in there ... [Read more --](#)



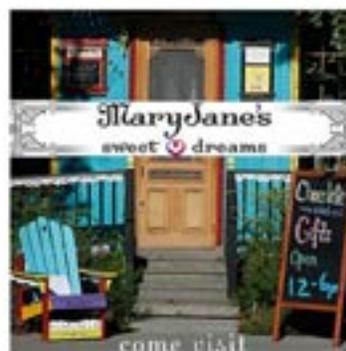
"a heartwarming, charming story that will have you looking around and wondering if the events around you are by chance or by divine design."
 -Katie Todd
The Recipe Lounge
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Farmgirl Sisterhood

Merit Badges

Merit Badge Details: Farmgirl Legend

Become a Legend in Your Own Time!

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

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

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





Exclusive for Sisters!

Sisterhood Necklace

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

Hello Elaine!

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,
Veronica Laviolette



Merit Badge

Awardees



Merit Badge Awardees

Alma Skates, skatear #4281

Beginner badge: Buttoned Up / Stitching & Crafting
Beginner badge: Knitting / Stitching & Crafting
Beginner badge: Crochet / Stitching & Crafting
Intermediate badge: Buttoned Up / Stitching & Crafting

Barbara Roberts, Healthy Eating #2237

Beginner badge: Birds / Garden Gate
Beginner badge: Forage for Food / Farm Kitchen
Intermediate badge: Gaining Ground / Garden Gate
Intermediate badge: Birds / Garden Gate
Intermediate badge: Forage for Food / Farm Kitchen
Expert badge: Gaining Ground / Garden Gate

Becky Johnson, BeckyBoop #4159

Beginner badge: Sew Wonderful / Stitching & Crafting
Beginner badge: Blogging / Each Other
Intermediate badge: Blogging / Each Other
Expert badge: Blogging / Each Other

Brande Vogele, Dazite #4360

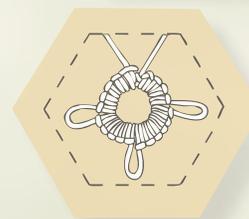
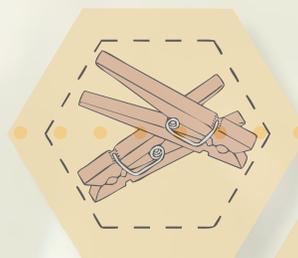
Beginner badge: Shopping Green / Cleaning Up
Beginner badge: Sew Wonderful / Stitching & Crafting
Intermediate badge: Shopping Green / Cleaning Up

Brenda Fish, #66

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

Christina Marsden, #4411

Beginner badge: Crochet / Stitching & Crafting
Beginner badge: Horse Dreams / Garden Gate





CJ Armstrong, ceejay48 #665
Intermediate badge: Fishing / Outpost

Colina Washburn, rubyleesmom #3408
Beginner badge: Families Forever / Each Other

Connie Cowan, SisterSue #4238
Beginner badge: Backyard Farmer / Garden Gate
Beginner badge: Shopping Green / Cleaning Up
Beginner badge: Birds / Garden Gate
Beginner badge: Little Squirts / Each Other
Beginner badge: Unprocessed Kitchen / Farm Kitchen
Intermediate badge: Shopping Green / Cleaning Up
Intermediate badge: Birds / Garden Gate
Intermediate badge: Crochet / Stitching & Crafting

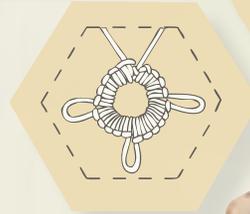
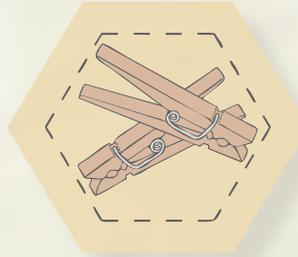
Connie Herron, Littlegirl54 #4152
Beginner badge: Water Conservation / Cleaning Up
Beginner badge: Farmgirl Gratitude / Each Other
Intermediate badge: Water Conservation / Cleaning Up
Intermediate badge: Shopping Green / Cleaning Up

Darla Armstrong, cowgirlup21 #4391
Beginner badge: Shopping Green / Cleaning Up

Debbie Bosworth, dandelionhouse #1199
Expert badge: Horse Dreams / Garden Gate

Deborah Meyer, Country Girl Forever #4099
Beginner badge: Lend a Hand to Farm Families / Each Other
Beginner badge: Farmgirl Gratitude / Each Other
Beginner badge: Blogging / Each Other
Beginner badge: Horse Dreams / Garden Gate
Intermediate badge: Blogging / Each Other

Denise Thain, Neeckerie #4509
Beginner badge: Shopping Green / Cleaning Up





Elizabeth Taylor, leilaht #1932

Beginner badge: Heirlooms Forever! / Garden Gate

Intermediate badge: Crochet / Stitching & Crafting

Emily Hack, alterationsbyemily #2951

Beginner badge: Greatest Generation / Each Other

Beginner badge: Birds / Garden Gate

Beginner badge: Ink Slinger / Stitching & Crafting

Beginner badge: Rocks and Minerals / Outpost

Beginner badge: Woman-at-Arms / Outpost

Intermediate badge: Green Energy / Cleaning Up

Intermediate badge: Blogging / Each Other

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

Intermediate badge: Forage for Food / Farm Kitchen

Expert badge: Farmgirl Grammar / Each Other

Emily Plunkett, #4276

Beginner badge: Backyard Farmer / Garden Gate

Emily Race, Simply Satisfied #3591

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

Beginner badge: Heirlooms Forever! / Garden Gate

Intermediate badge: Disconnect to Reconnect

Jennifer Mackey, Jen Mackey #4218

Beginner badge: Going Green / Cleaning Up

Beginner badge: Buttoned Up / Stitching & Crafting

Beginner badge: Crochet / Stitching & Crafting

Intermediate badge: Going Green / Cleaning Up

Jodi Chen, Prairie Princess #4440

Beginner badge: Birds / Garden Gate

Beginner badge: Sew Wonderful / Stitching & Crafting

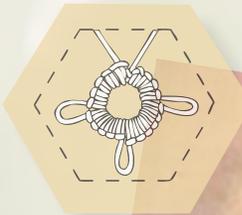
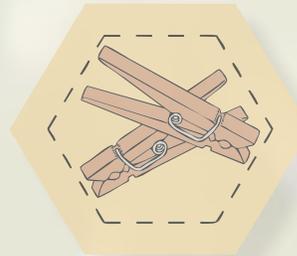
Kari Workman, Kari22 #4322

Beginner badge: Shopping Green / Cleaning Up

Beginner badge: Sew Wonderful / Stitching & Crafting

Intermediate badge: Shopping Green / Cleaning Up

Intermediate badge: Sew Wonderful / Stitching & Crafting





Karla Reinhart, karlee2147 #4476

Beginner badge: Shopping Green / Cleaning Up
Beginner badge: Know Your Roots / Each Other
Beginner badge: Backyard Farmer / Garden Gate

Kim Hazelrigg, kimarie91 #3147

Beginner badge: Get It Together / Farm Kitchen

Kristi Groth, Kristi #3407

Beginner badge: Sew Wonderful / Stitching & Crafting
Intermediate badge: Sew Wonderful / Stitching & Crafting

Kristina Nelson, FieldsofThyme #800

Beginner badge: Fishing / Outpost
Intermediate badge: Woman-at-Arms / Outpost
Intermediate badge: Knitting / Stitching & Crafting
Intermediate badge: Fishing / Outpost
Expert badge: Fishing / Outpost

Laura Kazak, Laura Marie #369

Intermediate badge: Shopping Green / Cleaning Up

Laurie Jean Harms, Laurie Jean #4200

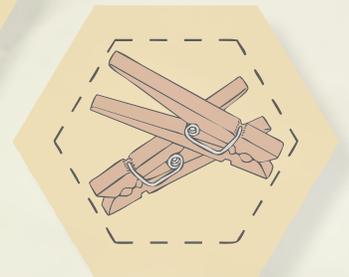
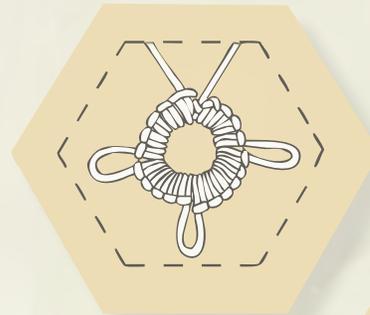
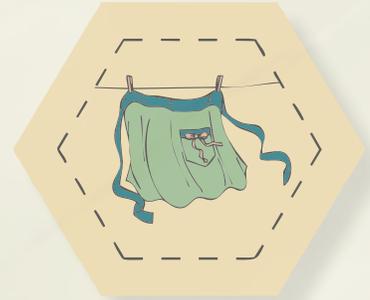
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Beginner badge: Sew Wonderful / Stitching & Crafting
Beginner badge: Scrapbooking / Stitching & Crafting
Beginner badge: Aprons / Stitching & Crafting
Beginner badge: Unprocessed Kitchen / Farm Kitchen
Intermediate badge: Shopping Green / Cleaning Up
Intermediate badge: Aprons / Stitching & Crafting

Leah McCoy, Lyndell #4236

Beginner badge: Farmgirl Gratitude / Each Other

Lee Anne Johnson, AnnieJohnson #4280

Beginner badge: Backyard Farmer / Garden Gate
Beginner badge: Knitting / Stitching & Crafting





Linda Van Audsell, vanavista #4347

- Beginner badge: Buttoned Up / Stitching & Crafting
- Beginner badge: Embroidery / Stitching & Crafting
- Beginner badge: Quilting / Stitching & Crafting
- Beginner badge: Icing on the Cake / Farm Kitchen
- Beginner badge: Sew Wonderful / Stitching & Crafting
- Beginner badge: Crochet / Stitching & Crafting
- Beginner badge: Scrapbooking / Stitching & Crafting
- Beginner badge: First Aid / Outpost
- Beginner badge: Shopping Green / Cleaning Up
- Beginner badge: BakeOver MakeOver / Farm Kitchen
- Beginner badge: Cross-Stitch / Stitching & Crafting
- Beginner badge: ChillOver ComeOver / Farm Kitchen
- Beginner badge: Get It Together / Farm Kitchen
- Beginner badge: Carp-hen-try / Make It Easy
- Intermediate badge: Crochet / Stitching & Crafting
- Intermediate badge: Buttoned Up / Stitching & Crafting
- Intermediate badge: Sew Wonderful / Stitching & Crafting
- Intermediate badge: Quilting / Stitching & Crafting
- Intermediate badge: Icing on the Cake / Farm Kitchen
- Intermediate badge: First Aid / Outpost
- Intermediate badge: Carp-hen-try / Make It Easy
- Expert badge: Carp-hen-try / Make It Easy
- Expert badge: Quilting / Stitching & Crafting

Lindsay James, #4317

- Beginner badge: Cross-Stitch / Stitching & Crafting

Mandi Wright, #3643

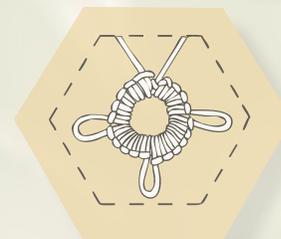
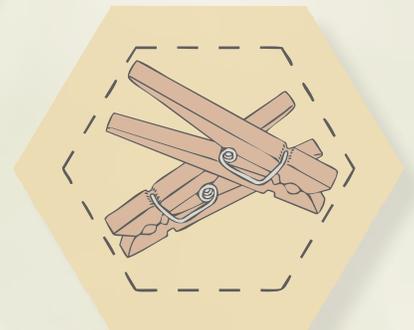
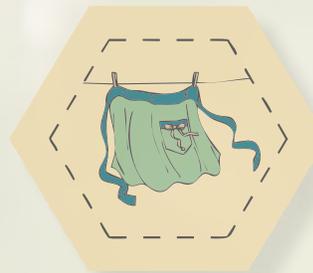
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- Beginner badge: Gaining Ground / Garden Gate
- Intermediate badge: Water Conservation / Cleaning Up

Melissa Warner-Talcott, Melissa Warner-Talcott #3555

- Beginner badge: Nellie Will-do / Stitching & Crafting

Mary Whatley, flowerfairy136 #4195

- Beginner badge: Get It Together / Farm Kitchen
- Beginner badge: Make It Pretty / Make It Easy



Mona Tucker, Mummie #4477

Beginner badge: Recipes / Farm Kitchen

Nancy Witko, Annielaurel #2301

Beginner badge: Quilting / Stitching & Crafting

Intermediate badge: Make It Pretty / Make It Easy

Intermediate badge: Quilting / Stitching & Crafting

Intermediate badge: Aprons / Stitching & Crafting

Expert badge: Aprons / Stitching & Crafting

Nicole Christensen, texdane #1155

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

Patti White, P. Ann #4415

Beginner badge: Sew Wonderful / Stitching & Crafting

Beginner badge: Aprons / Stitching & Crafting

Paula Black, Sheepless in Seattle #2953

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

Intermediate badge: Cleaning Up / Shopping Green

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

Intermediate badge: Cross-Stitch / Stitching & Crafting

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

Paula McConnell, mcseitz #4492

Beginner badge: Farmgirl Spirit / Each Other

Rebecca Ashley, rashley1180 #2018

Beginner badge: Community Action / Each Other

Beginner badge: Get It Together / Farm Kitchen

Beginner badge: In the Garden / Make It Easy

Regina Sluk, Orphiel #3065

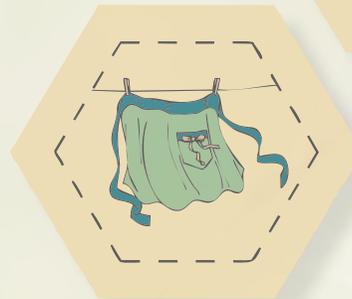
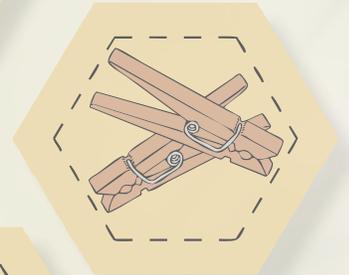
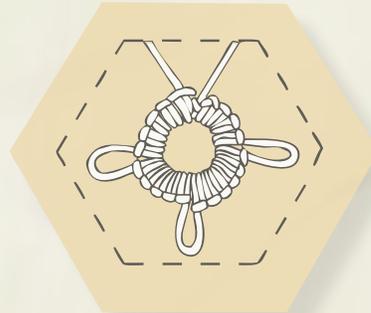
Beginner badge: Birds / Garden Gate

Beginner badge: The Secret Life of Bees / Garden Gate

Ruth Ann Kutemier, ruthie 218 #4072

Beginner badge: Plant It Forward / Each Other

Beginner badge: Greatest Generation / Each Other





“Like a gardener, I believe what goes down must come up.”

– Lynwood Giacomini

Shanda Lord, shanda #4233

Beginner badge: Knitting / Stitching & Crafting
 Beginner badge: Crochet / Stitching & Crafting
 Beginner badge: Sew Wonderful / Stitching & Crafting
 Intermediate badge: Crochet / Stitching & Crafting

Sue Daniel, subfarmgirl #3727

Beginner badge: Birds / Garden Gate
 Intermediate badge: Birds / Garden Gate
 Expert badge: Birds / Garden Gate

Tamara Burger, Grammytammy #2495

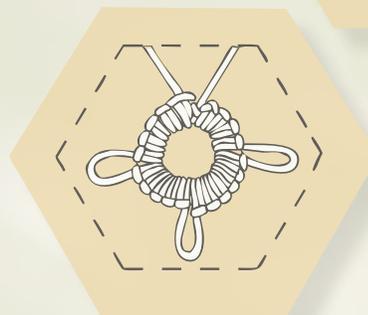
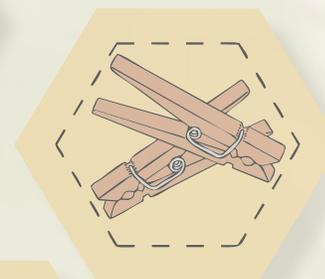
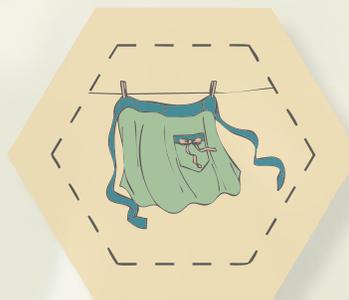
Intermediate badge: Let's Get Physical / Make It Easy
 Expert badge: Embroidery / Stitching & Crafting

Terry Steinmetz, teryouth #3600

Beginner badge: Self-sufficiency / Farm Kitchen
 Beginner badge: Get It Together / Farm Kitchen
 Beginner badge: Crochet / Stitching & Crafting
 Beginner badge: Disconnect to Reconnect / Outpost
 Beginner badge: Fishing / Outpost
 Beginner badge: Let's Get Physical / Make It Easy
 Beginner badge: In the Garden / Make It Easy
 Beginner badge: Green Energy / Cleaning Up
 Intermediate badge: Shopping Green / Cleaning Up
 Intermediate badge: Crochet / Stitching & Crafting
 Intermediate badge: Fishing / Outpost
 Intermediate badge: Let's Get Physical / Make It Easy

Thelma Adams, Thelma #3568

Beginner badge: Scrapbooking / Stitching & Crafting
 Beginner badge: Safe Toys / Stitching & Crafting
 Beginner badge: Heirlooms Forever! / Garden Gate
 Intermediate badge: Farmgirl Shutterbugs / Each Other
 Expert badge: Crochet / Stitching & Crafting





Tracy Gambrell, geotracer #1088

Beginner badge: The Secret Life of Bees / Garden Gate

Beginner badge: Green Energy / Cleaning Up

Beginner badge: Water Conservation / Cleaning Up

Beginner badge: Community Action / Each Other

Beginner badge: Connecting Growers and Eaters / Each Other

Beginner badge: Farmgirl Spirit / Each Other

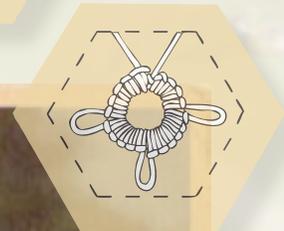
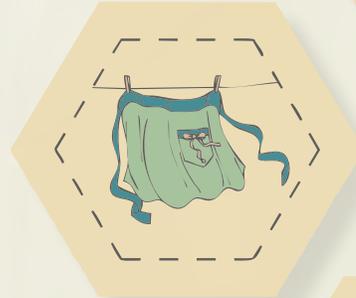
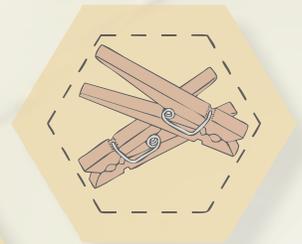
Beginner badge: Know Your Roots / Each Other

Beginner badge: Forage for Food / Farm Kitchen

Beginner badge: Pay It Forward / Farm Kitchen

Beginner badge: Rocks and Minerals / Outpost

Beginner badge: Crochet / Stitching & Crafting



Farmerettes & Young Cultivators

Merit Badge Awardees

Camille Coffman, (Young Cultivator of Angela Coffman #3445)
Beginner badge: Let's Go To Town / Each Other

Madison Hamby, (Farmerette of Lesley Hamby #3930)
Beginner badge: Quilting / Stitching & Crafting

Lilyana Sotelo, (Young Cultivator of Jessica Sotelo #4230)
Beginner badge: Icing on the Cake / Farm Kitchen
Beginner badge: Toys / Stitching & Crafting
Intermediate badge: Icing on the Cake / Farm Kitchen
Intermediate badge: Toys / Stitching & Crafting
Expert badge: Icing on the Cake / Farm Kitchen
Expert badge: Toys / Stitching & Crafting

Rheanna Coffman, (Young Cultivator of Angela Coffman #3445)
Beginner badge: Let's Go To Town / Each Other

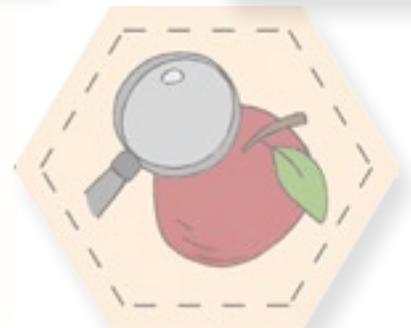
Stephanie Hatton, (Farmerette of Kristina Nelson #800)
Intermediate badge: Make It Pretty / Make It Easy

What's a Farmerette?

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

What's a Young Cultivator?

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



Woo-Hoo!





Young Cultivators Group

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

Alphabet Glue

Every once in a while, I come across a resource for living with kids that is too special to keep quiet. Annie Riechmann is a mother, blogger, and creator of the e-magazine **Alphabet Glue**. Each volume contains themed kids' book lists and reviews, excellent projects, seasonal crafts, crisp templates, and lots of practical ideas for encouraging reading and writing at home. The first project my kids and I tried was cutting and affixing paper labels to individual crayons with ideas like "draw a map of your yard" and "make a sign to welcome visitors to your house." These crayons are in constant use and the kids enjoy having ideas mixed in with their art supplies. What a simple, brilliant idea! We loved using her simple mailbox templates on Valentine's Day. The ideas Annie shares are easy to implement with supplies we have on hand and a trip to the library. The instructions make it easy for kids and adults to follow along, but leave lots of room for creativity. The more time you spend playing and learning with the kids in your life, the better you will understand one another. Alphabet Glue's latest issue, Volume Eight, contains templates for making comic books, a backyard tree guide, and seed-saving envelopes. The projects from Alphabet Glue get my kids engaged in fun work that is good for them, something that really speaks to my farmgirl heart. Alphabet Glue is \$4 and worth every penny.



photo courtesy of Alphabet Glue



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; Alexandra Wilson 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.'"

so long,
SUMMER



Magazines, Books,

& More



Our Oct/Nov issue ("G is for ...") will hit newsstands on Sept. 11. In it, you'll find tips and recipes for a ghoulish Halloween party, meet HGTV's Junk Gypsies, paint your furniture in a rainbow of colors, be inspired by an Airstream art studio, and more.

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

If you have a subscription, you should receive your magazine by about Sept. 11. (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 2012 Calendar

Our 2013 Calendar will be available soon. 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:

- September 3 ~ Labor Day
- September 4 ~ Newspaper Carrier Day
- September 6 ~ Read a Book Day
- September 9 ~ Grandparents' Day
- September 10 ~ Sewing Machine Day
- September 16 ~ National Women's Friendship Day
- September 19 ~ International Talk Like a Pirate Day
- September 21 ~ International Peace Day
- September 22 ~ First Day of Fall
- September 28 ~ National Good Neighbor 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 all-in-one tote bags. Each bag contains 2 lbs Budget Mix (unbleached white or whole wheat), "Farm Kitchen Special" recipe issue with Budget Mix recipes, and apron pattern. The cute farmgirl tote comes in two different fabric patterns.



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 1,265 Farmgirl Chapters have been started in all 50 states and 8 countries with 4,544 Sisterhood members — growing stronger every day!