

MaryJane's Cluck™

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

February 2013

Brought to you by:
MARYJANESFARM®

Life made us FRIENDS, MaryJanesFarm made us SISTERS

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{HELLO FROM SISTER #1} with MaryJane



Our dear sweet Karina, graphic designer/artist, has a unique creative agreement with one of her girlfriends that I thought was worth sharing. As in BORROW THIS IDEA, my dear sisters! It is soooooo way off the charts very cool.

A little over two years ago, Karina and her best friend, Justine, were talking on the phone and came up with a plan for how to stay connected creatively. They live about six hours apart and rarely see each other anymore. Karina and Justine have always been imaginative with their projects over the years, so they decided it would be fun to push each other creatively.



•Justine's final project



•Karina and Justine

continued ...





continued ...

Here's the plan they came up with. They send each other five completely random items every month. The items can be anything from brand new buttons to an antique book that's been lying around for years. The five items can't relate in any way—in other words, more of a challenge to their creativity. Once they receive the items, they have to create an object using all five items. The only rule they agreed upon was that they were allowed to use outside items to help with the project as long as the five items were the most prominent in the final product. When their final creative project is finished, they send it back with five more items. Two years into their endeavor and many projects later, they're still enjoying the process, especially the fact that their living spaces are now decorated largely by someone they adore. Karina pointed out, "I still get excited when I receive one of her packages with a fun decoration or abstract object that gets my creative juices flowing again."



•Karina's final project



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Be soft. Do not let the world make you hard.

Do not let the pain make you hate. Do not let the bitterness steal your sweetness. Take pride that even though the rest of the world may disagree, you still believe it to be a beautiful place.

– Kurt Vonnegut

MaryJane ♥



Big welcome to our new and renewing Sisterhood members!

Kaaminii Stroh
Lorice Amlin
Janice Hall
Miranda Pace
Anita Simpson
Joy Rebello
Sue Shomperlen
Kristy Pierce
Ann Rutter
Michelle Seliga
Jamie Sweeney
Susanne Lamoureux
Julie Kram
Judith Lickteig
Sally Lias
Jennifer Payne
Pam Lemmon
Karen Smith
Joan Nordquist
Sharon Smith
Pamela Barnes-Palty
Ann Hughes
Marilyn Edlund
Krystle Townsend

Amanda Shuey
Kerry Suit
Tina Conklin
Renee Robinson
Stephanie Viter
Julia Valovich
Loran Watkins
Linda Hunt
Christine Wolfe
Jennifer Venema
Michelle Kirby
Lora Rosencrans
Doreen Moffo
Molly Norris
Holly Perdue
Wendy Skovo
Heather Neeper
Kelli VanSlyke
Catherine Ryle
Kathy Bond
Laura Schwemm
Sandra Dickey
Michelle McNamara
DeAnna Potvin

CarriAnn Ross
Katie Wilson
Megan Wilson
Linda Palmer
Cynthia Wilson
Sheryl Wicklund
Mignon Mitchell
Deedee Dornback
LeeAnn Funk
Elayne Tingey
Nancy Couden
Terri Goggin
Loretta Ivory
Charlene Petersen
Sandy Whitaker
Mary Donahue
Stephanie White
Terrye Lucas
Katie Mitschelen
Kaytlin Begley
Christine Thomas
Mary Dewitt
Mylene Klein
Cathleen Caratan-Moses

Magdaline Bathory
Amy Jespon
Cynthia Graziani
Kara Matson
Carol Ann Cheek
Marilyn Black
Sandie Carless
Sheila Jillson
Michele Heins
Amy Rose
Lynn Melcher
Michelle Wire
Lucy McCarty
Susan Brooks
Marjorie Paul
Cowell Ann Howland
Pamela Gent
Lisa Hawkins
Kelly New
Patti Johnson
Kim Slone
Rebecca Forgy
Cheryl Hershberger
Rosanne Brown



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

– Author Unknown

MARYJANES FARM

Beth Tugaw
Christen Jeziorski
Jeannette Olton
Sue Curtis
Anne Rinkenberger
Sabrina Dewald
Katrina Bogdon
Stephanie Breedon
Brenda Pazar
Lori Swier
Diana Prollock
Linsey Muse
Sonia Zuk
Michelle Kinsella
Jennie Avey
Sharon Plowman
Barbara Grace
Teri Henningsen
Laura Johnson
Jodie Lasseter
Beth Hohensee
Vicki Morgan
Becky Gallentine
Melody Farwell
Renee McKenna
Maria Slowik
Rebecca Spanagel
Wendy Nye
Laurel Campbell
JoAnn Clafferty
Sharon Gause
Joyce Mullen
Brooke Kelso
Tracy Ratkowski
Shantyl McGuire

Amelia Palmer
Valerie Vervoort
Kathy Teeter
Kate McCoy
Donna Marks
Serina Harvey
Antonia Barry
Beth Knodt
Tanya Bowman
Debralou Grimes
Kim Anderson
Tami Fancher
Jamie Fox
Marcia Hicks
Stephanie Edwards
Sharon Bowers
Laurie Ludke
Sandra Chmiel
Deborah Queen
Barbara Gant
Dorie Von Thun Knott
Katrina Smith
Shawna Ellsworth
Tina McCollum
Lindzey Jones
Tiana Hodge
Barbardoone Colling
Gene Rowh
Jennifer Venable
Bunny Henningsen
Elizabeth Baker
Amanda Henning
Susan Laquintano
Candace Conrad



Each

In the Shelter of Each Other

Other



According to MaryJane, the seven aspects for living the farmgirl life are:
EACH OTHER | FARM KITCHEN | GARDEN GATE | STITCHING & CRAFTING ROOM | MAKE IT EASY | OUTPOST | CLEANING UP

{ 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 6-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).

Valentine’s Day

I love Valentine’s Day. I do not love it because we buy cards, get gifts, and eat chocolate. I love Valentine’s Day because red and pink are my two favorite colors. And somehow, the holiday has never really been about a significant other for me. It’s about the people I love most and something handmade. I get to make something red, pink, purple, playful, and bright. My mom has received many valentines from me, my girlfriends too, but now that I have daughters ... well, making something for them is a must.

Stella is doing so well in her little kindergarten class learning all her letters. She has such fun pointing them out wherever we go. She loves her alphabet books because she knows just about all of them at this point. So I thought, why not make her her very own book of little statements about who she is that remind her which letter is which? I really enjoyed sitting down and coming up with 26 reasons I love Stella, covering them in all sorts of pink and red, and compiling them in a red 8" x 8" scrapbook album. Almost each page has my own handwriting on it. I don’t love my handwriting, but someone once told me that when giving your children gifts, your own handwriting will be what they treasure most about it someday.

Meg



Stella's Alphabet Book

A is for **Awesome**. Stella is an awesome runner.

B is for **Beautiful**. Stella is absolutely beautiful.

C is for **Caring**. Stella is always very caring.

D is for **Dandy**. Stella is a dandy dish washer.

E is for **Excellent**. Stella is an excellent cookie maker!

F is for **Fantastic**. Stella is fantastic at setting the table and cleaning her room.

G is for **Gorgeous**. Stella has gorgeous curly hair!

H is for **Homework**. Stella works very hard on her homework.

I is for **Is**. Stella is good at sharing.

J is for **Joke**. Stella tells a very good joke!

K is for **Kindergartener**. Stella is Mommy's favorite kindergartener.

L is for **Loved**. Stella is loved by her daddy.

M is for **Marvelous**. Stella is a marvelous little mama to her baby dolls.

N is for **Numbers**. Stella is so good with her numbers!

O is for **Outstanding**. Stella is an outstanding gymnast!

P is for **Polite**. Stella is very polite.

Q is for **Quite**. Stella is quite a good swimmer.

R is for **Rider**. Stella is an awesome bike rider.

S is for **Stella Jane Rae**.

T is for **Toast**. Stella makes some delicious toast.

U is for **Understands**. Stella understands and can read so many of her letters!



V is for **Valentine**. Stella is Mommy's Valentine.

W is for **Walker**. Stella takes very good care of her puppy, Walker.

X is for **XOXO**.

Y is for **Yummy**. Stella likes to eat lots of yummy and healthy food!

Z is for **Zzzz**. Stella is a very good sleeper.



Farm

Where the cookin' begins!

Kitchen



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

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



Ashley Ogle (Sister #2222) was born and raised in northern Idaho, and has always had an intense interest in anything kitchen. Shortly after marrying MaryJane's son, Brian, at the historic one-room schoolhouse his grandfather attended, Brian and Ashley moved back to the farm and began renovating the 1890 farmhouse that both Brian and his grandmother grew up in. And in keeping with tradition, they've begun to raise a family in the same house—their daughter is now 3.

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, books, and websites.

Deep-dish Pizza

I am always on the hunt for quick and easy recipes, especially ones that I can involve my daughter in preparing. At 3, she wants to be in the thick of the action, and insists on pulling up a chair and standing next to my husband or me while we cook. This recipe is perfect for that because she can help add spices, roll out dough, and pile on toppings. In addition to being an easy meal to prepare with kids, it can be made the night before and refrigerated for a no-fuss meal, or better yet, made way ahead and frozen. The toppings are totally customizable; Canadian bacon and pineapple just happen to be favorites in my house.





Deep-dish Pizza

Prep Time: 25 minutes

Cook Time: 30–35 minutes

Makes: 4–6 servings

Crust

2 1/2 cups MaryJane's Organic Budget Mix

1 t Italian seasoning

1/2 t salt

3/4 cup water

3 T olive oil

Sauce

1 15-oz can tomato sauce (low sodium)

2 garlic cloves, peeled and minced

1 t brown sugar

1/4 t salt

1/4 t pepper

1/2 t Italian seasoning

Topping

8 ozs mozzarella, shredded

6 ozs Canadian bacon

1 15-oz can pineapple rings, drained



1. Preheat oven to 425°F. Very lightly oil a 9" x 13" casserole dish with olive oil.
2. Prepare crust: Combine Budget Mix, Italian seasoning, and salt in a medium bowl. Add water and olive oil and stir just until dough forms. Lightly dust a clean surface with flour and roll the dough out into a 12" x 16" rectangle. Transfer dough to the prepared casserole dish and set aside.
3. Prepare sauce: Combine tomato sauce, garlic, brown sugar, salt, pepper, and Italian seasoning in a small saucepan. Bring to a low boil over medium heat and simmer for about 8 minutes. Spread sauce evenly over the crust.
4. Spread a thin layer of cheese over the sauce, and then evenly distribute Canadian bacon over the cheese. Layer on all but about 1/4 cup of the cheese, then add pineapple rings. Top with remaining cheese.
5. Roll crust down so that it is about 1/4" above the toppings, and bake for 30–35 minutes, until crust is golden brown and the cheese is bubbling and beginning to brown in spots.



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

Countertop Carrot Crop

Lately, I am yearning to sink my teeth into something straight from the ground. My nose is already sniffing for the sweet smell of thawing earth beneath the snow, and my hands are missing the dirt as much as my palate misses fresh-grown flavors. Alas, there is still a lion's share of winter yet to come. But I'm not one for sitting idly when there is a glimmer of possibility waiting to be cultivated. Sure, my outdoor garden may have to wait a while longer, but I think I'll jump start a little sunshine-inspired food right here in my very own kitchen. What do I have in mind? Carrots! Yep, carrots are just the cure for my cravings. Growing them indoors offers a mini-gardening experience and a delightful dose of freshness and color—all in one countertop crop. Carrots will grow quite contentedly in containers because, unlike the ground, potting soil is perfectly loose and well-drained; plus, there's no competition from grass and weeds.



One of my favorite things about carrots, besides their delightfully sweet crunch, is that they come in all colors of the sunset: pale gold, vibrant orange, crimson, and plum! These warm hues tickle our instinctive hunger, telling us that the carrot has wondrous effects on the immune system. And the deeper reddish tints of carrots like the Atomic Red and Cosmic Purple reveal their lycopene content, which helps protect our cells from damage. Carrots are also a great source of vitamins C and B6, iron, and fiber.

The best carrots for containers tend to be short to medium varieties. Small, round "ball" types like the heirloom Tonda di Parigi work well. Baker Creek Heirloom Seeds offers a luscious array of time-tested varieties at www.rareseeds.com.

If you, too, are already itching for garden therapy and home-grown goodies, here's how to grow your own kitchen crop of carrots:

Gather These Items:

- A 12–15" deep pot with drainage holes
- organic potting soil and liquid organic fertilizer (available from Peaceful Valley Farm Supply at www.groworganic.com)
- carrot seeds
- measuring spoons for measuring seeds
- spray bottle for misting

Plant:

1. Fill your container with soil to within about an inch of the top rim.
2. Water the soil thoroughly and drain (it's easier to plant tiny carrot seeds on pre-moistened soil).
3. Sprinkle 1/4 teaspoon of seeds evenly over the soil, pat gently, and cover them with a light dusting of dry soil.
4. Mist with a spray bottle to wet the top layer of soil.

Grow:

1. Place your container in a warm spot that receives at least 6 hours of sunlight each day (seeds should sprout within 10 to 14 days).
2. Keep the soil evenly moist as your carrots grow to encourage happy roots that don't crack, and fertilize with liquid organic fertilizer every 3 weeks.
3. When the lacy green seedlings are about 2 inches tall, it's time to thin them for best growth. Instead of pulling, use scissors to snip them off at the soil line. You'll want you seedlings to be spaced about 2 inches apart.

Harvest:

Your carrots should be ready to harvest about 60 to 80 days after planting—well before the backyard garden begins to bear!



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.

Shepherd's Bell Valentine

Shepherd's bells or Noah bells are beautiful metal bells with wooden clappers made in small villages and monasteries in India. Each bell has a distinctive melodic sound and, like love, no two are alike. In India, the bells are used by local shepherds to keep track of their flocks. **Maharani imports** has been importing these fair-trade bells for 40 years, and they sell them in a range of sizes from 1 1/2" to 17" long. For this project, I bought the 1 1/2" bells, but any size would work. Take a length of leather lacing (found at most craft stores) and tie a shepherd's bell to one end. On the opposite end, make a loop large enough to slip over a door handle. To make the wool heart, I used felted wool along with "Sour Apple" neon thread to give it a little pop. Both are from **Purl Soho**. Simply cut three hearts out of your felted wool, one small, one medium, and one large. Stack them together and stitch around the edges of each layer. There is no need to finish the edges since felted wool will not unravel. You could also use an old wool shirt or blanket for your fabric. Once your heart is complete, stitch it onto the leather with one straight line down the center. Hang it on your loved one's door or in a spot where it will have occasion to ring.







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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.

New Lives for Old Doorknobs

Old doors, windows, and antique hardware are enjoying a make-do renaissance. Vintage doors and windows add decorative charm to "newish" homes and the hardware is fun for embellishing craft projects.

Antique doorknobs—now, there's a fun golden oldie that you can make all kinds of things with. They're dandy hang-hooks when attached to a chippy old board. My dad made one for me, and I hang my horse's bridles on it.

Recently, I spied a stylish and pricey doorknob bottle-stopper in a magazine. It was attached to the cork with a manufactured chrome cap thingamabob. I loved the idea ... hmmm. So, I put on my farmgirl thinking cap and created a dandy make-do version with supplies I had on hand.

While I had the door theme on my brain, I made a card/photo holder from a doorknob plus a vintage child's fork, and a cuff bracelet from a doorknob plate.



*Creativity is the spark at your fingertips
waiting to be lit by the fire of
your imagination.*

— Denali Struble

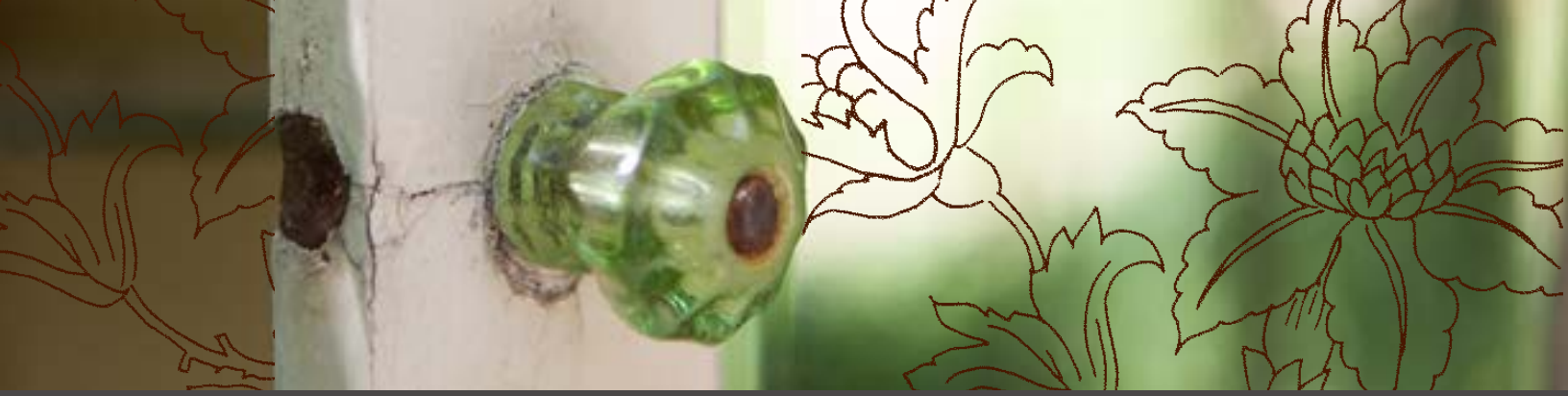


farmgirl salad

- 1 cup fresh strawberries, sliced
- 1 small apple, finely sliced
- 1 teaspoon lemon juice
- 1/2 cup shredded
- 1/4 cup fresh cilantro, chopped
- 1/2 cup toasted pecans

1. Slice strawberries and apple with lemon juice.
2. Add remaining ingredients. Drizzle with garlic.
3. Garnish with pecans and cilantro.

continued ...



farmgirl salad

- 1 cup fresh asparagus, sliced
- 1 small apple, finely diced
- 1/2 cup walnuts, finely chopped
- 1/2 cup almonds
- 1/2 cup fresh cilantro, chopped
- 1 cup mixed greens

1. Toss asparagus and apple with olive oil.
2. Add remaining ingredients. Toss well.
3. Serve with a wedge of cheese and a glass of beer.



continued ...

Bottle Stopper:

- paring knife
- doorknob
- pliable "tie" wire
- needlenose pliers, wire snips
- super glue
- drill with tiny bit
- cork that fits a wine bottle

1. Drill a hole down through the center of the cork, all the way through.

2. Cut a piece of wire about 12" long. With needlenose pliers, make a tiny circle and keep going around to make a tight, flat spiral that will be slightly smaller in diameter than the bottom of the cork.

3. Run the end of the wire up through the bottom of the cork until the spiral of wire sits snugly on the bottom. (See photo)

4. With a paring knife, make a slight crease in the top outer edge of the cork for the wire to lay in when it pokes through the top of the hole. Fold the wire over so that it presses into the crease. The long part or tail of the wire will be to the side.

5. Carefully dab super glue on the base of the doorknob. Center it and press it in place on top of the cork. Let it set for about 10 minutes.

6. Now carefully wrap the rest of the wire neatly around the base of the doorknob. Note: On some styles of knobs, it may be more secure if you wrap the wire up around the neck of the knob.



Bracelet Cuff (p. 12): All you do is gently and gradually bend an old doorplate around something like the end of an anvil. You can use a rubber hammer to tap the ends to round them out. I super glued old buttons on the holes of the plate.

Card holder (left): With pliers, bend the middle fork tines forward and the outside tines backward, then just poke the little fork handle down into the hole on top of the doorknob.



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.

Salted Rose Walnut Caramels





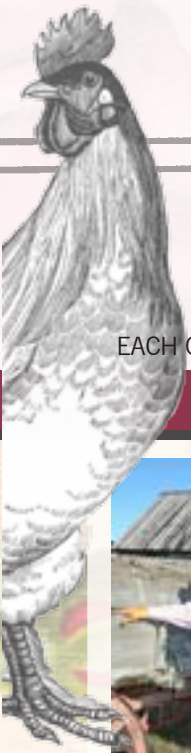
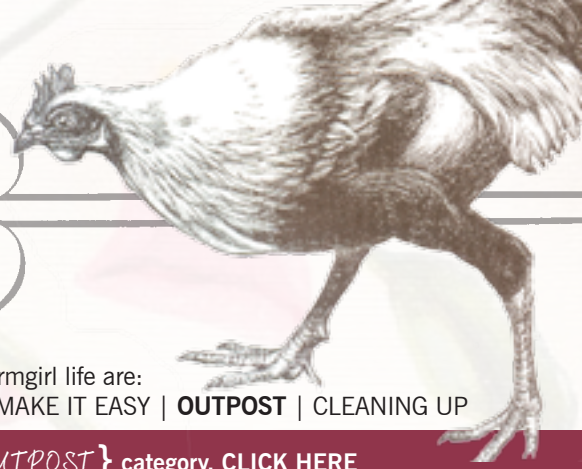
Ingredients:

- 3/4 cup heavy cream
- 3/4 cup dried, organic rosebuds or petals
- 1/4 cup local honey
- 1 cup organic sugar
- 3 T butter
- 3 T finely chopped organic walnuts
- 1 t Cyprus flake salt

Preparation:

- 1** In a small saucepan, heat heavy cream until gently boiling. Add rosebuds, cover, and remove from heat. Let steep for 10–15 minutes. Strain cream into a small bowl.
- 2** Combine honey and sugar in a medium pot. Stir constantly over medium-high heat until the mixture liquefies, boils, and turns amber in color.
- 3** Turn heat to medium and quickly stir in the butter. Once the butter is mixed in, turn the heat to low and quickly whisk in the cream.
- 4** While stirring constantly, cook the caramel to 250°F. Quickly add walnuts and salt before pouring into a loaf pan lined with wax paper.
- 5** Cool overnight.
- 6** Pull the caramel and wax paper out of the pan and set it on a cutting board. Carefully remove wax paper from caramel and cut caramel into 1" rectangle cubes.
- 7** Cut wax paper into wrappers. To wrap: center the caramel on one side of the square paper. Roll to form a tube and twist to close on each end.
- 8** For best results, keep the wrapped caramels in an airtight container.





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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.

Great Granny ... Squares

The thing that first turned me onto Granny Squares was the first time I watched the 1954 Rogers & Hammerstein musical, *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers*. I remember sitting on my grandpa's lap during the movie. I was wearing blue jeans, cowboy boots, and a western snap shirt, and I had my toy pistols strapped on from playing outside after supper. The musical was set on a farm/ranch in a remote area of the West. The young women in the movie wore wonderful pioneer dresses made from gingham or patchwork quilts. The main female character's dress bottom was made from a velveteen crazy quilt and she had a Granny Squares shawl draped around her shoulders. Ooohhh, I so wanted to walk into that movie and live there!! Springtime on their ranch was idyllic, and I can remember thinking "I want to live like that someday!" Well, 30 years later, I finally married into the life, just like the movie actress ... and now I have the shawl too!

I was a teenager in the '70s, and in that time frame, crocheted "Granny Squares" enjoyed a heat flare in the fashion world.

Few fashion-minded females from the age of 13 into early adulthood didn't own at least one item of clothing made from Granny Squares. Me? My momma was fashion conscious and she understood the hankerings of my newfound interest in looking like an "in" girl. A willingness to be girly was a long time coming for this die-hard tomboy. At our small-town boutique, I found a very cool, longish vest that tied in front, as well as a snug-fitting, slip-over vest. The former was as colorful as confetti: classic Granny Square colors; the latter, warm tones of the time: orange, brown, yellow, and olive. Both looked smashing with bell-bottom jeans or a mini skirt.



MARYJANES FARM

In the last few years, crochet is enjoying another fashion hot spot. As is true with all of the needle arts, elder women keep the flame burning, and when the fashion world revives attention to a trend in cyclic patterns, the young discover “needle love” all over again and another generation is seeded.

Although crochet, in the general sense, is very popular in the here and now, one pattern seems to outshine other schematic patterns: the Granny Square. I believe it is due to the scrap-happy motif, engaging the imagination to a greater degree. Variety is the spice of life. Each block takes on a life of its own.

Granny Squares resemble coarse lace. There is no limit to the maximum size of a Granny Square. Usually, multiple small squares are made and assembled to make blankets, pillow covers, potholders, and items of clothing. Although color schemes for Granny Squares change with time, mixed color yarn is classic. Also, multicolor Granny Squares are an effective way to use up small amounts of leftover yarn from other projects.

It is thought that the Granny Square motif dates back to Victorian England. The image closely resembles one common in rugs from the Mid-East. The design was also common in Colonial-era rugs from Afghanistan brought here from England. As the image travels through time like a rock skipping over the water, the old-fashioned Granny Square is born anew in the hearts of young women.

Grandma gave the block its name because she was the frugal crocheter. Waste not, want not. Also, it often fell to her to teach young hands the basics of crochet with scrap yarn. With age comes wisdom and sentiment. Wrapping oneself in a blanket made of Granny Squares is a trip down memory lane. In a glimpse, you see your great aunt or grandma happily running her needle and humming a hymn. They knew what we learn from them if we're lucky: not just a craft, but a useful therapy tool. Busy hands, happy heart.



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Going Paper Towel Free

There's no sugarcoating it. Paper towels are something you pay good money for, and then throw away.

Sure, they're convenient. Sure, it's nice to have the "icky" things in life out of sight and out of mind (though they're certainly not out of existence). Sure, using cloth instead of paper means a small increase in the amount of wash water and soap we consume. But let's give ourselves that reality check: paper towels are a monumental waste of resources, materials, and energy.

Most paper towels are made from fresh trees, meaning they're cut down with the sole purpose of getting that disposable roll into your kitchen. But the problem doesn't end there—most paper towels are bleached and processed with chemicals and dyes that will eventually make their way into your home. Of course, production and packaging happens in factories that spew this pollution into the air and water. Then the rolls make their way onto trucks that travel thousands of miles and use jaw-dropping quantities of fuel. Paper towels are also difficult and potentially hazardous to recycle, so most cities simply won't.

All this for a mere moment of utility, and then ... into the trash.

This simply isn't the case for cloth. Your rags will be with you for years, through thick and thin ... and gross and wet and smelly. They're easy enough to wash with a spin in the machine, a good deal tougher than paper, and much more comfortable on your face and hands. Can you imagine how much cleaner your toddlers would be if they were given a warm, moist cloth at the dinner table instead of an inadequate paper square? Ditto for cleaning muddy-pawed pets, cooked-on stove messes, mysteriously sticky floors, and just about everything else life throws at you.

Getting started with cloth is easy enough—all you'll need are enough replacement rags to fill a wash load and have a few leftover. This should help to keep you from relapsing, and lets you wash your icky rags by themselves without wasting water or detergent. Skip the fabric softener to keep your rags' "suck-up" power intact. A cup of white vinegar in the rinse cycle will boost brightness, strip buildup, and help to disinfect. If you'd like to have different kinds of cloth for different purposes, try color-coding them—everyone in the family should be able to keep the system straight. And with attractive baskets on hand for the cleans and the dirties, you won't have to sacrifice your kitchen's good looks.

The cloths you choose for the all-important task of replacing your paper towels need not be expensive or fancy. In fact, you could easily make them yourself by purchasing, cutting, and hemming a few 100% cotton bolts from the fabric store. Make them the same size as paper towels and you'll practically trick yourself into using them. You can also knit dishcloths from scrap fiber—there are plenty of free patterns to be found online. But the best and greenest idea yet is also the simplest: wrench open those drawers packed with unwanted t-shirts, cut them into squares, and voila! You've decluttered, recycled, and switched over to cloth ... for free.





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Of course, if you're not keen on making your own rags or you don't have stacks of t-shirts clogging your life (lucky), there are plenty of ready-made alternatives. Try vintage dishtowels, auto shamies, or cloth diapers that are no longer on, er, active duty. Many women also sell their homemade paper towel replacers in a wide variety of designs, colors, sizes, and materials on [Etsy.com](https://www.etsy.com).

If you feel unsure about making the switch from paper towels, do it gradually—but do it. It's best to start small than not at all. Tell yourself you'll try it out for a week and see what happens. If fear is what's holding you back, keep that roll on hand as your security blanket. Just hide it out of sight so it's not the easy choice. After all, you may believe that NO paper toweling is too much to ask of your household—but FEWER is something that we can all do.





The

MaryJanesFarm News

Scoop

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: Farmgirls on the Loose: "There's No Place Like Home!" (see p. 24)
Backyard Glamper Party & Sleepover (see p. 24)**

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!)



FEBRUARY

Sisterhood Special

20% OFF All Back Issue Bundles

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Back Issues Bundle #8

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- “Self Rising,” Dec 2012–Jan 2013

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

Farmgirl Chatter

What are farmgirls chatting about?

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

Farmgirls on the Loose: There's No Place Like Home Gathering

Thursday, May 2 – Sunday, May 5, 2013

Lindsborg, Kansas

It's time for the Farmgirls on the Loose to follow the yellow brick road and go to Lindsborg, Kansas, "Little Sweden USA," the land of the Wild Dala, Swedish meatballs, shopping, and more! We'll be glamping along the Smoky Hill River from Thursday, May 2 until Sunday, May 5.

Our weekend will be a step back into time to the land of the Swedish pioneers where those brave immigrant women helped settle the West. We'll see buffalo, an historic mill, Swedish folk culture, the vast lands of Kansas, and the beautiful faces of farmgirl sisters. We'll hear stories from the first settlers with author Linda Hubalek, folk music from local musicians, the famous Kansas wind, and the voices of your farmgirl friends in person. We'll taste the sweetness of Swedish pancakes, the fresh brew of locally roasted coffee, a smorgasbord of flavors at local eateries, and the delight of farmgirl friendship.

It's a weekend full of adventure and surprises that you won't want to miss! So join us on this adventure today. Click [here](#) to learn more.

Outpost: Backyard Glamper Party & Sleepover

Friday, March 22 – Saturday, March 23, 2013

Glendale, Arizona, in Robin's (aka "birdie71") backyard

Activities will include: "Tea at Two," crafting projects, farmgirl potluck supper, campfire s'mores, yummy brunch croquet, corn hole, other games as desired. Oh, let's not forget the farmgirl "chick" glamper fun, laughter, chatter, hugs and just plain 'ole FUN and FRIENDSHIP!! We'll set up and glamp out some tents in the backyard and enjoy more girlie fun and games! Come for any part of or the entire weekend. Click [here](#) to join in and learn more.

Across the Fence: Hello from Sandy Hook, CT. Submitted by textdane

Hi my farmgirl sisters,

Thank you all for all of your prayers for our beloved town, and all of the love and support you have sent to me and my family. I have read each e-mail, and will be answering each one as soon as I can. You are all truly my sisters!



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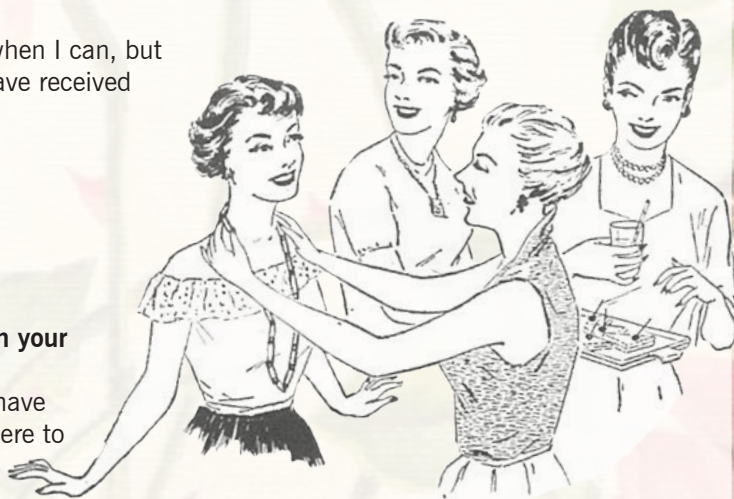
It's been a very hard couple of days. I'll post when I can, but I want you all to know how much strength I have received from your outpouring of love.

Love you all so much,
Nicole

Share with your farmgirl sister [here](#).

Across the Fence: What's your biggest goal on your Bucket List? Submitted by Dorinda

Mine is to see the Northern Lights (Aurora). I have always dreamed of going to Alaska or somewhere to see this since I was a little girl. Share your biggest goal [here](#).



Farm Kitchen: Milk, milk, and more milk!! Submitted by chick-chick

I have been buying raw milk lately and loving it. However, lately we haven't been finishing all of it before we go to get more. A simple solution would be not to buy it for couple of weeks, but we don't want to lose our "place" on the farm's list. So it has been going into my freezer. I've made pudding and custard, but I'm not very creative or adventurous. Any easy ideas for my excess milk? Share your ideas [here](#).

Farm Kitchen: Whipped Cream Icing ... With Chillover Powder. Submitted by alterationsbyemily

I was making a Lady Baltimore cake and wanted an icing that I could pipe on into ruffles, but was still the signature whipped cream icing. So I used this [recipe](#) as a base and then replaced some of the ingredients.

Stabilized Whipped Cream Icing

- 2 cups heavy whipping cream
- 1 packet MaryJane's ChillOver Powder
- 2 T confectioners sugar
- 1 t vanilla extract

Begin using an electric beater to whip the cream until it forms soft peaks. At that point, add the confectioners sugar and vanilla. Beat once again until stiff peaks appear, adding in the ChillOver powder.

This icing kept in my fridge for 24 hours until it started to crack and lose its shape. Good luck and good eats! Share your ideas [here](#).

Farm Kitchen: Duck Eggs. Submitted by edlund33

We just received two dozen duck eggs from a coworker. This is a first for me! How do you farmgirls prefer to use them? Are they good to eat cooked like regular eggs for breakfast, or are they better for baking? Any suggestions are appreciated! Share your suggestions [here](#).

continued ...



continued ...

Farm Kitchen: Sourdough starter. Submitted by SheilaC

I want to begin making sourdough bread, but can't find anyone to give me a little bit of their starter. Do I have to make it then? And how difficult is it? I tried a few years ago with dreadful results (think mold, etc). Does anyone have any to share or some good ideas for doing it? I know I could buy some from King Arthur Flour, saw it in their catalog ... Share your ideas [here](#).

Garden Gate: Seeds make me happy! Submitted by BarnHeart

I started 96 cells of seeds this weekend, and was SO excited to see this lovely broccoli coming out to greet me today! Spring is just around the corner!!! Woohoo! Share your experience [here](#).

Garden Gate: Vermiculture. Submitted by greenpaws

I have been searching for a source for red worms to begin an indoor compost. I am excited, but as yet have not found a local source for the worms. Is anyone else here into worms, and have a couple of interesting stories to tell? Or perhaps suggestions?

I have been composting for a very long time, but am anxious to add worms to an inside bin. Share your story [here](#).

Garden Gate: Seed Starting Question. Submitted by alterationsbyemily

I am determined this year that my seedlings won't die (quiet prayer placed here). Every year that I have tried, something went wrong—don't ask me, I think I am just failing somewhere. So I have a plan to do a grow shelf in my home somewhere, and I found the bookshelf plans by **Mother Earth News**.

So my question for the masters of seed starting: Do you think **rope lights** would be alright to use for the lighting aspect of it all? Give your advice [here](#).

Make It Easy: Homemade toothpaste question. Submitted by FieldsofThyme

If you have been using homemade toothpaste (long term), how have your dental check-ups been? We are finally at a point of no cavities, but would like to try homemade toothpaste. Any updates on this? Share your experience [here](#).



Gathered Up: The Elegant Farmer ... Pictures!
Submitted by Fiddlehead Farm See more pictures [here](#).



Make it Easy: Tee Shirt Yarn. Submitted by Psthyme

Has anybody made anything with "tee shirt yarn"? I went to the thrift shop and bought a bag of bright colored cotton tees (with no side seams) for \$2 a bag. I cut them into long continuous strips (around and around), pulled to stretch it into yarn, and rolled it into balls. Now I am crocheting a rug out of the tee shirts. It is coming out really nice and colorful. Share about your experience [here](#).

Make It Easy: Pickled Eggs? Submitted by MtnGrIByTheBay

Mine look gross.

I used leftover dill pickle juice from a jar of pickles, and mixed in some beet juice from a can or two of beets. I THINK that's what Mom told me to do. I just put in the peeled, hard boiled eggs. But they just don't look appetizing. Shouldn't they be bright purple? How long should they "pickle?" This sounded so simple, and I love pickled eggs, but I don't know if I can be brave enough to try these. Don't laugh! Did I do something wrong? Give your advice [here](#).



Outpost: Cute Potty Idea. Submitted by katmom

I recently spotted this on the Web ... so I thought I'd share it with you Glamping gals! All you need is a standard 5-gal container (could be an old paint bucket), a toilet lid (buy at sporting store like Cabelas), and duct tape, any color or cute design ... and this is what you get! Share your ideas [here](#).

Outpost: More than cute trailer embroidery pattern!!

Submitted by Mountain Girl

With a cowgirl flair. Share your fun ideas [here](#).



Girl Gab

Where sisters share.

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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Nicole Christensen
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Sherry Waples
Ranch Farmgirl

Carly Belcher
Mountain Farmgirl

Debbie Downworth
Beach Farmgirl



Posted on From Scratch — Our Homemade Life by Cassidy Horne, Sister #4371



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CLICK HERE to view the book **MARY JANE** *Stories*
"The written preservation of the agrarian lifestyle."

Who's Gabbing and Who's Gushing

One Year

Posted on January 23, 2013 by Cassidy Horne, Sister #4371



One year.
One WHOLE year...
How does time go by so quickly now?
Miss Eve Rose is one year old today ...

[Read more](#)

The Country Homemaker Hop #51

Posted on January 23, 2013 by Heidi Gonzalez, Sister #3844



Happy Homemaking!
I hope you had a happy and productive week on the homestead. I sure did. Things are starting to come together around here and that is very exciting. ... [Read more](#)

Usefully Vintage Antiquities

Posted on January 23, 2013 by Krystle Townsend, Sister #2595



Vintage.
Antique.
Collectible or Useful
... [Read more](#)

Rearrange the Furniture

Posted on January 23, 2013 by Andrea Farber, Sister #4019



I wasn't expecting this. Christmas always brings gifts, some are in unusual packages. This one certainly couldn't be wrapped.
Every year we rearrange the furniture to accommodate the ones, the dinners and the extra lovely people. The resulting configuration is more than pleasant. ... [Read more](#)

Girl Gab.com Blogs

-  Alice Hoxson, Sister #412
Aunt's Wonderful Life
-  Alisa Bress, Sister #3338
My Red Lipstick
-  Amanda Christens, Sister #1590
My Little Country
-  Amanda vanOuden, Sister #4117
The Adventures of Dixie and Mandie
-  Amber Conger, Sister #3912
Refined Industrial Revelations
-  Amy Degmann, Sister #1094
A Feminist Kind of Life
-  Amy Degmann, Sister #1098
The Women ... attending Mass
-  Amy Wilson, Sister #2744
Crafting by candlelight
-  Amy Harward, Sister #2704
Far North Farmgirl
-  Amy Harward, Sister #2706
Barn House Wellness
-  Andree Taylor, Sister #4019
Things I get to do today
-  Angela Crossant, Sister #2808
Lair of Ranch
-  Angie Rose, Sister #4833

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Video

(click here)

Are you a



(Click Here)

Wordless Wednesday

Posted on January 23, 2013 by Becky Johnson, Sister #4159



See more

ART IS YOU...Petaluma 2013

Posted on January 23, 2013 by Amy Malabe, Sister #2744



ART IS YOU is coming back to Petaluma!!! This will be my third year attending. The retreat will be from September 25th through 29th and they have some really great workshops already lined up ... [Read more](#)

Comfort Food

Posted on January 23, 2013 by Cris Cantle, Sister #2910

When the weather gets cold and the nights still come early, there really isn't much better than settling down to a good, simple meal. One of my favorite fast yet wonderful meals, perfect after a long day, is a simple combination of pasta, olive oil and garlic ... [Read more](#)

Great Gadgets: Getting the Cook into Hot Water

Posted on January 23, 2013 by Nancy Smith, Sister #1991



My name is Nancy and I am a chocoholic. I enjoy it at all times of the day, but, especially, at the beginning. Because I'm just not up to heating up a pot in the morning, I've reconciled myself to instant which means I'm in need of hot water ... [Read more](#)

White Wednesdays

Posted on January 23, 2013 by Karen Bates, Sister #377



We have been in the single digits here for the last couple of weeks, and for the last few days, we have had a hoar frost, to beat all ... [Read more](#)

A Rural Journal: (Wordless Wednesday)

Posted on January 23, 2013 by Nancy Claeys, Sister #4043



"Competition is a rude yet effective motivation." — Toba Beta, Master of Stupidity ... [Leave a comment](#)

Lessons learned: the crocus in winter

Posted on January 23, 2013 by Cameren Kempson, Sister #3013



Last week, I traveled to Wisconsin for a business trip. While I love having a break away from the normal routine, this time, I was particularly excited about the possibility of seeing snow. You see, I ... [Read more](#)



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Farmgirl Merit Badges Sisterhood

Merit Badges

MARYJANESFARM

Social Media

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

As ladies of the Sisterhood, now numbering 4,819 (and counting), we've earned an amazing number of Merit Badges so far—6,550 total! We've recently started alerting earned Badges daily on our MaryJanesFarm **Facebook** page. We started out alerting just the expert-level earners, but decided recently to alert all levels AND add photos if you include them. We're just so durn proud! Can you hear the clucking?

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

If you're a Facebook or Twitter kind of gal, you'll find my posts teased on my **Twitter** account and my **Facebook** account.

Updates for all things glamorously glampifying for International Glamping Weekend can be found [here](#), at its Facebook fan page.

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





Exclusive for Sisters!

Sisterhood Necklace

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

Hello Elaine!

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 soooo 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



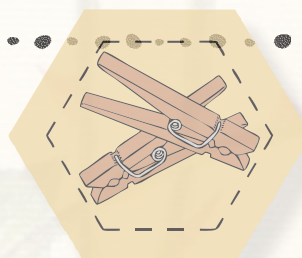
Merit Badge

Awardees



Merit Badge Awardees

Barbara Roberts, Healthy Eating #2237
Expert badge: Farm Kitchen / Organic on a Budget



Bea Campbell, quiltingbea #2575
Beginner badge: Garden Gate / Herbs

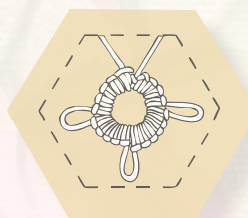
Breezy Blodgett, Breezy Blodgett #4468
Beginner badge: Cleaning Up / Shopping Green
Beginner badge: Garden Gate / Backyard Farmer



CJ Armstrong, CeeJay48 #665
Farmgirl Legends / Sharpshooter

Darla Armstong, cowgirlup@21 #4391
Intermediate badge: Garden Gate / Horse Dreams
Expert badge: Garden Gate / Horse Dreams

Dawn Cox, dawn5556 #4676
Beginner badge: Stitching & Crafting / Sew Wonderful
Intermediate badge: Stitching & Crafting / Sew Wonderful



Emily Hack, alterationsbyemily #2951
Intermediate badge: Each Other / Greatest Generation
Intermediate badge: Farm Kitchen / Recipes
Expert badge: Farm Kitchen / Bustin' Out

Emily Plunkett, #4276
Beginner badge: Stitching & Crafting / Crochet

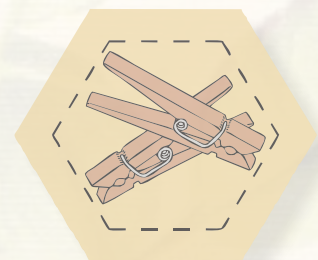
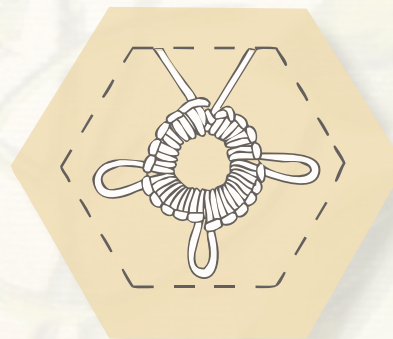
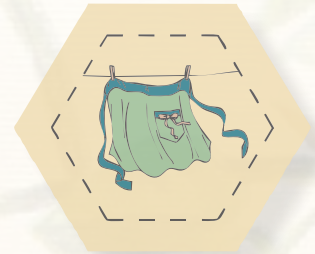
Julie Kram, #3733
Beginner badge: Oupost / Disconnect to Reconnect
Intermediate badge: Oupost / Disconnect to Reconnect
Expert badge: Oupost / Disconnect to Reconnect



Kate Peikin, KatyDid #4527
Intermediate badge: Cleaning Up / Shopping Green

Katrina Tylee, KatTylee #3214
Beginner badge: Stitching & Crafting / Spinning
Intermediate badge: Stitching & Crafting / Spinning
Expert badge: Stitching & Crafting / Spinning

Krystle Townsend, countrymommy85 #2595
Beginner badge: Cleaning Up / Water Conservation
Beginner badge: Farmgirl Gratitude
Beginner badge: Each Other / Blogging
Intermediate badge: Each Other / Blogging
Intermediate badge: Each Other / Farmgirl Gratitude
Intermediate badge: Cleaning Up / Water Conservation
Intermediate badge: Garden Gate / The Secret Life of Bees
Expert badge: Cleaning Up / Going Green
Expert badge: Each Other / Blogging



continued ...



continued ...

Kyla Hill, HoneysuckleHill3 #4640

Beginner badge: Each Other / Families Forever

Beginner badge: Stitching & Crafting / Homespun Christmas

Beginner badge: Farm Kitchen / Unprocessed Kitchen

Laurie Conner, Montrose Girl #1587

Expert badge: Each Other / Entrepreneurial Spirit

Expert badge: Cleaning Up / Recycling

Marsha Gulick, Osagegypsy #2988

Beginner badge: Make it Easy / Make it Pretty

Beginner badge: Garden Gate / Horse Dreams

Intermediate badge: Garden Gate / Horse Dreams

Intermediate badge: Make it Easy / Make it Pretty

Expert badge: Make it Easy / Make it Pretty

Expert badge: Garden Gate / Horse Dreams

Mary Duffel, Madelena #3153

Beginner badge: Stitching & Crafting / Scrapbooking

Peggy Smith, forever young #1815

Beginner badge: Cleaning Up / Recycling

Expert badge: Each Other / Know Your Roots

Rachel Nelson, Yart #1081

Beginner badge: Each Other / Blogging

Intermediate badge: Each Other / Blogging

Expert badge: Cleaning Up / Water Conservation

Sandra Morris, Sandram #4384

Beginner badge: Each Other / Blogging

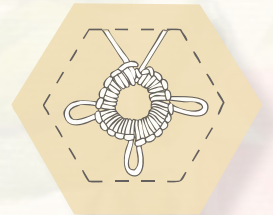
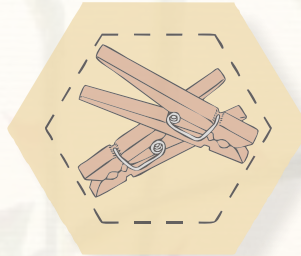
Intermediate badge: Each Other / Blogging

Shari Doty, Sharikrsna #607

Beginner badge: Stitching & Crafting / Homespun Christmas

Tami Erwin, mrschupa #4684

Beginner badge: Cleaning Up / Water Conservation





Farmerettes & Young Cultivators

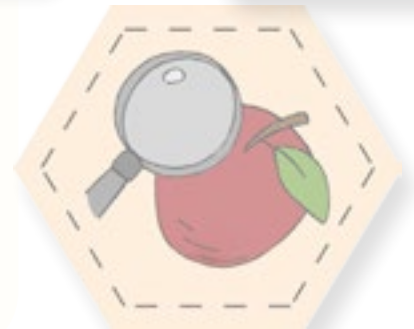


What's a Farmerette?

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.

Challenging Little Knitters

By now, I imagine that many of your Young Cultivators have learned to cast on, knit, and bind off. When children first learn to knit, the primary focus is on the knit stitch and how to use it to make scarves, washcloths, and kerchiefs. Before they start to think that the knitting world is flat, teach your Young Cultivators to knit in the round. Knitting in the round is the basis for so many great patterns and is a crucial skill in making socks, sweaters, hats, and mittens. One of the best ways to learn knitting in the round is to start small. Recently I came across **Tiny Owl Knits**, which may be the most magical pattern company on Earth. Stephanie



Dosen created Tiny Owl Knits, and while some of her patterns are for more experienced knitters, there are a few that a new knitter can tackle. Stephanie's Heartfelt Ring pattern download is free and includes a 23-minute knit-along video to watch as you work. In it, you will meet Stephanie's cat, learn how to knit the ring (for an x-small ring, cast on 14 stitches and knit 5 rows), add an embroidered heart, and finally, wet felt the ring to fit. As a skill, knitting in the round will open up new worlds for your little knitter, but there is a bigger lesson to be learned watching Stephanie knit—your Young Cultivators can grow up keeping the magic of childhood and then give it a place in their grown-up work.

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 from a large metropolitan area who recently made her dreams come true by moving to a farm. Given her dyed-in-the-wool city-girl background, she still writes our **City Farmgirl Blog**. She's a lawyer who has worked in both criminal defense and prosecution, and she has been a judge, a business woman, and a stay-at-home mom. She's not only down-home citified, she's a true-blue farmgirl ... in 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—and she shares her adventures on our **Rural Farmgirl Blog**. Alex is a graduate student at Alaska Pacific University, pursuing an M.S. in Outdoor and Environmental Education. She is focused on developing a program to inspire young women to become beginning farmers. She lives and works on the university's 700-acre educational farm. 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. Debbie writes our **Beach Farmgirl Blog**.

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

Love PUTS
THE *sun* IN
TOGETHER,
THE SAD IN APART,
AND THE *joy*
IN A HEART — Author Unknown

Magazines, Books,

& More



Our Feb/March issue ("Saying Yes") hit newsstands on Jan. 8. In it, you'll find recipes for scrumptious spring rolls; visit the glitz, glam, and junk at Round Top, Texas; learn about rainwater pillows and choosing a backyard chicken; make a cute-as-can-be map quilt; and more.

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

If you have a subscription, you should have received your magazine by about January 10. (Those of you near postal hubs get faster delivery; rural delivery takes a little longer.) If you receive your magazine, you can call our publisher's subscription department at 800-476-4611 to check on your delivery.

MaryJanesFarm *Calendar*

Our **2013 calendar** is now available! 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:

- February 1 ~ National Freedom Day, Wear Red Day
- February 2 ~ Groundhog Day
- February 9 ~ National Stop Bullying Day
- February 11 ~ National Make a Friend Day
- February 12 ~ Fat Tuesday/Mardi Gras
- February 13 ~ Ash Wednesday
- February 14 ~ Valentine's Day
- February 15 ~ Susan B. Anthony Day
- February 17 ~ World Human Spirit Day
- February 18 ~ Presidents' Day
- February 22 ~ World Thinking Day
- February 28 ~ National Chili 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 addresses 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 1,252 Farmgirl Chapters have been started in all 50 states and 8 countries with 4,819 Sisterhood members and 6,550 Merit Badges earned —growing stronger every day!