

MARYJANES FARM®

Sister Issue

June 2014

With some
added pluck,

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

Life made us
FRIENDS,
MaryJanesFarm
made us
SISTERS



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{ just a click away! }



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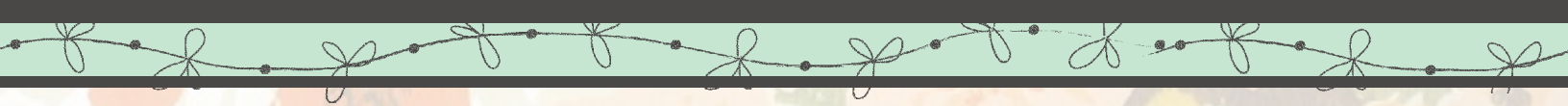
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Sister Loves

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

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



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Carol



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Hello from Sister #1



Every Sister Has A Story

Let me introduce you to **Girl Gab blogger** and Sister #3030 Maria Angelique Chamorro, our first "Every Sister Has a Story" feature.

What are the three things you are most proud of in your life?

My decision to become an Army officer, accepting God into my life, and saying yes when my handsome farmer asked me to marry him on New Year's Eve 2013.

What does your future life look like?

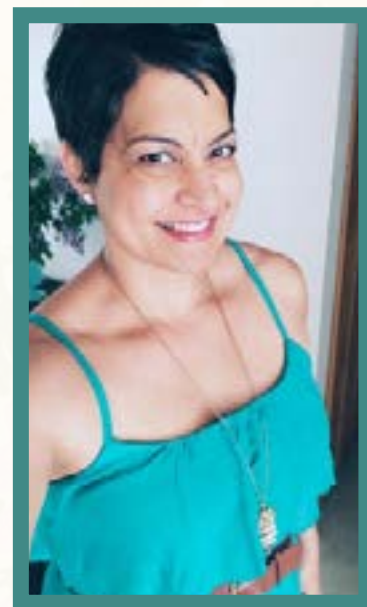
The future looks bright and full of possibilities. I was thrilled when my fiancé asked me to marry him because it was the best possible way I could have imagined the year ending and the new year beginning. The past two years, I dealt with my father's illness due to cancer and became his caregiver. He lost his battle with cancer in April 2013, and it was really hard for me. So in the future, I am looking forward to being a farm wife and step-momma to my fiancé's children. As I have experienced life around his family, I have come to love the work ethic, love of family and community, and generosity of farm life and farmers. I cannot wait to be part of this community.

What traditions have been passed down in your family?

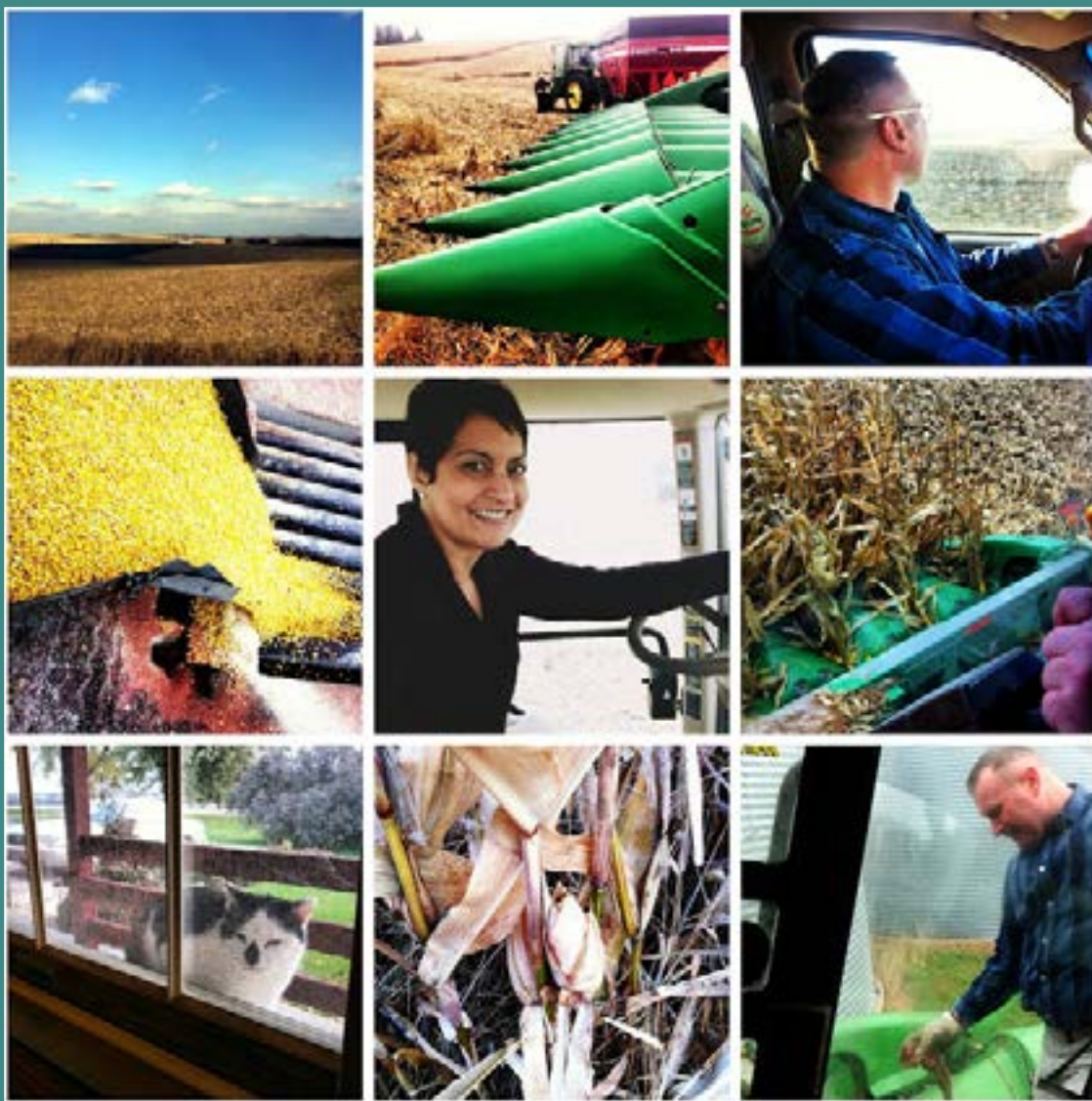
I am originally from Puerto Rico, and traditions are very important in my family. Our traditions center mostly around Christmas-time and preparing family feasts, where the main staple is a roasted pig. We make this for most celebrations during the year. But I'm also looking forward to learning new traditions from my fiancé's family. They are of Norwegian descent, and I have already been exposed to some of their traditions, which are lovely.

What's a good book you've read lately?

The Paris Apartment by Michelle Gable. This book is about a Sotheby's furniture expert who goes to Paris to inventory an apartment that has been closed for 70 years. The apartment is full of works of art, and as she inventories the home and learns more about the owner's history, she also goes through a journey of self-discovery.



Every Sister Has a Story



continued ...



continued ...

What about you makes you smile?

My goofiness. It's funny, because as an Army officer, people tend to think I'm very serious. In reality, I'm really goofy and love to play pranks, but all in good nature.

What would you do with a million-dollar check, coming to you all in one fell swoop from an anonymous donor?

I would buy my momma the house of her dreams, I would build MY dream house, and I would save the rest for a rainy day.

What person has helped you most in life?

My father. He was my moral compass and my north. I was a daddy's girl, and he instilled in me responsibility, strength of character, and a desire to push myself and never give up.

If today was your day for show 'n' tell, what would you bring to share?

Definitely my lefse, a Norwegian treat similar to a crepe, which you eat with butter and a sprinkling of sugar. It was the most challenging Norwegian thing I've learned to make, but I've become pretty good at it, thanks to the instructions of my future mother-in-law and plenty of practice.

What's one thing about you few people know?

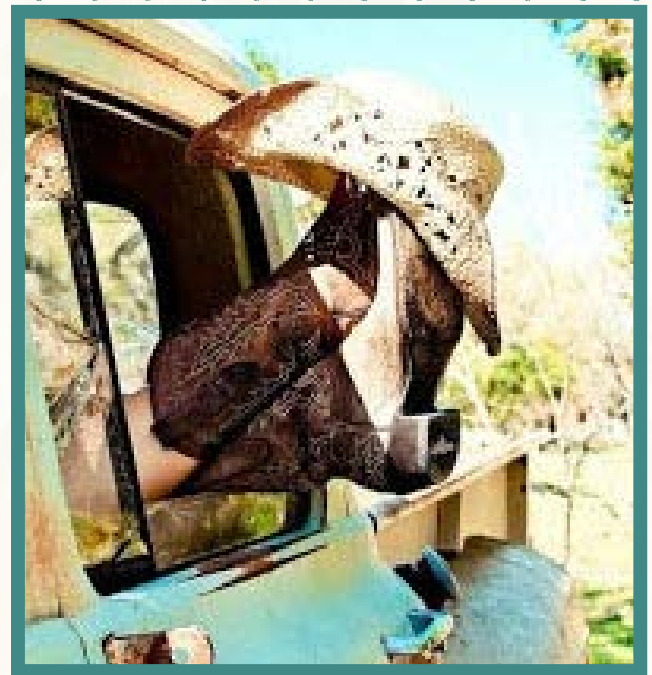
That I have a blog about healthy living, faith, and nutrition—all the things that make this a good life. For some reason, my family and close friends don't know about it. It's something that I like to keep to myself.

What are three things that show up most on your to-do list?

Buy eggs, doggie treats, and body lotion. I go through these things really fast!

Visit Maria's blog at MariaAngelique.blogspot.com or TheGoodLifeGirl.com

MaryJane ♥







Big welcome to our new and renewing Sisterhood members!

Amanda Mathis
Amanda Yeary
Ann Riddle
Anna Wolfe-Perez
April M Choate
Barbara Jensen
Becky Wickander
Betsy Newton
Brenda Harris
Callie Christofferson
Carol Hagemeyer
Carol Ashley
Cathy Wright
Christine Ellis
Courtney Robbins
Dawn Chunn
Deedee Moore
Denise Godwin
Denise Kraker
Donna Timms
Donna Greenley
Donna Parmer
Dot Marsh
Elizabeth Culver
Elizabeth Schirm
Elizabeth Del Vecchio

Elizabeth Sept
Erica Elliott
H Jean Sauerwein
Isleta Wehner
Jane Hudson
Jane Sprague
JaneAnn Lahmann
Janet Nix
Jean McGuire
Jeanette Williams
Jennaia Chen
Jenni Burgan
Jessica Chen
Jo Bobb
Jodi Chen
Jodi Chen
Julie Oyen
June Ranfone
Kate Iles
Kate Lange
Kathleen Lorentz
Katrina March
Kelly O'Neal
Kelly-jo Riker
Kim Hokaj
Kristina Smith

Kristine Yeagley
La Verne Duncan
Laurie Mayer
Leah McCoy
Linda Atkins
Linda Reidelbach
Linda Knese
Lisa Faunce
Lisa Baltes
Liz Adamshick
Lynn Shields
Marcelina Lundy
Maria Som De Cerff
Marianne Skeens
Marie Listopad
Melanie Villarreal
Melissa Holman
Merrilyn Blackmore
Michelle Pietsch
Mickey Thompson
Nancy Evans
Nancy McKitrick
Pamela Bergmann
Patricia Spathes
Peggy Ann Smith
Rachel Hayden

Robin Villiers-Furze
Ruby Slider
Sally Weber
Sallyann Dyer-Congdon
Sarah Baker
Shari Kuenzi
Shawn Hendren
Sheila McLaughlin
Shelley Krehbiel-Klein
Sherry Kennedy
Sherry Harris
Sue Stout
Susan Trudeau
Susan Kellen
Tami Fancher
Theresa Atkinson
Tonie Brown
Valene Brewer
Vickie Gaither
Winifred Nielsen



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

— Author Unknown

“ Just around the *corner* in
every woman's *mind* is a
lovely dress, a *wonderful*
suit, or an *entire*
costume which will make
an *enchanted* new
creature of her. ”

– Wilhela Cushman



Each Other



In the Shelter of Each Other



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



Megan Rae (Sister #2) grew up “on the farm”—MaryJanesFarm. She attended Gonzaga University and received a bachelor’s degree in Journalism. After marrying her college sweetheart, they moved to Kansas and bought their first home on a cobblestone street. Her love for writing, editing, and well, her Mom, finally brought her back to the farm. Raising her 7-year-old and 5-year-old farmgirls and working alongside her husband, mother, and family is the perfect lifestyle mix for Megan. She rounds it out with travel across the country to visit her five dearest college girlfriends who she loves with all her heart (they’ve all been in each other’s weddings), and one of her favorite farmgirls that she met when she lived in Kansas (scheduled around working the cows, of course).

Family Question Box

You may have already noticed that I’m big on “dinner at the table” and even bigger on engaging my little ones in conversation while dining together. Here’s a perfect example: On our recent trip to NYC, we visited the American Girl Store. It was a *very big deal*, and the girls spent hours picking out an outfit for each of their dolls. We also enjoyed lunch served in the café. I mean, even I think it’s dreamy that the waiters serve the dolls a real lunch, too! But, hands down, the best part about our entire trip to the AG Store was a little pink box that sat at the center of our lunch table. Inside was a pile of tiny pieces of paper with questions on them—conversation starters extraordinaire! The gab session that ensued among my 7-year-old, my 5-year-old, and me was delightful. You might wonder if it was the novelty of just being at the AG Store that sparked such scintillating conversation, but I’ve tested the theory with our own homemade Family Question Box, and the girls would participate every night if we had time!

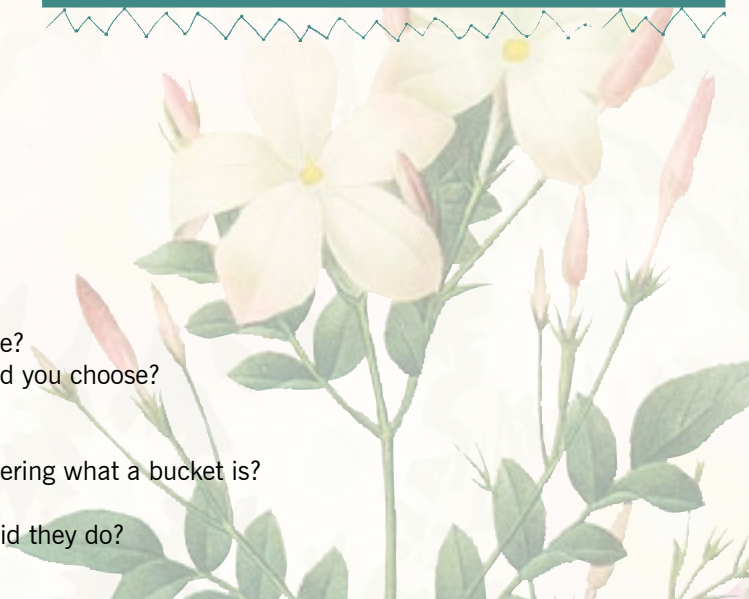
Want to make one too? Any little box will do. I covered ours in washi tape to match the color scheme of our dining room. You’ll find the list of questions I compiled for our Family Question Box below. Not only is it a kick to hear their little answers to these big questions, it’s also fun to hear how their answers change. And my girls love, love, *love* to ask the adults these questions in return.



- What is your greatest gift?
- What is your favorite thing to learn in school?
- What was something that made you laugh this week?
- What surprised you today?
- If you could paint your house any color, what color would you paint it?
- What is your favorite snack?
- What is your favorite season?
- If you had one wish, what would it be?
- What are you going to be when you grow up?
- What is your favorite sport to play?
- Who is the coolest person on Earth?
- What is the thing you do most awesomely?
- If you could visit anywhere in the world, where would it be?



- What do you think is the perfect age? Why?
- What are three words to describe yourself?
- If you could name your family members, what would you call them?
- Which person in your family history would you like to meet? Why?
- What is your happiest childhood memory?
- If you could trade places with someone else for a month, who would you choose? Why?
- What is your best birthday memory?
- In 10 years, where will you be and what will you be doing?
- Which would you rather watch—a sunrise or a sunset?
- What food would you never give up eating?
- What is your favorite food?
- What is your favorite place in the whole world?
- What is the best gift you have ever given?
- If you could make one rule in the world that everyone had to follow, what would it be? Why?
- What do you know how to do that you could teach others?
- If you could be a sound, what would it be?
- What is the funniest thing that ever happened to you?
- How would you change the world if you could?
- If we could go on vacation right now, where would you pick?
- If you wrote a book, what would you name the main character and where would she go?
- What is your favorite book? Why?
- If you could have a super power, what would you choose?
- What is your favorite kind of sandwich?
- What is the most beautiful animal in the world?
- How do you cheer yourself up when you are feeling down?
- What is the nicest compliment you've ever gotten?
- Describe your dream house.
- If you could make a new rule at school, what would it be?
- What is your favorite holiday? Why?
- If you had to wear all one color, what color would you choose?
- If you could go to lunch with anyone in the world, who would you choose?
- What kind of car do you want to drive when you grow up?
- What is something you are really proud that you've done?
- When was the last time you filled someone's bucket? (Wondering what a bucket is? Click [here](#) to find out.) What did you do?
- When was the last time someone filled your bucket? What did they do?



Sister Loves

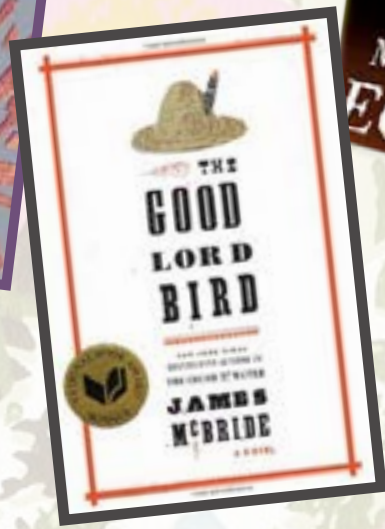
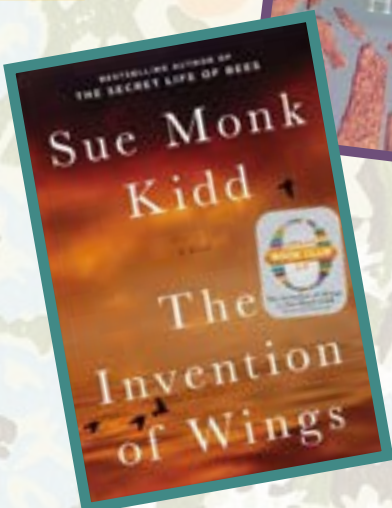
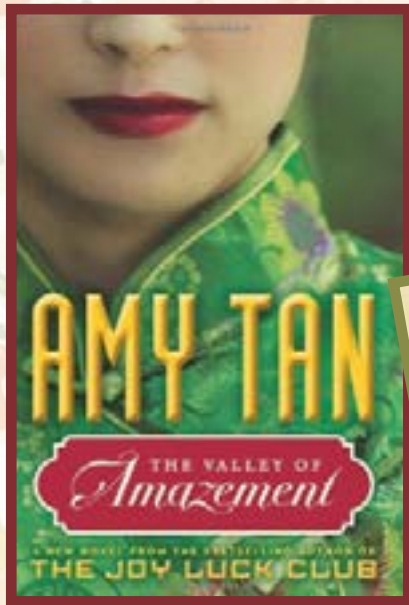
{ our favorites ... just a click away! }

Kristi's
PICKS
(JUST A CLICK AWAY)

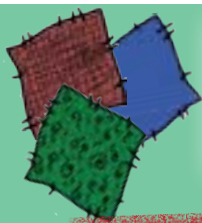


MAIL-ART MAVEN
(SISTER #4314)

I love to read, and I relish the sleepy morning summer routine of my two teenagers, who like to sleep late, giving me ample time to sit in the garden with my chickens, a cup of coffee, and a great story to begin the day. These are the books I found on **Amazon.com** that I hope to get lost in this summer.



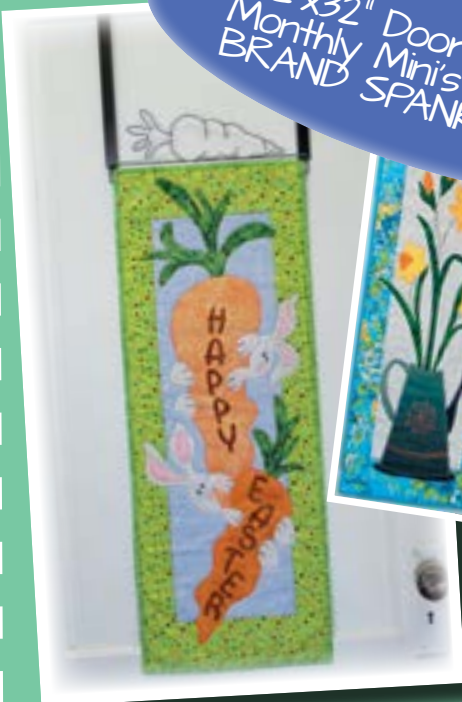
You can visit Kristi's picks by clicking on the photos.



Patch Abilities, Inc.

Refreshingly "do-able" mini quilts

12"x32" Door Banners
Monthly Mini's Series #7
BRAND SPANKIN' NEW!!!!



12"x14" minis conveniently
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(choose from over 36
designs)



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- small projects easily finish in 1 day!
- use fusible applique method - so easy peasy, you don't have to be an experienced quilter - beginner friendly
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6"x22" long skinny minis
decorate ANY slim wall
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to choose from! Yowza)



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(888-272-3135)

www.patchabilities.com
or call to request a catalog: 563-778-2101



Each Other



Don't Let Your Babies Grow Up to Be Mamas

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



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

Every Kid Should Have a Pony

When I was young—back in the olden days, by crikey—I longed for a pony. My longing would not be fulfilled by roly-poly bugs named Juan; or stray cats that refused to cuddle; or the occasional frog that was captured, named, and snuggled, and played dead at all the wrong times. You can't even purchase saddles for pets that small, for goodness sake, much less ride off into the sunset, ponytail waving in the breeze.

No, what I needed was a pony. A mighty steed, a classy mount ... a real life, by golly, *horse*. One that I could tie my saddlebags filled with peanut butter and jelly sandwiches to, and gallop off on to have amazing adventures. I'd read *Pippi Longstocking* and *National Velvet* and *Black Beauty* and *Little House on the Prairie*, and my own equine adventures were not far behind. *I knew it.*

I saved all my money. I said no to the allure of the candy aisle when shopping with Mom. I turned a blind eye to the ice-cream truck, lest I be tempted. I gave up chewing gum and sticker collecting and all those things that my mean parents wouldn't pay for, and I stacked my grimy one-dollar bills together until they were high enough to buy my pony.

My Cherokee was a mighty stallion, a fierce and loyal sidekick. A sophisticated and intelligent gentleman of the palomino variety. Actually, no, he wasn't. He was kind of a brat, and by "kind of," I mean really, really a brat. His favorite antics were walking out to the middle of the pond with me atop his back, shouting, "Nooooooooo, Cherokee!"





Bad horse! Turn! Stop! Halt! Ack!” and then standing there stubbornly for minutes—hours, until I sadly climbed off and swam to shore. He also loved to stand in front of his water trough and kick in it until we were both thoroughly drenched, chuckling maniacally all the while.

His other favorite trick was refusing to be caught all day long, as he scampered around the pasture with the reckless abandon of a 2-year-old toddler hyped up on sugar, while I ran behind, choking for breath and waving my (unused) halter in the air. Sometimes, I would hide the halter in my shirt and come at him with sugar cubes—you know, all casual and subtle-like. He was too smart to fall for that, though. It’s a little-known fact that horses don’t eat sugar cubes ... they feast off the tears of disappointed little girls.



Sister Loves

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

Carol's
PICKS
(JUST A CLICK AWAY)



GRAPHIC DESIGNER,
UKULELE ENTHUSIAST
(SISTER #3)

Finding that perfect gift for Dad is sometimes harder than picking pretties for Mom. But virtual shopping has broadened our horizons and opened up our options. Here are a few ideas for Fathers' Day gifts from around the Web.



Kombo

4-in-1 Fishing Tool

Uncommon Goods



Age Your Own! Whiskey and Rum-making Kit

Uncommon Goods



Iced Tea Infuser To Go

Grillbot



Think Roomba for the Grill!

Bold Socks



Socks with Personality Plus

L.L.Bean



Camping at the Kitchen Table



A Surefire Manly Guide to Ribs and Rubs and Smokin' Good Grub

Adventure Hats



TheOChocolate



Big Daddy S'mores

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



moda

BEE MY HONEY

by Mary Jane ♥



The beleaguered honeybee needs our love now more than ever. "Won't you *Bee My Honey*, oh tiny wee one? Come look," I whisper. "This year, I've planted extra honeysuckle, dozens of butterfly bushes, patches of phlox, and a field of clover for your nectar needs. Your journey is long and hard; let us help!"

For every yard of my new *Bee My Honey* fabric that is sold, I'm able to continue supporting the important work of TheHoneybeeConservancy.org. Thanks for bee-ing the change with me!

Ask for my 100% cotton *Bee My Honey* fabric at your favorite quilt store, February 2014 or online at FatQuarterShop.com.



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Sister Loves

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



MARYJANE
CEO (QUEEN BEE)



CountryAngelRustic



PaintedVintageDecor



JustHanginAroundPrim

It's a sign. A sign of the times. Farm-themed signs are what's happening now! Here are a few that might strike your fancy. Of course, I like cows signs best. Do it! Have a cow, or at least buy a cow-themed sign.



Amazon



Amazon



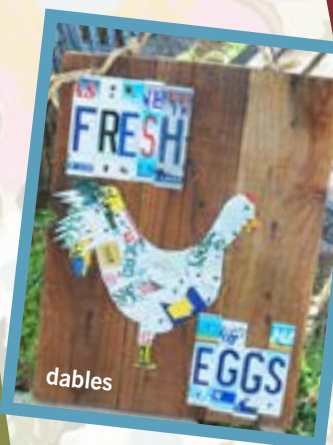
primsnposies



ButtonsandBranches



BainbridgeFarmGoods



dables

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

SUMMER REPELLENT SPRAY

Each summer we go on camping trips, forest hikes, long bike rides, and enjoy berry picking, barbecues, and picnics...until the buzzing begins. Keep those pesky blood suckers away and enjoy your time outside! This spray contains catnip hydrosol which can actually be just as effective as commercial chemical repellents, without the nasty side effects from toxins like DEET. Smells great too!

INGREDIENTS

8 oz organic catnip hydrosol
20 drops organic cedarwood essential oil
20 drops organic lavender essential oil
10 drops organic lemongrass essential oil
10 drops organic lemon essential oil

DIRECTIONS

Slowly drip each essential oil into the hydrosol, counting with care as you go. Mix all ingredients in the bottle by shaking vigorously. Shake well before each use and reapply as often as needed.


mountain rose herbs
.com
800.879.3337



Each Other



Homeschooling with Melyssa



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



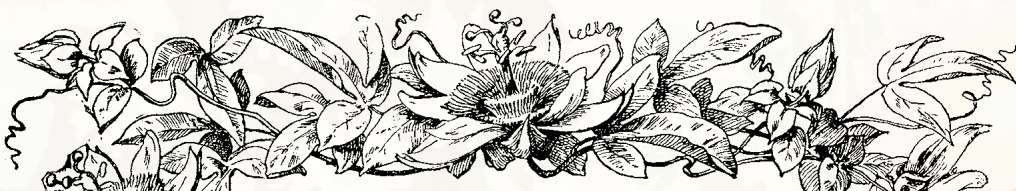
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I Forgot to Homeschool

Homeschool moms are the Queens of Good Intentions. I know there's an expression about where good intentions lead to ... I think it's the coffeepot. Anyway, I blame a few things for our unintentional procrastination problems and distractions:

- **Curricula.** There are now enough curricula options out there, floating in planet Earth's atmosphere, to wallpaper entire cities—nay, continents. There are different curriculums for different styles of learning (okay, I get that), and different curriculums for different subjects (again, makes sense), and different curriculums for different religions (what the heck is Christian math?), and different curriculums for different genders (because Anthony cannot possibly have a pink science book, evidently), and so on and so forth. Let me tell you a little secret: There is nothing more fulfilling and satisfying than plunking that homeschool catalog into the recycling bin without even opening it. It's so heavy, you may hear a huge thudding sound only rivaled by a sonic boom, but that just adds to your warm, fuzzy feelings.
- **Social networking.** There's a huge online homeschool support group out there now. How awesome is that? It's awesome until a heated discussion gets going about methods or grades or testing or unschooling or classical education or doctrine or schedules. Then the awesomeness jumps ship and a large cloud of gloom and despair centers itself over your frazzled head. Do what I do: Don't get overly involved in the debates. Or if you must, pop some corn and be an observer.
- **Good books and great food and the outdoors and a messy house and laundry and gardening and the arts.** I mean, how are we supposed to educate the children when we are busy reading to them and making cookies and going on nature walks and taking them to ballet and teaching them to knit ... and ... oh wait. Nevermind.

So anyway, it's not our fault if we keep *meaning* to homeschool. Our intentions are tip-top. We mean well. We really do. Someday, we are going to fit in those Hebrew lessons and that advanced calculus and the harp classes we always said we'd do when we started on our journey. Until that day arrives, however, we'll just keep the coffee brewing and our laps free for snuggling.





“ We can teach our children to honor
nature's gifts, the joys and beauties of
the outdoors will be here forever. ”

– Jimmy Carter





Farm Kitchen

Where the Cookin' Begins!



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



Ashley Ogle (Sister #2222) was born and raised in northern Idaho, and has always had an intense interest in anything kitchen. Shortly after marrying MaryJane's son, Brian, at the historic one-room schoolhouse his grandfather attended, Brian and Ashley moved back to the farm and began renovating the 1890 farmhouse that both Brian and his grandmother grew up in. And in keeping with tradition, they're raising their family in the same house (two little girls: Adria, 4, and baby Alina).

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

Chocolate Chip Cookies

My dad makes the best cookies. Really, he does. When I visit him, the first thing I do is snag one from the freezer (I can always count on him to have a bagful). They are not exactly buttery-chewy, melt-in your-mouth, fresh-out-of-the-oven cookies. They're soft, sturdy cookies—perfect for dunking into a big glass of icy-cold milk. The trouble is that his recipe is nearly impossible to replicate. I don't think he could write it out if he wanted to. As a kid, I watched him whip up countless batches in our ridiculously huge yellow Tupperware bowl. He always used measuring cups and spoons, but I think mostly out of convention. I would watch him dump heaping cups of this and that until he began dropping dough onto cookie sheets. Then he would literally line all of our counters with dishtowels to cool the cookies. After cooling, he would put them in bags and freeze them. Watching Dad make cookies taught me that cooking is fun—and that it's not so much about perfection as it is enjoying the process of creating. Yes, sometimes he baked them for too long, or his flavor experiments went awry, but despite those batches, I still think he makes the best cookies. Since there is no recipe in existence for his cookies, and I have no idea what he does, this recipe is the best approximation I could come up with. I have to say that while they're not as good as the real deal, they come close (my family will attest to that—they rapidly disappeared from my freezer).

Dad's Chocolate Chip Cookies

Prep Time: 18 minutes

Cook Time: 15 minutes

Makes: 24 cookies

1 1/4	cups flour	1/2	cup butter, softened
1/2	cup rolled oats	3/4	cup brown sugar
1/2	cup finely shredded coconut	2	eggs
1/2	t salt	1	t vanilla extract
1/2	t baking soda	1	cup chocolate chips

1. Preheat oven to 350°F.
2. In a medium bowl, combine flour, oats, coconut, salt, and baking soda; set aside.
3. In a medium bowl or stand mixer, cream butter and brown sugar together. Add eggs and vanilla, beat until well combined, scraping bowl periodically.
4. Add flour mixture to butter mixture and beat just until combined; stir in chocolate chips.
5. Form dough into 1 1/2" balls and arrange on two cookie sheets, spacing each ball about 2" apart.
6. Bake for 15 minutes, rotating baking sheets halfway through. Transfer to cooling rack (or dishtowel-lined countertops, for authenticity). Enjoy!





Outpost

Unleashing Your Inner Wild



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

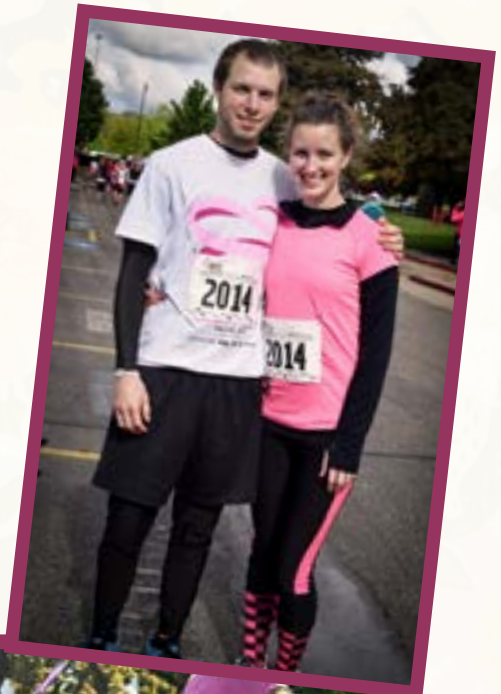


Karina Overfelt (Sister #4) was raised in Salmon, Idaho. She attended Northwest Nazarene University and received her bachelor's degree in graphic design. Ever since she was young, she has had a camera in her hand and a creative drive in her heart. She works for MaryJanesFarm as a photographer and graphic designer.

Race for the Cure

A sea of pink swarmed the streets of Boise on Saturday, May 10, as thousands of people joined together in the fight against breast cancer. There were men, women, children, families, tutus, capes, and stilts walking side by side, and they all held a special place in their hearts for someone that was or is battling breast cancer.

My family came together to run this race in honor of my mom. She battled and conquered breast cancer a few years ago. Ever since then, my heart is full of compassion toward anyone that has or is still enduring through such a hard time. Here are a few photos from the race that capture the joy and support of everyone who attended.





Garden Gate

Bloom Where You're Planted



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

Farmgirl Connection: Garden Gate

MaryJane's Bug-off Bars

Submitted by prairiehawk:

I made some of the Bug-off Bars featured in MJ's *Outpost* book. I used cedarwood and eucalyptus essential oils. They work very well. Keeps the bugs away, no harmful chemicals, and it nourishes my skin. Thank you, MaryJane!

Submitted by BarnChickCecily:

Prairiehawk, that is so neat! Was it hard to do? I have that book ... will have to look it up! Thanks for posting this ... now I'm motivated. :-)

Submitted by Lavender Rose:

I have that book also. Great to know it works! Will have to find the recipe and give it a try. Thanks for sharing.

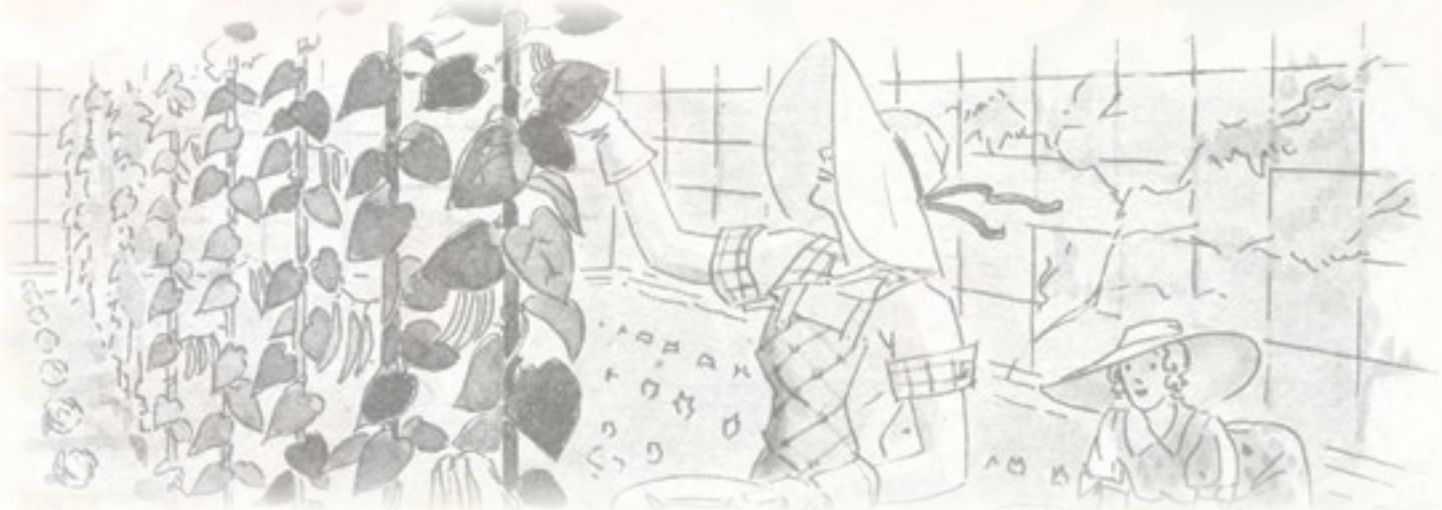
Submitted by jan49829:

I also have the book and will be making some of those. Thank you for sharing. I must get back to MaryJane's books and make some of the things in them. So many great ideas, and even better, when you find out they really do work well.



For more handy
outdoor tips, buy
my book [here!](#)





Bug-off Bars Recipe

Makes: 12 small bars

- 3 oz beeswax
- 1 1/2 c cocoa butter
- 2 oz sweet almond oil
- 3 drops vitamin E
- 10 drops bug repellent essential oils (Cedarwood, citronella, eucalyptus, geranium, lemongrass, and sandalwood are known to help repel insects. For our bug bars, we chose cedarwood, citronella, and eucalyptus as fragrances that melded well.)

Melt beeswax, cocoa butter, and almond oil in the top of a double boiler. Remove from heat and stir in vitamin E and the essential oils. Pour contents into a child's muffin tin and let the bars cool completely. Rub bar over skin. Not only does it repel insects, it has ingredients to nourish skin and make it silky soft!



Sister Loves

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

Karina's
PICKS
(JUST A CLICK AWAY)

City of Joy
Laptop Bag



Hope Bag



Forever Bag



Horizon Bag



Horizon Bag



Bondu Bag



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



GRAPHIC DESIGNER
(SISTER #4)

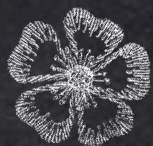
Just recently, I learned about a business called Freeset that makes and sells beautiful handmade bags and organic cotton t-shirts. I was so drawn to the beauty of the products, but I was also drawn to the beauty of the organization. Freeset is based out of India and their main business isn't to make a beautiful product ... it's freedom. They provide employment for women who have been trapped in sex trade. You can learn more about Freeset and purchase one of their beautiful bags or t-shirts at USA.FreesetGlobal.com.



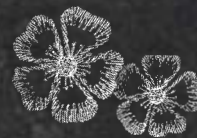
Here's a closer look at the detail of the Hope bag that I purchased.



Stitching & Crafting Room



Stitches of Fun & Laughter!



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

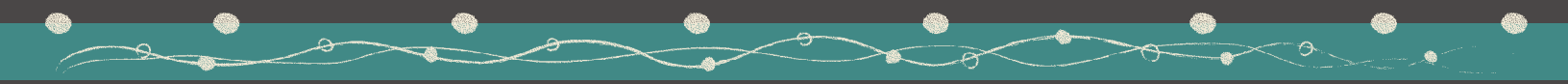


Rebekka Boysen-Taylor, (Sister #40) was born in Spokane, Washington, right around the time Mount St. Helens blew her top. She studied Geography at Portland State University and taught grade school in the Bronx and inner-city Los Angeles. She lives with her family on the Palouse. As a stay-at-home mama 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.

Evening Grove Sachet Kit

I am in crafting heaven whenever I visit **For the Makers**. You can't help but love a shop that describes itself this way: "For the Makers is made with lots of glue and sparkle in New York City." The gals behind this online shop make DIY easy and appealing—no trips to the store and no searching for patterns! They create lovely photo tutorials with tips for beginners, individual projects, and components. For the past few years, I've ordered their collections. Each collection includes the materials for four separate projects. Collections cost \$29 and include free shipping. One of my favorite recent projects is the **Evening Grove Sachet Kit** from the Ophelia Collection. This kit included beeswax pellets, a straw, and pressed dried flowers in a glassine envelope, along with string to hang the sachets. The tutorial explains the process in detail, so spend some time reading it before you get started. I set a few cookie cutters on a sheet of wax paper in a Pyrex baking dish and melted the beeswax on the stove. With the flowers in place, I poured in the melted wax, waited a few minutes to let the wax set, and used the straw to create a hole for hanging. To make a scented sachet, you simply add essential oils to the beeswax just before pouring it into the molds. Whether you are looking for inspiration or materials, For the Makers is a lovely place to begin.







Make it Easy



Happy Hearts Make Light Work

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



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

Vintage Traincase Makeover

I think I can safely say that we farmgirls like vintage things, and that could include vintage traincases. The possibilities for them are endless, and it's a lot of fun to do "makeovers" on them if we so choose. I've done makeovers on several, but these three I use are my favorites. I wanted them to be durable, so I chose fabric pieces to cover them and used several coats of Mod Podge. These cases have rounded corners and were easy to work with.

I gathered fabric pieces that I wanted to use and started cutting pieces to adhere to the lid. First, brush on a coat of Mod Podge, then apply the fabric piece, smoothing it out flat and tucking the edge under the metal edge, cutting and trimming as necessary to fit on the corner. I completed all four corners and then started working toward the handle. After the top was completely covered, I let it dry and then applied at least three coats of Mod Podge over the top, allowing it to dry between coats.



For the bottom of the case, I decided to just use one piece of fabric to go around the entire case and down to just above the bottom. I used ribbon or lace to fit into the area between the metal edges. I used Aleene's 7800 All Purpose Adhesive to adhere it, as it provides a strong bond in an area that is tricky to manage. After choosing and applying the trims I wanted around the bottom edge and anywhere else I wanted it, I then applied three coats of Mod Podge. All buttons and embellishments were adhered with Aleene's 7800 All Purpose Adhesive and also coated with Mod Podge.

On two of the cases, I wrapped the handles with 5/8"-wide grosgrain ribbon, brushing on Aleene's White Tacky Glue and then wrapping, allowing it to dry before applying the Mod Podge. The bows were tied on afterwards and secured with a dab of the 7800 adhesive. The ivory-colored case has only had its makeover on the lid, and on this case, I used a variety of lace pieces. On the top, I glued vintage appliques that were sewing notions from my late mother-in-law.

These cases have traveled many places with me and have held up to a lot of banging and bumping. I felt like fabric would be more durable than paper, so that was my choice. All of the cases were in excellent condition on the inside; I only did a bit of embellishing on the two cases with fabric. The ivory case, I left as is. This project was fun and easy!





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

Natural Bug Repellents for Summer Fun

Summer is here, and with it the irresistible urge to bask in outdoor glory. We want to feel the warm earth on our feet and sun rays on our shoulders. We garden; go on camping trips, forest hikes, and long bike rides; and enjoy berry picking, barbecues, picnics, and live music.

Until the buzzing begins ...

Keep those pesky bloodsuckers away and enjoy your time outside with these two totally natural herbal mosquito repellent formulas. That's right—you don't have to spend all summer in a haze of chemicals. There are effective herbal ingredients that can be easily mixed together to make powerful pest deterrents. Plus, they smell wonderful!

The first recipe is a flower-water-based spray and the second recipe uses oil for a longer-lasting solution. Both contain catnip ingredients, since the essential oil found in catnip can actually be just as effective as commercial chemical repellents, without the nasty side effects from toxins like DEET. If you have fresh catnip growing in the garden, you can use a high alcohol tincture instead of the hydrosol. Pure grain alcohol (95%) will totally dehydrate the catnip, extracting the oils in about a week. I've also included my astringent spray recipe that can be used on bites to help stop itch and swelling.

Summer Repellent Spray

8 oz organic Catnip Hydrosol
20 drops organic Cedarwood Essential Oil
20 drops organic Lavender Essential Oil
10 drops organic Lemongrass Essential Oil
10 drops organic Lemon Essential Oil

Slowly drip each essential oil into the hydrosol, counting with care as you go. Mix all ingredients in the bottle by shaking vigorously. Shake well before each use and reapply as often as needed.





Summer Repellent Oil

8 oz organic Jojoba Oil or Almond Oil or Sunflower Oil
 20 drops organic Lavender Essential Oil
 15 drops organic Catnip Essential Oil
 10 drops organic Eucalyptus Essential Oil
 5 drops organic Rosemary Essential Oil

Slowly drip each essential oil into the oil, counting with care as you go. Mix all ingredients in the bottle by rolling the bottle between the palms of your hands. Shake before each use and reapply as often as needed.



Astringent Relief Spray

This spray will help ease the itchiness and pain of bug bites. Plantain is a classic herbal remedy for itchy bug bites, while green tea is also super astringent. The cooling nature of peppermint adds a comforting sensation.

4 oz organic Peppermint Hydrosol
 2 oz organic Green Tea, brewed
 2 oz organic Plantain Tincture
 3 drops organic Peppermint Essential Oil

Pour all ingredients into a glass spray bottle. Shake well before each use and store in the cooler for an extra refreshing chill.

Smudge Them Away!

Another good tip to know is that most bugs really hate aromatic smoke, but people love the nice smelling aroma! Instead of burning those chemical-soaked repellent candles, try burning a bundle of organic mugwort or white sage to smudge the area. You can also use the essential oil recipe blends above in a diffuser for an extra bug-away boost.



Have a happy, bug-free summer!



Cleaning Up

The Work of Our Hands



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

Homemade Oxygen Cleaner

Farmgirl Connection: Cleaning Up

Anyone Making Oxiclean?

Submitted by shawneefarmgirl

I really need a boost in my wash, and like Oxiclean, but I really would like to make my own. I am sure one of you girls out there is already on it. Do you have a recipe you want to share? Thanks so much—I can always count on you girls. I love all your input ...

Submitted by Ladybek9756

If it is a stain remover that you want, I would suggest hydrogen peroxide. This is very useful for stains. Just be careful that it will not alter the fabric. If you want to just boost the laundry itself then try lemon juice as a pre-laundry treatment. Just add the lemon juice to your water before you add any clothes to dilute it. Just like hydrogen peroxide it can fade your clothes. I usually add it to the water and when the machine is about 1/2 full of water, I will add my clothes.

Submitted by shawneefarmgirl

Thanks Becky ... I wanted it for a boost to my homemade laundry detergent. My whites are not that white, and I was thinking of Oxiclean to help. Also, what do you suggest for stain removal? Most of my stains are on my dish towels. I have tried rubbing with fel naptha, but with not too much success. Thanks for any input.

When I saw this post on our chatroom, I thought, what a perfect opportunity for me to experiment with a homemade oxygen cleaner recipe.

Because last week, as I was sorting and organizing our B&B linens, I found a container of stained linens. In it, I found some of my favorites that included one of Miss Wilma's hand-embroidered "good morning" pillows.

It had three very dark, almost black, blood stains. I know that my gal who was helping us with the B&B at the time had a can of Spray 'n Wash Stain Remover that she purchased to use on tougher stains, so obviously, I'd found a pile it didn't work on.





Initially, I tried using baking soda and hydrogen peroxide as my main ingredients, but the baking soda settled out and was a bit gritty (it will work, though if you can't find washing soda, plus washing soda is about six times more expensive). Then I tried washing soda (not gritty and dissolves more completely) and hydrogen peroxide and it worked (it *really* worked!!!!). That's because washing soda is more alkaline than baking soda (more cleaning power) and is also a more powerful water softener (soft water is better for cleaning because the minerals in hard water can interact with detergents and interfere with their cleaning properties). Find washing soda in the laundry aisle of your grocery store.



Now for the recipe. You'll need four things:

1 cup hydrogen peroxide

1 cup washing soda

2 cups water

1 dedicated a quart Ball canning jar (Kerr doesn't usually have handy measurements up the side) with plastic storage lid (available wherever canning jars are sold).

Fill the canning jar with washing soda up to the 1-cup mark on the side of the jar. Add water up to the 2-cup mark. Put the lid on and give it a shake. Take the lid off and add hydrogen peroxide up to the 3-cup mark. Put the lid on and give it a vigorous shake until the washing soda is dissolved. Done!



continued ...



continued ...

Here's the linen I mentioned, slowly losing its blood stains. I did move it around a couple of times per day. You can layer on other stained linens as long as you mix up enough cleaner to keep them submerged in liquid.

Day 1



Day 2



Day 3

Stain continuing to fade.



Day 4

GONE!!! (Note that none of the red embroidery thread has faded onto the white cotton.)





You can also put your cleaner in a spray bottle to use as a pre-treat on spots before washing (doesn't work on tough stains—they usually require several days of soaking), or you can add 1/4 or 1/2 cup of the liquid mixture to a load of laundry, fill with water, and let soak 30 minutes before washing with detergent.

Disclaimer 😊

Of course I haven't tried this on every imaginable type of fabric available. Use at your own risk!

Mary Jane ❤️



Index Available!

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

[CLICK HERE](#) to read back issues.

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

Farmgirls Unite!

If you are hosting a farmgirl event, open to all farmgirls, send the event description, date, location, and contact info to megan@maryjanesfarm.org. Megan will keep Sisters up-to-date on upcoming gatherings.

Upcoming Events:

Stranded in Morro Bay, Morro Strand State Beach, Morro Bay, CA, October 16–18, 2014, (see p. 49)

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 trailer!)





daily entries fresh from the farm



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June Sisterhood



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

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STRANDED IN MORRO BAY

VINTAGE TRAILER RALLY & TASTING

October 16, 17 & 18, 2014
Morro Strand State Beach,
Morro Bay, CA

Register online at www.ccspa.info
Questions: Call 805.748.8278

12 wineries.
10 restaurants.
Rhythm & Blues
By the Sea.



MORRO STRAND STATE BEACH,
MORRO BAY, CA



Farmgirl Sisterhood

Share in the Fun!

Farmgirl Chatter

What are farmgirls chatting about?

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

Farmgirl Calendar

Stranded in Morro Bay, Vintage Trailer Rally & Tasting, Morro Strand State Beach, Morro Bay, CA, October 16–18, 2014

ALL events optional, but plan to have fun!

12 wineries
10 restaurants
Rhythm & Blues by the Sea

Register online at CCSPA.info

Camp with us:

3 nights, 1 camper: \$220

Ticket price includes a single spot for three nights, and the following for one camper:

- three breakfasts
- welcome happy hour on Thursday evening
- beverages for camper potluck/s'mores cookoff on Friday night
- BBQ lunch on Saturday
- wine-tasting event on Saturday night

Farmgirl Chatter

A Farm of My Own: Homestead where you are. Submitted by Madinet85

I came across this **blog post** last night and it really hit a cord with me.

I know sometimes I get frustrated that I haven't been able to quit my job to homestead full time, or my husband hasn't quite agreed to buy me a dairy cow. But even though I work full time and buy my milk at the store, I can still homestead every day, and even a little bit is better than nothing.

What did you do to homestead today?

continued ...



continued ...

We planted my two teeny-tiny raised beds, using the square-foot-garden technique. Last year, I tried a bigger garden and got so overwhelmed that I ended up getting nothing from the garden. I'm going smaller this year, but hopefully, I can get a few things to enjoy and try a little bit bigger next year. Share your story [here](#).

Barnyard Buddies: Our new Longhorn bairn ... "Duncan."

Submitted by ceejay48

Born in the wee hours overnight is our newest baby, a bull calf, and we've named him "DUNCAN." His mommy is Snowflake and his daddy is Nougat. I find it interesting that the red markings on his sides are very close in configuration!

Thanks for letting me share! Share your story [here](#).



Barnyard Buddies: Mason bees are here! Submitted by Red Tractor Girl

MaryJane posted about mason bees on her Raising Jane blog a few months ago and it caught my attention. Mason bees pollinate flowers, gardens, and orchards, but they do not produce honey. So I went to **CrownBees.com** and read all about them and just had to try raising some myself. They arrived on Saturday, and when I got home on Sunday, I dove into the box and looked at all of the parts of my starter kit.



Here's what I found and put together today;

The BeeBungalo House looks like a long birdhouse with 3 sides. Per instructions, it is located on the east side of the house, which gets some morning sun and protection of the overhang of the house.

The bees are sent in cocoons, which have to hatch. Now that the temps are warm enough, the bees will hatch in their little BeeGuardian bag. This is a fine mesh bag with a velcro closure that allows the cocoons to be safe from parasitic wasps, birds, and other predators.

When the first one hatches, I am supposed to take them out of the BeeGuardian bag, place them in the back of their house, and put their nesting structure in front of them.

As they hatch, they crawl out the back hole of the house, fly off, come back to nest, and eventually lay their eggs in these long tubes. Pretty cool, Eh? I have placed the BeeGuardian in the house for the hatching period of 23 days to 4 weeks. I will keep you posted on how it all works out. This is very exciting and I hope to have my own swarm of bees for my flowers and neighborhood this summer. In Florida, the bees that live here are called Summer Leafcutter Bees. Stay tuned for more Bee News! Share your thoughts [here](#).



Cleaning Up: Anyone making soap? Submitted by sherrye

Since my heart attacks, I have had to slow down some, so I have been making soap. I found a great recipe for liquid Castile soap. I have used and given away about 2 gallons worth now. I am going to make more in the next few days. It is a hot process soap. Has anyone else been making soap? I have done mostly cold process. I like the hot process because you can use it sooner. We have been using the liquid for hand washing dishes and cleaning Sweetie's udder for milking. It seems to work well. So ... any soapers out there soaping? Share your ideas [here](#).

Farm Kitchen: Dandelion jelly using ChillOver Powder? Submitted by laurentany

I am planning on making dandelion jelly this weekend, but wondered if anyone had a recipe I can make using ChillOver Powder instead of pectin? I love my ChillOver Powder, but can't remember what the substitution is. Love the fact that ChillOver allows you to cut the sugar in half!

Any help would be GREATLY appreciated!

Also will be trying violet jelly in the near future, so again, would like a recipe where I can substitute ChillOver in place of pectin. Thanks as always for your help, farm sisters! Share your recipes [here](#).

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Farm Kitchen: Okay ... these are just TOO CUTE! Submitted by Ninibini

Check [these](#) out! SUCH a cool way to dress up our Kitchenaids!!! :)

I wonder if I can make these on my Cricut ... I bet I can! I'm going to have to add this to my "to do" list this summer!

People are just so creative! Share your ideas [here](#).



Click [here](#) to visit HensInDaisies shop and buy these or many other ca-ute Kitchenaid decals.

continued ...



continued ...

Stitching & Crafting Room: Advice on vintage quilt top. Submitted by sariejack

Hi Everyone,

I am new to the forums, but I do have a question—haven't found advice on this through searching. I purchased a beautiful quilt top at a thrift store with the state birds of all 50 states painted on it. It's a HUGE quilt top—easily king-sized. I am no good at sewing and this quilt top is so big that I am not sure what to do with it.

I can take it by my local quilt shop and they will finish it for 2 cents a square foot. But I'd like to try something on my own, even though it's a huge quilt and I am a lousy seamstress. Could I make it into a duvet cover for a feather quilt? Or should I build a frame and just learn how to hand-quilt? Any thoughts are welcome! Share your thoughts **here**.

Stitching & Crafting Room: Antique sewing machine, got it!

Submitted by texdane

Hi Farmgirls!

Next to a vintage pickup truck, I've always wanted a treadle antique machine. I've found one for sale locally. Going to take a look. It's an off-brand, not a Singer, and I think from the '20s. I haven't seen the machine yet, but the cabinet is beautiful. How do I know if it's a good deal? Any advice is appreciated. I have an electric machine so it's not like I can't sew and am in need of a machine. It would be awesome if it works, but I think it would be an awesome showpiece and I can use the table in my sewing room. Advice? Give your advice **here**.



Across the Fence: Memorial UPDATE: Farmgirl Missing in WA Mudslide. Submitted by MaryJane

Brandy's daughter, Tiffany, is planning a celebration of Brandy Ogle Ward's life for June 22. (Brandy Ogle Ward was killed in the Washington Mudslide.)

She's trying to put together a table presentation of the things Brandy cherished most. Since all of her worldly possessions were destroyed in the mud slide, Tiffany asked if I could send a few farmgirl things her way.





For sure, I told her I can send a few things, but I asked her if farmgirls could lend a hand and help FILL that table.

She was thrilled with the idea of us sending small farmgirl items—the kinds of things that meant so much to Brandy. Things like canned goods, quilt squares, mail art, chicken décor, vintage clothing, etc.

Please send your items well in advance of June 22. Don't use earlier addresses you may have for Tiffany because she's moved closer to her dad to help him recover from his injuries.

Address to use:

Tiffany Burdette
19719 Dry Slough Road
Mt. Vernon, Washington 98273

Post **here** what it is you plan on sending. I'm sure it will boost their spirits to see what's coming their way! Let's rally!!!!

Submitted by Dirtduchess:

I will be so glad to participate. My daughter-in-law makes the most beautiful organic soap from her milk goats. I will send a bar of that soap. This is such a good idea. Bless her family.

Submitted by gramadinah:

Quilt squares on the way.

Submitted by Cissik:

Thanks Brian and MaryJane for keeping us updated. I have a quilt ready to send her.

Submitted by hoosiercountry:

I will be sending 3 life size carved chickens as stand-in's of "her girls."





Are you prepared for an emergency?

MaryJane's just-add-water organic meals—everything from instant pastas and grains to soups to breads to desserts—are available in 3-lb bulk oxygen-free bags for emergency preparedness long-term storage. Shelf life: 15+ years; breads: 5–8 years.

Don't delay. Get ready today!

The BioLite Camp Stove is the perfect complement to MaryJane's just-add-water organic meals. It cooks your meals with nothing but twigs. And, by converting heat into electricity, it can then charge your lights, phones, and other gadgets while you cook. It's great to have on hand during power outages. (\$129, biolitestove.com)



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lessons in
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farmgirl pets



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Farmgirl Sisterhood



Social Media

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

As ladies of the Sisterhood, now numbering 5,929 (and counting), we've earned an amazing number of Merit Badges so far—8,474 total! We've recently started alerting earned Badges daily on our MaryJanesFarm **Facebook** page. We started out alerting just the expert-level earners, but decided recently to alert all levels AND add photos if you include them. We're just so darn proud! Can you hear the clucking?

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

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

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

Thank you again,
Mary Bronson



Elaine!!!

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

kindness counts,
Kim



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a return
to what
dresses
were
always
meant
to be
~~~~~





# Merit Badge

## Awardees



### Merit Badge Awardees

**Becky Wickander: #5661**

Beginner badge: Stitching & Crafting / Buttoned Up

**Carole Prevost-Meier: ceridwen #3610**

Beginner badge: Stitching & Crafting / Knitting

Beginner badge: Stitching & Crafting / Quilting

Intermediate badge: Stitching & Crafting / Quilting

Expert badge: Stitching & Crafting / Quilting

**Catherine Laughlin: #5736**

Beginner badge: Cleaning Up / Going Green

Intermediate badge: Cleaning Up / Going Green

Expert badge: Cleaning Up / Going Green

**CJ Armstrong: ceejay48 #665**

Beginner badge: Garden Gate / Weather

Beginner badge: Stitching & Crafting / Origami

Intermediate badge: Garden Gate / Weather

Expert badge: Garden Gate / Weather

**Erica Sullivan: madhousefrau #5694**

Beginner badge: Cleaning Up / My Fair Farmgirl

Beginner badge: Each Other / Civic Heritage

Beginner badge: Each Other / Greatest Generation

Beginner badge: Each Other / Know Your Roots

Beginner badge: Each Other / Languages-Culture

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

Beginner badge: Make it Easy / Relaxation

Beginner badge: Stitching & Crafting / Aprons

Beginner badge: Stitching & Crafting / Buttoned Up

Beginner badge: Stitching & Crafting / Cross-Stitch

Beginner badge: Stitching & Crafting / Embroidery

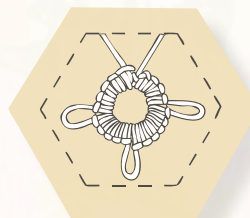
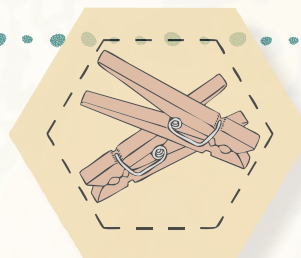
Beginner badge: Stitching & Crafting / Homespun Christmas

Beginner badge: Stitching & Crafting / Knitting

Beginner badge: Stitching & Crafting / Nellie Will-do

Beginner badge: Stitching & Crafting / Sew Wonderful

Beginner badge: Stitching & Crafting / Spinning



continued ...





Intermediate badge: Cleaning Up / Recycling  
 Intermediate badge: Farm Kitchen / Forage for Food  
 Intermediate badge: Farm Kitchen / Get it Together  
 Intermediate badge: Farm Kitchen / Recipes  
 Intermediate badge: Farm Kitchen / Unprocessed Kitchen  
 Intermediate badge: Garden Gate / Gaining Ground

**Jacinda Jenks: fairlady #5732**

Beginner badge: Farm Kitchen / Forage for Food  
 Beginner badge: Stitching & Crafting / Basketry  
 Beginner badge: Stitching & Crafting / Origami  
 Beginner badge: Stitching & Crafting / Quilting  
 Beginner badge: Stitching & Crafting / Sew Wonderful

**Karen Spires: #3975**

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

**Linda Cole: #4879**

Beginner badge: Cleaning Up / Recycling  
 Intermediate badge: Cleaning Up / Recycling

**Patti White: P.Ann #4415**

Beginner badge: Stitching & Crafting / Dyeing for Color  
 Intermediate badge: Stitching & Crafting / Quilting

**Robyn Barney: Lakeviewgram #5664**

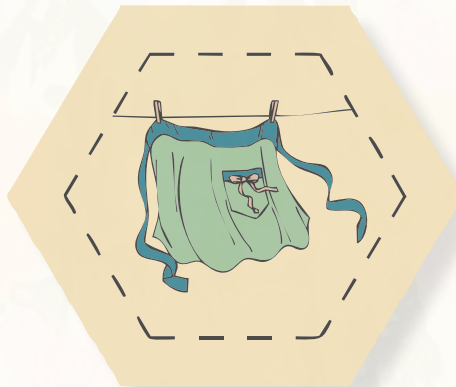
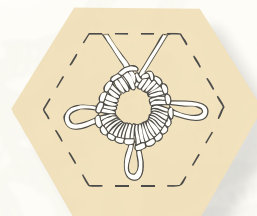
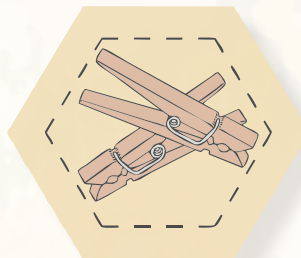
Beginnng badge: Each Other / Farmgirl Grammar  
 Beginnng badge: Each Other / Farmgirl Gratitude  
 Beginnng badge: Each Other / Know Your Roots

**Starletta Schipp: star-schipp #1927**

Beginner badge: Each Other / Blogging  
 Beginner badge: Garden Gate / Herbs  
 Intermediate badge: Cleaning Up / Recycling

**Suzanne Holland: Suzanneh #828**

Intermediate badge: Make it Easy / Make it Pretty



continued ...





continued ...

**Terry Steinmetz: teryouth #3600**

Beginner badge: Cleaning Up / Going Green

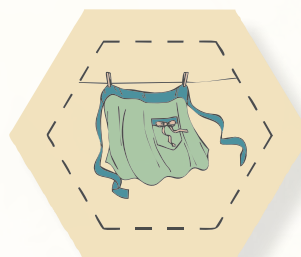
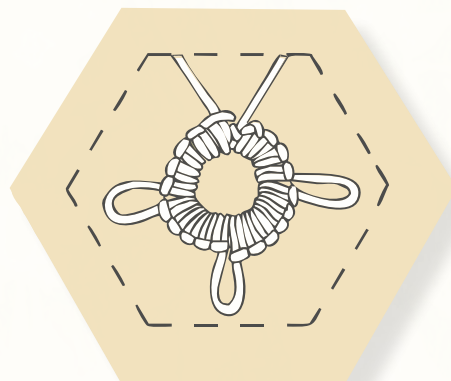
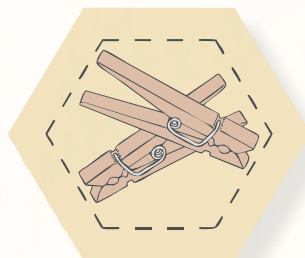
Beginner badge: Farm Kitchen / Organic on a Budget

Intermediate badge: Cleaning Up / Going Green

Intermediate badge: Farm Kitchen / Bustin' Out

**Wendy Richardson: Henrietta Cluckington #5875**

Beginner badge: Garden Gate / Backyard Farmer







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# 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.**







## Young Cultivators Group

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

### Making Summer

With summer just around the corner, I'm gathering up simple games to pull out on lazy afternoons. To celebrate the season with your little ones, fill a basket with fresh sidewalk chalk, a sprinkler for water play, watercolor paints, and some homemade bubble solution. Add supplies for the following projects and play together!

#### Balloon Tennis

Balloon Tennis is played using paper plates as the racquets. To make your own set, attach tongue depressors to the backs of two small paper plates with duct tape. Grab a balloon, inflate, and you're ready to play.

#### Memory

We made our Memory set using rubber stamps and wooden discs from the craft store. The lovely thing about Memory is its many variations. Use pairs of stickers on squares of card stock, words written lightly on the backs of post-it notes, or watercolor dots on the backs of wooden shapes (little stars or hearts are nice).

#### Nature Mosaics

Mosaics are easy to make with thick paper and glue. Cut a rectangle out of a used paper grocery bag or cereal box and send your little ones outside with a bottle of glue and instructions to make a picture out of twigs, leaves, seeds, bark, flowers, and grass that they find. Anything outside is fair game.

It's easy and inexpensive to make your own fun. The kids can help you gather materials and make games. Best of all, when the shine wears off, there won't be another plastic toy in the garbage.







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

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# Available Now on a Newsstand Near You

Find lots of ideas for handmade weddings (including our own Karina, below), learn to make your own canvas art frames, discover natural remedies for depression and anxiety, make reader-submitted pizza contest recipes, get ideas for decorating with burlap, and more in the next issue of *MaryJanesFarm*. Our June/July issue (Something Borrowed) hit newsstands on May 13. Don't risk missing *MaryJanesFarm* magazine on newsstands. Subscribe [here](#)!







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*home*



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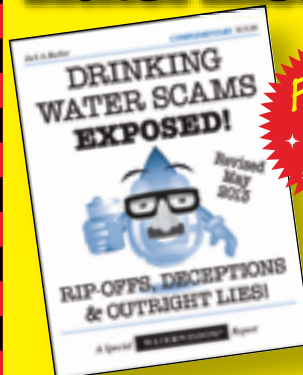
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# Meet our Bloggers

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

Farmgirls are tapping away at their keyboards to bring you news from the homefront, no matter where you live or what your interests. Rebekah Teal, a former judge, writes about being a farmgirl in the city; Alexandra Wilson blogs from the rural perspective; Nicole Christensen gives you the suburban viewpoint, and Debbie Bosworth writes from the beach. You can click to our farmgirl blogs right on our home page ([MaryJanesFarm.org](http://MaryJanesFarm.org)). While you're there, sign up for our e-mail blog alerts and recipe of the week.

## city FARMGIRL



**Rebekah Teal** is a farmgirl from a large metropolitan area who recently made her dreams come true by moving to a farm. Given her dyed-in-the-wool city-girl background, she still writes our **City Farmgirl Blog**. She's a lawyer who has worked in both criminal defense and prosecution, and she has been a judge, a business woman, and a stay-at-home mom. She's not only down-home citified, she's a true-blue farmgirl ... in (the occasional) pair of stilettos!

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

## rural FARMGIRL



**Alexandra Wilson** is a budding rural farmgirl living in Palmer, Alaska—the agricultural seat of the last frontier—and she shares her adventures on our **Rural Farmgirl Blog**. Alex is a graduate student at Alaska Pacific University, pursuing an M.S. in Outdoor and Environmental Education. She is focused on developing a program to inspire young women to become beginning farmers. She lives and works on the university's 700-acre educational farm, and has just welcomed the newest member of her family, baby Ava Maureen. Alex loves to rock climb, repurpose found objects, cross-country ski on the hay fields, travel, practice yoga, and cook with new-fangled ingredients.

## suburban FARMGIRL



**Nicole Christensen**, our current **Suburban Farmgirl Blogger**, calls herself a “knitter, jam-maker, and 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 close to 20 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.”

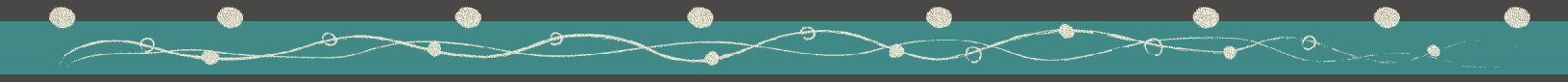
## beach FARMGIRL



**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.’”





suburban farmgirl

## Nicole's Favorites

### Natural Sunscreen

Hooray! It's June! My favorite season is really here! Time to get outside to garden, grill, head to the beach, and play! It feels good to be outside, in the sun. From now until fall, my family spends as much time as we can outside.

With all that sun exposure, sunscreen is a must. We've all heard it many times. I'm constantly reminding my fair-haired husband and daughter to put on sunscreen before heading out. Did you know that just driving in your car can expose you to damaging rays? Yet I've always worried about what's in sunscreen, and how harmful the products are. I think my family has bought and tried every single one on the market! While conventional sunscreens may offer sun protection, they're made with scary chemicals. For example, oxybenzone, found in most sunscreens and absorbed in the skin, has been thought to cause endocrine problems, while another chemical, octocrylene, is thought to cause reproductive problems. Many sunscreens are very oily, stain our clothes, or make a mess of car seats. Some sprays made our skin sting, while others felt uncomfortably thick and heavy. So many conventional sunscreens also have heavy, horrible fragrances (and attract wasps)!

I've also tried many "natural" sunscreens. While their ingredients were more acceptable than conventional products, we were dismayed by their scent or consistency. We found some to be difficult to evenly apply (some would even "clump"), or we'd end up with white streaks all over our arms and legs within minutes of application. This summer, I'm thrilled to have found a sunscreen that my family doesn't mind using. Goddess Garden Organics Sunscreens was founded by a mom with the same concerns for her own daughter, who was allergic to traditional products and sunscreens. Goddess Garden Organics **Sunny Body Sport Spray Natural Sunscreen** uses natural titanium dioxide and zinc oxide for sun protection (which "sits" on top of skin, as opposed to "sinking into" skin), along with skin-friendly ingredients such as certified organic aloe and sunflower oil. I can apply the non-aerosol spray quickly and evenly, without a heavy, sticky feel. It's also scent-free. The earth-friendly formula is biodegradable and "reef safe," and the package is recyclable. Sunburn is no fun, and this sunscreen will help my family enjoy bright, sunny days. I found mine at Whole Foods, or you can visit the **Goddess Garden Organics** website to order or find stores near you.





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# Magazines, Books & More



Our June/July issue (Something Borrowed) hit newsstands on May 13. In it, you'll find lots of ideas for handmade weddings, learn to make your own canvas art frames, discover natural remedies for depression and anxiety, make reader-submitted pizza contest recipes, get ideas for decorating with burlap, and more!

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

If you're a subscriber, you should have received your magazine by about May 10. (Those of you near postal hubs get faster delivery; rural delivery takes a little longer.) If you didn't receive your magazine, you can call our publisher's subscription department at 800-476-4611 to check on your delivery.

## MaryJanesFarm *Calendar*

Our **2014 calendar** is still 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:

June 1 ~ Say Something Nice Day  
June 5 ~ World Environment Day  
June 7 ~ International Glamping Weekend  
June 8 ~ World Oceans Day, Race Unity Day  
June 10 ~ Iced Tea Day  
June 14 ~ Family History Day, Flag Day  
June 15 ~ Fathers' Day, Worldwide Day of Giving  
June 21 ~ First Day of Summer  
June 29 ~ Log Cabin Day

June  
Sisterhood  
Special!  
(see p. 46)

### 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!**



5, 929 Sisterhood members and  
8,474 Merit Badges earned —  
growing stronger every day!