

MARYJANES FARM®

Sister Issue



April 2015

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



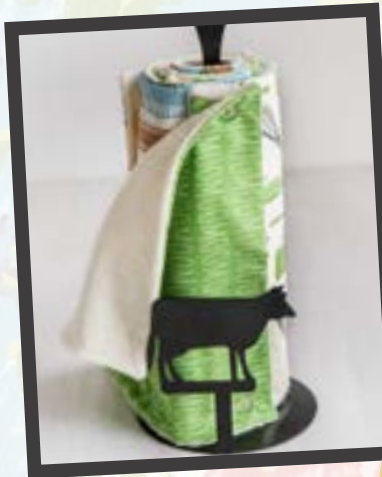
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{ just a click away! }



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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.



Kristi



Carol



Karina



MaryJane's Picks

I've always loved beautiful baskets, and in honor of Easter, here are some gorgeous ones I found on Etsy. Use baskets to decorate for the season ... display eggs or treats in straw, or place a few pots of wheat grass in a basket, nestled in some colored Easter grass, for seasonal décor.

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



HandwovenByKjerstin



STGNantucket



StaghornBasketry



ViyasWickerWorks

Hello from Sister #1



Hello

"What's this a photo of, MJ?" Funny you should ask. Why, it's two things—a napkin that has tomato seeds stuck to it and a Jubilee hat magnet.

Oooooo kaaaay.

Let me back up. For many years, I was under the impression that the reason you had to ferment certain seeds (namely tomatoes) was biological, kind of like certain pine trees, whose cones need to survive a forest fire (extreme heat) in order for them to germinate.

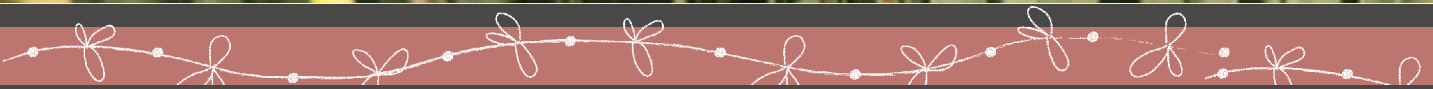
So after every season, I conjured up a yucky, moldy mess of fermenting tomato juice/seeds on my kitchen counter. Well, guess what? The fermenting part of it came about to enable us to help the seed part company with the gooey insides of the tomato. It isn't necessary for seed germination, like I once thought.

So last year, I shared photos of my no-fuss 'mater seed-saving technique (to read it again, go to page 6 in the **March 2014 Sister Issue**). Simply take a tomato and scrape it along a section of paper towel, squeezing slightly as you go. Voila! Good, clean tomato seeds. Let the paper towel dry out, then plant entire sections of the seed-impregnated paper towel directly into the soil, thinning as necessary once you see sprouts.

As it turns out, I had such a bumper crop of my favorite heirloom tomato—black cherry (at right)—I couldn't stop saving seeds. Anyone wanting a napkin full of seeds, let me know during the month of April and I'll get them on their way to you. E-mail me at maryjane@maryjanesfarm.org and put "tomato seeds" in the subject line. I'll need your name, address, zip. (FYI, my crop was completely disease-free.)

Now back to the Jubilee hat. A local woman crocheted 15 small red hats for me, starched them stiff, and then I glued a magnet on the back of each one. It makes a ca-ute refrigerator magnet, don't you think? The first 15 Sisters who put in an order here for something this or that during the month of April will find one red, happy, Jubilee bonnet in their box. Enjoy!





continued ...



continued ...

Household Tips from the Past



This month, I decided to spend a little time spring cleaning my library. In addition to the hundreds of books I keep for reference and relaxation, I also have a vast collection of vintage women's magazines and clippings, everything from *The Farmer's Wife* to *Modern Priscilla*. If they're old enough, you might see an illustration from one in this newsletter. Others, I keep for the nostalgia of it all.



And the ads? They're always good for a hysterical perspective ... oops! I mean historical. Let's just say, we've come a long way, baby.





In the stacks, I ran across pages of household hints, carefully cut from old magazines and newspapers and glued onto ledger paper by my mother. I guess the apple didn't fall far from that particular tree. Reading through them, I found that some were still helpful, some were better left in the past, and some were downright hilarious. I'll share a few here ... hope you enjoy them as much as I did!



Mint will keep fresh for some time if it is washed in cold water in which a little bicarbonate of soda has been dissolved.

Every desk worker needs bending exercises if she is to retain the slender figure of youth. Stand erect, chest inflated, tummy flat, hips back. Place the hands on the hips, bend forward and back, from side to side. Send the upper part of the body in circles. Do the torso twist, keeping the hands on the hips, twisting at the waistline. Do it ten minutes every morning.

When washing up, put a piece of lemon peel into the bowl. It will soften the water, remove all traces of the smell of fish, onions, and so on, and put a fine gloss on china.

Fine steel wool stuffing in pincushions will keep the needle and pin points sharp.

Before the bar of scented toilet soap gets to the breaking stage, carry it down to the kitchen and put it in the soap shaker. Somehow the dishes do not seem so repulsive if the water has a pleasant smell and a nice lather.

We're no advocate of the dry shampoo, but it does serve when it is not convenient to duck the head in the soap suds. Don't hope the finger wave will survive. It won't. Mix equal parts of powdered orris root and corn meal. Put it on the hair with a tin salt shaker, distributing it evenly. Remove with a hair brush. Give a final grooming with the bristles of the brush covered with cotton.

When mixing pastry, a little lemon juice added to the water will make the pastry lighter and remove all taste of fat.

Wash your dishcloth in some hot salt water, and it will always be sweet and clean.

A bit of butter under the lip of a cream pitcher will prevent those annoying little drops of fluid on the tablecloth.

If cream won't whip, try adding the white of an egg.

Put a pinch of flour in grease when frying eggs and the grease won't pop.

Tint the eyelids with rouge, just a stingy bit, and observe how the rosy surface brings out the color of the eyes and makes more noticeable the eyelashes. Don't forget the wee blush on the chin and two more on the earlobes.

Mary Jane 



Big welcome to our new and renewing Sisterhood members!

Alise Snyder
Amanda Henning
Amber Schrumpf
Andee Dekofsky
Andrea Racht
Angel Green
Ann Allerup
April Bryan Rizzie
Autumn Day
Barbara Floyd
Becki Pope
Becky Wickander
Bernadette Darter
Bobbie Williams
Bonnie Simons
Bonnie Mason
Brenda Towsley
Brenda Forrest
Brittany Watkins
Carissa Black
Carla Chase
Carolyn Miller
Carolyn Brandt
Carrie Janes
Catherine Love
Catherine Livingston
Cheryl Osborn

Christina Dzeskewicz
Claudia Zelazny
Connie Riley
Courtney Munch-Rahe
Cynthia Feedback
Cynthia Tidwell
Darlene Richardson
Dawn Gusoff
Deb Fischer
Debbie Busch
Deborah Cornett
Debra Brodie
Debra Thomas
Debra Grauman
Demetra Luciano
Diana Davis
DJ Varon
Donna Rowe
Donna Lettsome
Elizabeth Crick
Ellen Osborn
Evelyn Dalton
Fran Dewitte
Genie Pinheiro
Gentry Parker
Helen Harrah
Ivy M. Lanier

Jackie Beauchene
Jamie Jachimiec
Jan Knox
Jane Miller
Janice K. Sturgill
Janie Gibson
Jean Mowery
Jeanine Ford
Jenni Burgan
Jennifer Chappell
Jennifer Lehman
Jennifer Cowgill
Jennifer Bonnell
Jennifer Pierson
Jessica Sanford
Julie Stancato
Julie Lucchesi
Karen Feichtner
Karen Schoening
Karen L. Bates
Katherine Osborn
Kathy Sheridan
Kathy Beachy
Kathy Allaway
Katrina Boatwright
Kim Kozda
Kimberly Jacobson

Laura Shearer
Laura Crowley
Leigh-Ann Whitten
Lisa Hutchin
Lisa Bramblet
Lisa Kelley
Loran Watkins
Lori Day
Lynette McPherson
Margaret Brown
Marguerite Stroede
Maria Day
Marie Westphal
Marilyn Hartman Sullivan
Marilyn Keurajian
Marilyn Keurajian
Marilyn Black
Martha Koukios
Mary Heft
Mary Bronson
Mary Lynn Bernhard
Maryellen Benton
Megan Ellis Raffaelli
Michelle Prudden
Michelle Fuhrman
Monica Wagenbach

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

— Author Unknown



Nancy J. Parker
 Nancy Wallace
 Nancy Diercks
 Pamela Capener
 Pamela Barnes-Palty
 Pat Wilkins
 Pat Conklin
 Patti Arnold
 Phyllis Bergh
 Rachel Smith
 Ramona Morris
 Rebecca Hunter
 Rebecca Gour
 Rene Weaver
 Rienna Novy
 Rochelle Gale
 Rosemarie Diederick
 Sallie Dee Walker
 Sandra Lamb
 Sarah Bynum Jose
 Sharon Staton
 Sharon Celi
 Shelley Adkins
 Shelly Bodenmiller
 Sherrie Ottinger
 Summer Fenton
 Susan Bodner

Susan Ainsworth Smith
 Susan Ferry
 Susan Kaar
 Tanya Murphy
 Tara Weckerly
 Teresa Sole
 Teresa Julian
 Theresa Parker
 Tina Linneman
 Tish Brandt
 Toni Lachine
 Tracy Lacina
 Victoria Hess
 Victoria Montoya
 Virginia Meyer
 Wanda Sturrock
 Wendy Beach



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).

Reduce. Reuse. Recycle

In honor of these now-famous words and April’s upcoming Earth Day, I decided to take a look at my “trashy” habits, so-to-speak, by reviewing what was going into my garbage can. Turns out, we use a lot of paper towels, especially with little ones who are growing independent. I decided to reduce my use by making reusable paper towels. I’ve had my eye on our new Milk Cow Kitchen fabric, and this project seemed perfect for it.

I purchased a yard of terry cloth, washed and ironed my fabrics, and made some measurements. Standard paper towels are 11" wide by 10 1/4" tall, and I wanted my towels to fit within a standard dispenser, so I added a 1/4" seam allowance and cut my Milk Cow Kitchen fabric to 10 3/4" by 11 1/2". As for the terry cloth, here’s what I learned through trial-and-error: no matter how many pins are holding it in place, terry cloth moves. My solution? Cut the terry cloth slightly larger than the fabric to begin.

Take a square of fabric and a square of terry cloth, pin them with right sides together, and stitch a seam around the perimeter, leaving about a 2" gap. Trim the terry cloth to the size of the fabric. Use the gap to turn the square right side out, then stitch it closed.

Now you’re ready for buttonholes and buttons, although any type of fastener could be used to connect the towels. An added note about buttons: you’ll want to use a low-profile button so you don’t build up too much extra bulk when the towels are wound onto a roll.

I placed all my buttonholes 3/4" down from the top and 3/4" in from each side. Once I sewed the buttonholes with the buttonhole setting and foot on my sewing machine, I cut them with a sharp seam ripper. Then for button placement, I stacked all my towels together and used one of them as a template to mark a dot through each buttonhole onto the fabric below with a pen. Then I sewed on the buttons, buttoned all of my towels together, wrapped them around an empty paperboard tube, and plopped them on the dispenser.

Once I got the hang of it, this was a fast and easy project, and I love the statement they make when we have guests over. After I use the towels, I wash and reuse them. Again and again. Every little bit counts toward the care of our Earth!



Meg



Sister Loves

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

Kristi's
PICKS
(JUST A CLICK AWAY)



MAIL-ART MAVEN
(SISTER #4314)

Art Cards Editions and Originals (ACEOs) and Artist Trading Cards (ATCs) are an excellent way to build an art collection if you don't have a lot of money to spend. I've been trading ATCs locally with my friends for years, and it was through that interest I discovered that many artists offer originals for sale in small scale. Plus, teeny-tiny-little art just makes me happy.

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

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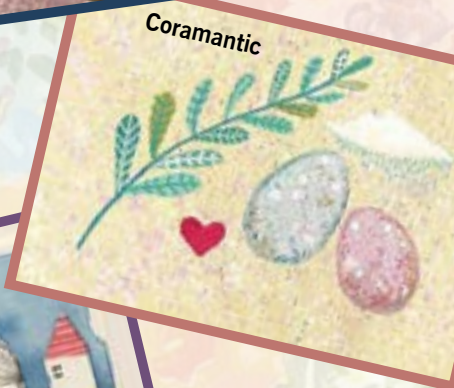
April 2015



PamelaJonesArtStudio



PainterNik



Coramantic



CoriD



LaurieAConleyArt



KarlaVoelkerArt



LostInPaint

Goodness, Gracious.

Once Again
Nut and Seed
Butters are
Non-GMO



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

MANUFACTURER'S COUPON • EXPIRES 1/31/17

DO NOT DOUBLE



Save 80¢

on any 16 oz. jar of
Once Again Sunflower Seed Butter!

Void if altered, copied, sold, purchased, transferred, exchanged, or where prohibited or restricted by law.

RETAILER: Once Again Nut Butter will reimburse you the face value of this coupon plus 8¢ if submitted within the effective dates. Cash value 1/100 cent. Send to: Once Again Nut Butter, P.O. Box 407, MPS Dept No. 772, Cinnaminson, NJ 08077

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Chocolate "Sh-moothie"

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

- | | |
|--|---|
| ¾ cup silken tofu | 1 tbsp Once Again Organic Lightly Sweetened Sunflower Seed Butter |
| ¾ cup frozen banana slices | ¾ tsp vanilla extract |
| 2 tbsp unsweetened vanilla almond milk | |
| 1 tbsp unsweetened cocoa powder | |
| 1 tsp agave nectar | |

Vegan
Gluten Free



Scan this QR code
for more recipes!

Need a long lasting source of fuel that will keep you full and satisfied all morning? Look no further. This recipe is named a "sh-moothie" since it is protein-packed and more like a chocolate shake's healthy cousin—14 grams of protein with the indulgent sense of dessert!

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

Note: It is important to use frozen bananas in this recipe since there is no added ice. Frozen bananas also result in the creamiest milkshake-like texture.

NUTRIENTS PER SERVING (1 servings): **CALORIES:** 375, **TOTAL FAT:** 13.7g, **SAT. FAT:** 2.0g, **CHOLESTEROL:** 0mg, **SODIUM:** 80.1mg, **CARBS:** 54.7g, **FIBER:** 6.5g, **SUGARS:** 34.2g, **PROTEIN:** 14.2g.

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www.OnceAgainNutButter.com





Each Other



Don't Let Your Babies Grow Up to Be Mamas

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



Melyssa Williams (Sister #161) was homeschooled and spent a perfectly ridiculous amount of time reading and writing, usually in a tree, sometimes with pet chickens. Now she stays out of trees, but still reads and writes. There are three 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.

Dentistry for Rugrats

When you've had more than 2.5 kids, and you've had them longer than 2.5 years, you are bound to come across a non-pleasant dentistry experience.

Once, my 4-year-old had to have some teeth pulled.

There were sobs and tears and yelling and hitting.

From me.

At home.

Because I didn't go.

I left that to the Daddy, because I figured I gestated him and birthed him, so Daddy could do the dentist thing and we'd pretty much be even.

More or less.

When he came home, he was puffy-eyed and sniffy and seemed out of it due to the drugs, and he also wanted ice cream.

Daddy, I mean.

The boy looked like a rugby-playing hockey pro.

And he had a blood mustache.

A BLOOD MUSTACHE.

He looked like a 4-year-old vampire.

Not pretty. Not right. Very, very wrong on every level.

If you were hoping to get Parent of the Year Awards this year, you're welcome for narrowing down the competition. I have officially dropped out of the running.



So we did what every self-respecting parent does when they realize they've totally messed up their kid and want to redeem themselves: They leave \$10 from the tooth fairy instead of the usual 50¢.

Parenting by bribes, it's how we roll. If you give Mommy a kiss, I'll give you cake. If you snuggle Daddy, he'll buy you some Legos. If you don't ever leave me and go to college, I'll buy you a pony. Things like that.

So now my son will be wasting the afternoon at the Dollar Store, spending like a drunken sailor, lighting cigars for fellow toddlers with his greenbacks, and buying toys that will break the second we get them in the car.

And who knows? Maybe the last *Twilight* movie will be casting small vampires.

“ You can learn many things from children.
How much patience you have, for instance. ”

– Franklin P. Jones



Sister Loves

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

Carol's
PICKS
(JUST A CLICK AWAY)



GRAPHIC DESIGNER,
UKULELE ENTHUSIAST
(SISTER #3)



KateCreativeWorkshop



MiaPuPe



BearCreekDesign

Easter ... spring, renewal, eggs, and BUNNIES! I have to admit, I love bunnies. It might have started with my very first 4H project: a big, white, fluffy bunny. There must have been a second bunny, too, because in a shockingly short amount of time, we had a whole row of cages full of bunnies next to the barn. Even some 60 years later, there's still something about bunnies that pulls on my heart strings. Here are a few easy-care, non-reproducing, cute-as-can-be bunnies I found on Etsy.



TimoHandmade



TeddyBears
andCompany

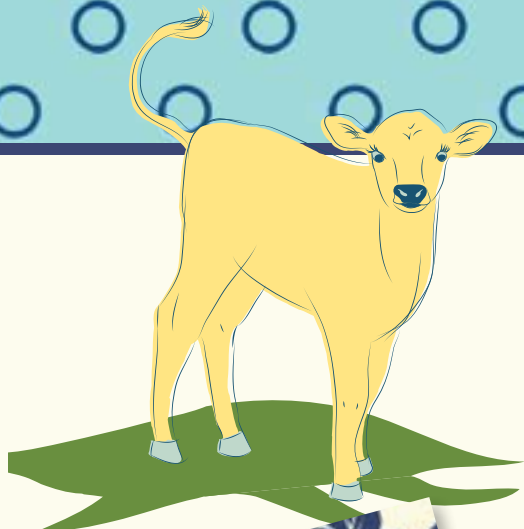


Brambly
Woodland

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

Did you know?

Bunnies can have up to 14 babies in a litter and their gestation period is an ultra-short 28–31 days! How about this ... if a single female bunny had an average of 6 bunnies per litter and 3 of those were also females, at the end of a 7-year period, that family could potentially number 185 BILLION bunnies!



moda MILK COW KITCHEN

FABRIC by *Mary Jane* ♥

With every purchase of my Milk Cow Kitchen fabric (available at MaryJanesFarm.org), we'll include a free copy of the 58" x 72" milk-can quilt pattern shown below. You'll find a list of the fabric you'll need to make the quilt under the fabric's product description.

For a video tutorial that shows how to turn my Milk Cow Kitchen fabric into an adorable kitchen towel, go to YouTube.com and type in "Fat Quarter Shop hanging hand towel." My fabric is also available at FatQuarterShop.com and your local quilt shop.

DON'T DELAY! SUPPLIES ARE LIMITED.

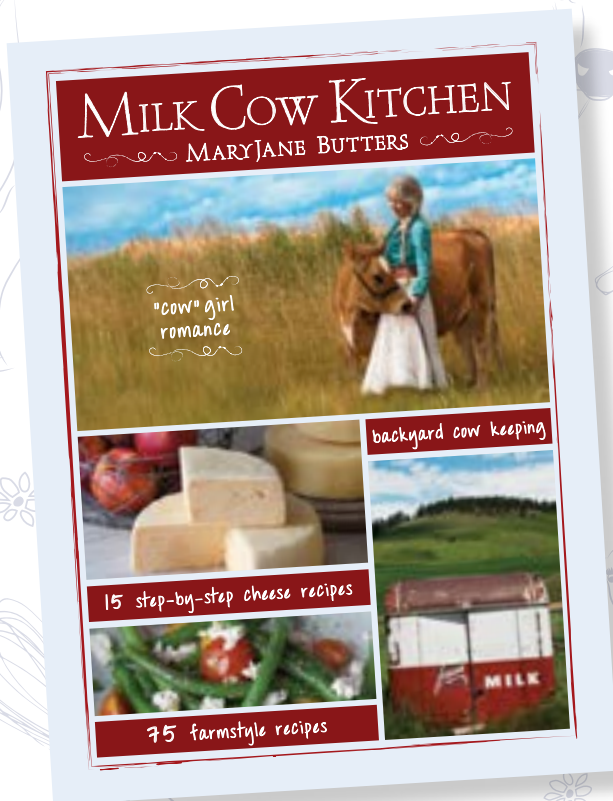




“In her fifth book, MaryJane covers just about everything cows and dairy. If you can make it past the food and cheese recipes without needing to eat, you’re a better “cow”girl than I. But the real gem of the book is the hooves-up, how-to advice on keeping a healthy, happy, backyard cow. Whether you’re a city-dweller or country gal, longtime cow-owner or recently ruminating on the idea of adding a cow to your life, I promise you have something you can learn from *Milk Cow Kitchen*. ”

– Laurel Bake, Dexter milk cow owner

MILK COW KITCHEN



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

MaryJane 



autographed copies available at
MaryJanesFarm.org

\$35/available wherever good books are sold



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

backyard cow keeping how-to
75 farmstyle recipes
15 step-by-step cheese recipes
milk cow décor



“Eye candy extraordinaire! But, there’s more to it than that. This is the first book I’ve found that really tells you HOW to “have a cow” without having a full-fledged farm ... and there are oodles of recipes, including 15 cheese recipes that I’m dying to try—even before I bring home a cow! ”



“Part coffee-table book with gorgeous photography and beautiful cows, part cookbook with step-by-step instructions on making nearly any kind of cheese you can think of, and part how-to manual on buying/raising/milking a cow, this book is an invaluable reference for anyone considering raising milk cows ... or living vicariously through those who do! ”



Each Other



Homeschooling with Melyssa



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



Melyssa Williams (Sister #161) was homeschooled and spent a perfectly ridiculous amount of time reading and writing, usually in a tree, sometimes with pet chickens. Now she stays out of trees, but still reads and writes. There are three 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.

Spring Break! or ... It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas

Sometimes, I think I should retire to Florida, at the ripe old age of 37.

If it weren't for my dislike of 'gators and bugs bigger than my bread box, I'd be there now.

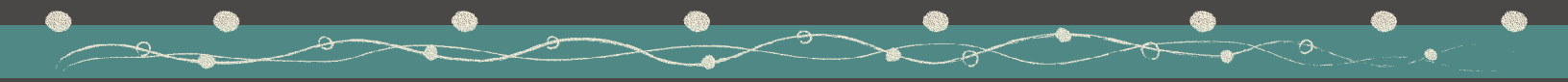
On the plus side, I now need all two hands and two feet to count the number of highways I've shut down over the years in springtime. That's an accomplishment not many can boast. I barely make it through the White Witch's Winter Wonderland, my eyes bloodshot from the force of the defroster melting my face, fingernail scratches on the windows, small children hyped up on the emergency candy supply (chewing makes them talk less, which is a bonus when you're scared beyond belief and need quiet to plan your own funeral), blocks of ice (eerily similar in size to the one that sunk the Titanic) stuck to the windshield wipers, bladders about to burst, and the Lord's Prayer bursting forth out of my mouth in intermittent gasps, when I see friendly state troopers turning everyone back from the Mountain of Death and Dismemberment. Where are such friendly troopers when I attempt to go *up* the mountain, huh? Why are they always waiting at the bottom for me? Are they biding their time in order to judge my state of mind when I finally slide down the black ice?

Hey, Roger Roger, here comes the Mommobile now. Gettin' a good look as she fishtails by ... yeppers, by golly, her hair is white and there's a Twizzler stuck to her ear. That calls it for me; shut this mountain down, boys.

Roger that, over and out.

It really doesn't matter what time of year I plan a road trip. It doesn't matter what state lines I plan to cross. It doesn't matter what the weathermen say. If your crops are in a drought, dear readers, I can save them. Either that, or bury them forever in snow. Let's not split hairs.

Now, no more silliness. I must go unpack my suitcase; I'm fairly certain there's a small child in there somewhere eating all my Twizzlers.





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 Alina, 1).

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.

Candy Eggs

It's impossible to go to grocery stores this time of year without being assaulted by a zillion different types of Easter candy packaged in pretty pastels. As appealing and tempting as these are to me (and my sweet tooth), I have managed to deny their pull. (Well, if I'm being completely honest, there was a questionable incident where I had one of these alluring candies in hand, but was able to talk myself back from the edge.) Knowing that I can't completely deprive my sweet tooth, I resolved to create my own version of Easter candies. These chocolate-covered candies have a deliciously simple coconut-cream filling. The biggest trick to the filling is giving the cans of full-fat coconut milk or coconut cream plenty of chill time in the refrigerator so the coconut cream can solidify. Once it's solid, it's scooped out of the top of the can (even with cans of coconut cream, there's still a fair amount of coconut milk), and whipped with jam and shredded coconut to create a luscious filling that will make adults and kids alike swoon. Enjoy!

Coconut Cream & Strawberry Candy Eggs

Prep Time: 35 minutes, plus 20 minutes setting time

Cook Time: 15 minutes

Makes: 16 candy eggs

- 8 ozs white or milk chocolate (I used 4 ozs of each)
- 1/2 cup coconut cream (To get this amount you will need one 13.5-oz can classic (not light), unsweetened coconut milk or two 5.4-oz cans of unsweetened coconut cream that have been refrigerated overnight to firm up the cream. I used Native Forest Brand.)
- 2 T strawberry jam
- 1/4 cup finely shredded coconut

Special Equipment:

Silikomart 16-cavity Small Oval Mold

food-safe paintbrush

pastry bag fitted with Wilton #1 tip for decorating eggs (optional)

1. Melt chocolate in a small saucepan over low heat. Place mold on a baking sheet for stability and pour about 1 1/2 t chocolate into the bottom of each cavity. Using a small, food-safe paintbrush, coat side of each cup in chocolate. Refrigerate until chocolate sets.



2. In a medium bowl or stand mixer, whip coconut cream until fluffy. Add strawberry jam and coconut; mix well.
3. Evenly divide coconut cream filling between cups, leaving a little room in the top of each cup for a final layer of chocolate. Re-melt chocolate if necessary, and fill tops of cups with chocolate. Refrigerate until chocolate sets.
4. Remove eggs from mold. If desired, re-melt remaining chocolate and add to a pastry bag fitted with a Wilton #1 tip. Draw desired designs on eggs.
5. Store in refrigerator or freezer. If left out at room temperature for too long, the coconut cream will liquefy and seep out of candies (freezing candies first will lengthen the time they can be left out a room temperature).





Outpost

Unleashing Your Inner Wild



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

Host a Birdie Shower

"Here we come!" calls the red-winged blackbird.

Migratory birds of all kinds are returning from their winter homes and brightening the world outside our windows with sweet songs of spring. As carefree as they may sound, though, the birds are busy this month. There are nests to build and eggs to lay.

And the fun news for farmgirls? You can host a backyard baby, er, *birdie* shower to help neighboring birds feather their nests while bringing a little craft and color to your outpost.

Party Prep

The purpose of this party is to provide nesting materials for local birds, so the "favors" will be goodie bags full of snippets, scraps, and string they can use. Masters of upcycling on the fly, birds will opportunistically snag all sorts of stuff—natural and otherwise—to craft cradles that cushion, insulate, and camouflage their brood. In nature, they gather things like leaves, grass, fur, feathers, moss, pebbles, pine needles, spider webs, and cattail fluff. But in backyards, resources can run scarce. Fortunately, every farmgirl has a stash of scraps ...

Guests and Gifts

Gather a group of gal pals (no crafting experience necessary) by sending out invitations like **these little darlings on Etsy**. Name the time, place, and a list of gifts that everyone can bring—the "registry" for this shower won't cost anyone a dime:

- Cotton, hemp, jute, or wool yarn (3" to 5" lengths)
- Raffia
- Broom bristles
- Strips of cotton fabric (3" to 5" lengths, up to 1/4" thickness)
- Bits of burlap
- Natural fiber stuffing/fill
- Twigs



Photo by Alan D. Wilson, [NaturesPicsOnline.com](#),
via Wikimedia Commons



- Moss and lichen
- Wool fleece
- Clean mesh produce bags or natural-fiber net bags like the **Mini Cotton Ditty Bag from Ecobags.com**

Make sure that all materials are clean and free of dust, mold, or chemical treatments. Skip potentially harmful plastics like fishing line and dental floss, and ditch the dryer lint, too (it may contain residues from detergents and fabric softeners).

Nest Bag Assembly

At the birdie shower, guests can pile their “gifts” in the middle of a table, making a well-mixed mound of materials. Or the stash can be sorted by size and type. Make sure everyone has a mesh bag (or two).

Guests begin loosely filling their bags with bits and pieces, offering an assortment of shapes and colors for birds to choose from.

Tease ends of scraps through the holes in the mesh bags so that birds will be able to grab with their beaks and pull pieces free (crochet hooks come in handy here).

Using drawstrings or sturdy twine, tie off the top of each bag, leaving loose ends for hanging.

When everyone is finished, have fun hanging the bags securely on tree branches or fence posts where happy bird parents can perch and pluck.

Keep an eye out—you might spy a bird gathering goodies or a nest with some of your scraps incorporated.

MaryJane ♥



Photo courtesy of **Wild Birds Unlimited blog**,
Lansing, Michigan



Outpost

Unleashing Your Inner Wild



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



Sandi O'Connor, Sister #3956 says, "I've always loved travel and had a lifelong dream of owning a travel trailer. It was only natural that I began posting as the Travelin' Sister #3956 on **Glampers on the Loose!** My husband and I, who live in coastal Massachusetts, bought our first trailer four years ago, and before I could even think about what was happening, we became immersed in the whole travel trailer culture. We've met wonderful people and made friends for life. Traveling several times a year to meet with friends has become something we look forward to while we're still working. Someday, we'll join the 'on the road' culture and see what it's like to be out for months at a time!"

Back on the Road Again!

I love this time of year, when we polish up and pack "the silver girl" (our Airstream) and head out for wherever. Our first trip out in 2015 was to the Fort Myers, Florida, area, where I had the pleasure of visiting the winter estates of Thomas Alva Edison and Henry Ford. How much fun would it be to have a second home in a beautiful climate, in the dead of winter, next to your best friend?

Edison, born in 1847 when America was mostly rural, became a prolific inventor. Inventions included the phonograph, the motion-picture camera, and the first practical electric lightbulb. He received the Congressional Gold Medal for his contributions, the highest award a civilian can obtain.

Henry Ford, who grew up on a farm, wanted more than rural life and began working as engineer at the Edison Illuminating Company, where he developed his first car, called the "Ford Quadricycle." Edison, who loved Ford's designs, became his mentor, and the two became good friends. Ford started the Ford Motor Company in 1903 and found great success with his Model T design (by 1918, half of all cars in America were Model Ts).



Edison & Ford™

WINTER ESTATES

Homes • Gardens • Laboratory • Museum



Both these men enjoyed immense wealth and lived during the Gilded Age of the late 19th century. The public is now able to tour their homes on the banks of the Caloosahatchee River and see not only the rooms where they lived, but the actual laboratory that Edison worked in. The 20 acres of these restored buildings and lush tropical gardens are beautifully maintained and really give us a historically correct view of the time. The grounds also include the Edison Botanic Research Lab and the Edison Ford Museum. Edison's wife, Mina, deeded their estate, Seminole Lodge, to the city of Fort Myers in 1947 after his death. She wanted it to become a place where others could learn about her husband's lifelong work and many of his inventions and achievements. In 1988, Ford's home, "The Mangoes," was purchased by the city and opened to the public for all of us to enjoy.

If you're ever near Fort Myers, take the time to treat yourself to these wonderful estates.



Garden Gate

Bloom Where You're Planted



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

Ready, Set, Transplant

It's time to start readying your little ones to make the big move, leave the nest ... head out into the wide world. No, not kids—seedlings. For many a tender-hearted gardener, the annual migration to the great outdoors can prove nearly as poignant as sending kids off to college. After weeks of watching brave sprouts spread their leaves, it's impossible to harden your heart against worries of wilt and withering. That's why you need to "harden" your seedlings instead. Not nearly as harsh as it sounds, hardening is simply the process of acclimating your seedlings to the outdoors. When done gradually with attentive (read: maternal) TLC, the adjustment period will prepare seedlings to thrive as garden transplants.

Here's How:

Prepare a space outdoors for hardening your seedlings (a sheltered spot with sun exposure on a porch or patio works well).

Begin by moving seedlings to their hardening area for two hours on a warm (not hot) day with little wind. The next day, increase the time to four hours and reduce the frequency of watering. Peek at the seedlings periodically to make sure they aren't showing signs of drying out or wilting.

If you won't be home for hours at a time, place seedlings in a location that will receive morning sun and be shaded the rest of the day.

Increase outdoor exposure time by a couple of hours each day for about 10 days. When the seedlings are accustomed to being out on their own for several hours at a time, leave them out for a few additional hours in the evening, bringing them in before you go to bed.

If nighttime temperatures are guaranteed to remain above 40 degrees, you can now leave the seedlings out overnight. Check them first thing in the morning and move indoors to recoup if necessary.

During the hardening process, you may not see much growth, but rest assured that the little leaves and stems are strengthening from within and developing resiliency to the elements.

After 10 days of hardening, your seedlings should be ready to transplant. If possible, watch for a forecast of a few cloudy days or days with light rain to make the transition easier. Avoid transplanting during heat waves or cold snaps.

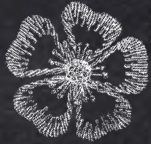
When you've prepared holes in your garden for the new arrivals, gently push each root mass from its container (instead of pulling by the stem), and tuck it into place with a generous helping of moist soil mixed with compost.

Soak the garden soil with water and cover transplants with upturned flower pots, cardboard boxes weighted with stones, or staked cotton cloth (best for hot weather). Leave covers in place for a few days, then turn those babies loose!

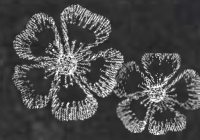
MaryJane 



Stitching & Crafting Room



Stitches of Fun & Laughter!



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



Carrie (Sister #2724) is a master seamstress who has left a career in theatre costuming to start a small entrepreneurial venture with her partner, Roger, creating Victorian adventure wear for the historically minded outdoor enthusiast ([BrassBobbin.com](#)). In between all that, she might be on weed duty in the garden, hunting for eggs in the hen yard, keeping an eye out for her backyard bees, and if the day permits, enjoying a big cup of tea and a good book, or possibly knitting.

Farmgirl Coasters

You'll need:

- six 5" squares of fabric for each coaster (I used MaryJane's **Milk Cow Kitchen fabric**, available at [MaryJanesFarm.org](#))
- basic sewing supplies

1. Place two squares of fabric, wrong sides together, for the base.
2. Press four squares of fabric in half to become the woven top.
3. Lay out the woven top as follows (all fabric facing up): Place one half square down for the left side. Lay a second half square across the bottom, lining up and overlapping corners. Lay the third half square along the right edge, overlapping corners. Place the fourth half square along the top, tucking the left corner under the first half square. (This is exactly like folding a cardboard box top together.)
4. Lay the base fabric squares on top of the woven square with the fabric you want to show facing the woven square. Pin.
5. Sew around the square 1/4" in from the edge. Tip: Use a heavy-duty needle to sew through the eight layers (we used a size 100/16).
6. Turn right side out through the center of the woven strips and press.







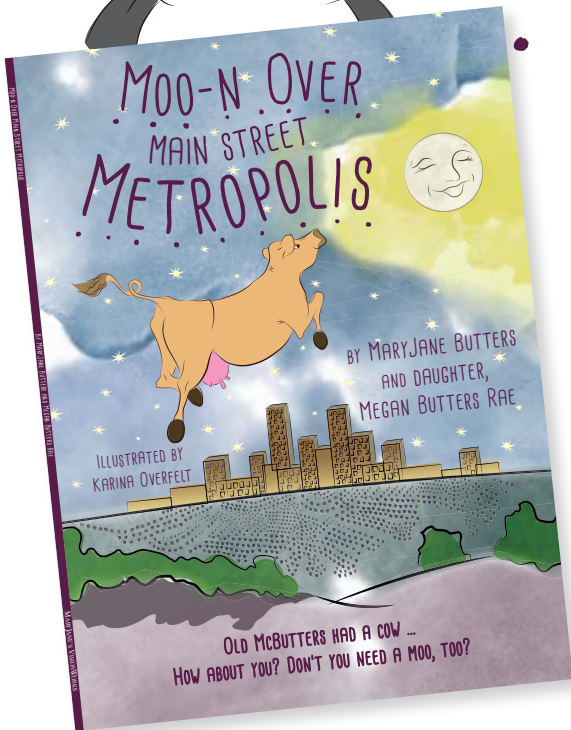
Moo-n Over Main Street Metropolis

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

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

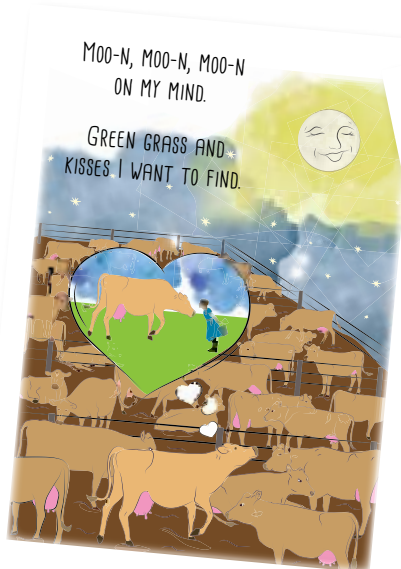
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While you're there, pick up a copy of MaryJane's *Milk Cow Kitchen*, a 400-page cowpendium with 1,100 how-to photographs that detail everything you need to know to keep a milk cow on your suburban half acre, a backyard lot in town ... or at least the fantasy of a someday cow grazing outside your kitchen window.



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

— Suzanne Gibbs Taylor, Creator of BabyLit®





“ There’s nothing like sitting
back and talking to your cows.”

- Russell Crowe



Make it Easy



Happy Hearts Make Light Work

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



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

Printing on Fabric

Many of us are coming up with ways to celebrate our upcoming FARMGIRL JUBILEE in May, which includes a Jubilee Banner Swap. I'm pretty certain that farmgirls will come up with all kinds of ideas for banners, as well as anything else to celebrate the occasion. I decided to make a Jubilee Banner and thought I'd share with you how to print the design (or any design) on fabric.

You'll need:

- fabric for printing the design (I used natural-colored super muslin that I purchased from Walmart. It's a nice weight, and I recommend using fabric that isn't too heavy so it feeds through your inkjet printer easily. However, you do want to use fabric that isn't too coarse a weave or too sheer/lightweight.)
- inkjet printer
- freezer paper



Prewash your fabric and iron it to make sure there are no wrinkles. Using a ruler, measure and then cut pieces of freezer paper to 8 1/2" x 11", being very careful to be as accurate as possible. Lay the freezer paper pieces shiny side down on the fabric, and using a hot iron without steam, iron the paper pieces to the fabric, moving the iron around in all directions, being sure to go to the edges and corners as well.

Let the paper/fabric cool down a bit and then carefully cut the fabric around the edges of the paper. You'll want to have clean edges so they feed through the printer well. Once you have your pieces ready, you can place them in your printer with the fabric side placed in whatever direction necessary for your printer. If you're not sure if it needs to be face up or down, run a test print on paper to make sure. I always remove any paper from the paper tray before printing on my fabric pieces so it just picks up the fabric/paper piece. So far, I've had great success with this process.



Print your design, let the ink dry, peel off the freezer paper, and sew!

NOTE: This process is NOT colorfast, so you'll need to keep that in mind when using a steam iron, placing your banner outdoors, etc. I did experiment with spray-on Scotchgard Water Repellent for Outdoor Fabrics on a print that I wasn't planning on using. Application has to be even so the print doesn't run while spraying it on, but it did provide some water-repellent protection.





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 Columbine 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.

Flower-infused Ice-cream Party

After the long, cold months of winter, flowers bring a rainbow of joy to our world each spring. On those first gloriously sunny days, what could be better than a creamy, flower-flavored treat inspired by the garden?

Now is the time to stop and *taste* the roses!

These ice-cream recipes are not only super-easy to make, they also taste like they've bloomed in a sweet tooth's paradise. Perfect for spring and summer parties in the backyard, DIY wedding celebrations, or a sweet bite at sunset, these unique ice-cream flavors are well-balanced without being perfumey, and are sure to charm the taste buds.

Let's gather an ice-cream bouquet ...

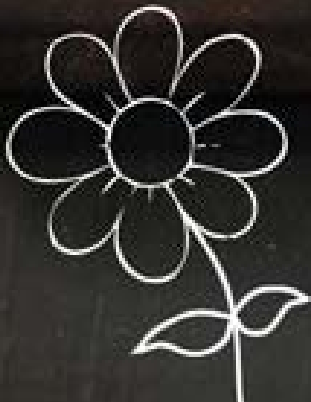
Vanilla Rose Ice Cream

2 cups organic half-and-half
1 cup organic heavy cream
1/2 cup organic sugar
1 cup dried organic rosebuds
or petals
1 t organic rose water
1 organic vanilla bean, split
and scraped

Combine half-and-half, cream, sugar, scraped vanilla-bean pulp, rosebuds or petals, and vanilla bean in a large saucepan and place over medium heat. Stir occasionally until the mixture just barely begins to simmer (do not boil).

Remove the mixture from heat immediately and allow to cool for a few minutes. Strain out the rosebuds or petals and vanilla bean. Pour mixture into a lidded container. Refrigerate overnight to allow the flavors to develop. Whisk in the rose water and pour mixture into an ice-cream maker to freeze as directed. Once semi-solid, spoon the mixture back into a lidded container and harden in the freezer for at least 1 hour before serving.





ICE CREAM!



Chocolate Lavender Ice Cream

2 cups organic half-and-half
1 cup organic heavy cream
1/2 cup organic sugar
1 cup organic cocoa powder or cacao powder
4 t dried organic lavender flowers
2 t organic vanilla extract

Combine half-and-half, cream, sugar, cocoa powder, and lavender in a large saucepan and place over medium heat. Stir occasionally until the mixture just barely begins to simmer (do not boil). Remove the mixture from heat immediately and allow to cool for a few minutes. Strain out the lavender. Whisk in the vanilla extract and pour mixture into a lidded container. Refrigerate overnight to allow the flavors to develop. Pour mixture into an ice-cream maker and freeze as directed. Once semi-solid, spoon the mixture back into a lidded container and harden in the freezer for at least 1 hour before serving.



Honey Chamomile Ice Cream

2 cups organic half-and-half
1 cup organic heavy cream
1/4 cup plus 2 T local honey
1/4 cup dried organic chamomile flowers
2 t organic vanilla extract

Combine half-and-half, cream, honey, and chamomile in a large saucepan and place over medium heat. Stir occasionally until the mixture just barely begins to simmer (do not boil). Remove the mixture from heat immediately and allow to cool for a few minutes. Strain out the chamomile. Whisk in the vanilla extract and pour mixture into a lidded container. Refrigerate overnight to allow the flavors to develop. Pour mixture into an ice-cream maker and freeze as directed. Once semi-solid, spoon the mixture back into a lidded container and harden in the freezer for at least 1 hour before serving.



continued ...



continued ...

Jasmine Green Tea Ice Cream

- 2 cups organic half-and-half
- 1 cup organic heavy cream
- 1/2 cup organic sugar
- 2 T organic jasmine green tea
- 2 t organic matcha green-tea powder
- 2 t organic vanilla extract

Combine half-and-half, cream, sugar, and jasmine green tea in a large saucepan and place over medium heat. Stir occasionally until the mixture just barely begins to simmer (do not boil). Remove the mixture from heat immediately and allow to cool for a few minutes. Strain out the green tea. Add matcha green-tea powder and stir well. Whisk in the vanilla extract and pour mixture into a lidded container. Refrigerate overnight to allow the flavors to develop. Pour mixture into an ice-cream maker and freeze as directed. Once semi-solid, spoon the mixture back into a lidded container and harden in the freezer for at least 1 hour before serving.



Sister Loves

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

Karina's
PICKS
(JUST A CLICK AWAY)



GRAPHIC DESIGNER
(SISTER #4)

It's been quite a while since I actually decorated Easter eggs. I thought it would be fun to start again this year. Check out all of these fun tutorials I found.

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





Cleaning Up

The Work of Our Hands



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

Primp Your Pillows

Amid the flurry of spring cleaning, don't forget your pillows. They need primping as much as the carpets and curtains after winter's long nap. Soft and snuggly though they may be, pillows are unassuming collectors of skin cells, sweat, bacteria, mold, dust, and allergens galore (I know, EWWW!!). Changing cases is requisite in most housecleaning routines, but the cleanliness of their contents is often overlooked, so let's strip 'em down and spiff 'em up.

Down and Poly Pillows

Pillows filled with polyester, down, or "feathers" can be machine washed and dried. Easy as pie. Just put two in the washer (no more, no less to keep the machine balanced) and add mild detergent, a cup of white vinegar, and a half cup of baking soda. Opt for the hot cycle to best tackle grease and bacteria. To dry, place pillows in the dryer with a clean, dry towel. Set the machine on a medium heat setting for about 20 minutes, then remove the towel, which will have absorbed some of the moisture from the pillows, reducing drying time. Continue drying until the pillows feel absolutely dry when pressed firmly against your face. You don't want even a hint of moisture left in the pillows when you put them back to bed. Repeat every four to six months.

Latex and Foam Pillows

Because these pillows are practically impossible to dry once they get wet, you shouldn't machine launder them. Spot cleaning with a cloth moistened with hydrogen peroxide is useful for removing stains. Allow the pillow to dry fully in a sunny, well-ventilated spot. Sunshine will help fade stains, kill bacteria, and reduce odors. To help keep it clean, consider a case like the washable and waterproof organic cotton protector by **Gotcha Covered**, which will prolong the lifespan of any type of pillow.

MaryJane 

“What does “good in bed” mean to me? When I’m sick and I stay home from school propped up with lots of pillows watching TV and my mom brings me soup ... that’s good in bed.”

– Brooke Shields



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Every woman “needs” a bit of handmade farmgirl cuteness peeking out from underneath her aprons, skirts, dresses, and pinafores. Or for that matter, to wear alone, as is! Sisters, don’t be late to rate “looney” by showing up in a pair of our Raising Jane vintage-style underoos for that romantic rebel-Jane-lacy look or your practical-Jane-doing-laundry look, or even better, the Jane-flower-farmer look.

Inventing a pattern for our Sister Loonies took us two months. Why? We wanted a fitted elastic back, just big enough to easily get them on and off, but not so big they made your big bigger, if you know what we mean. We also wanted the front of them to be flat and ungathered. In other words, flattering. Who wants a front that’s poofy? Made from 100% cotton with a generous organic cotton voile ruffle, we’ve sized these for every body type we can think of, from XS to 3XL, so there’s no excuse not to join the Sister Loonies movement.

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Index Available!

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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:

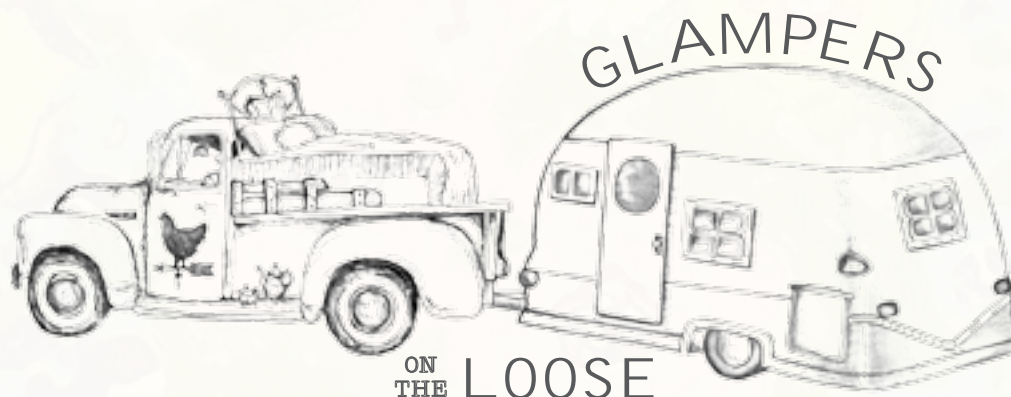
Springtime in the South, Pine Mountain, GA, April 9–12, 2015 (see p. 54)

Mitten Kitten Glampouts, MI, June 5–7, July 10–14, and August 7–10, 2015 (see p. 54)

If you're a Sisterhood member, **click here** to download a FREE Glampers on the Loose logo!

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Registration is also open for the Cozy Comfort Quilt Retreat, February 19-21. Spend three days tucked away in the Ozarks learning new quilting techniques. Choose from a variety of packages for lodging, lunches and instructor fees.



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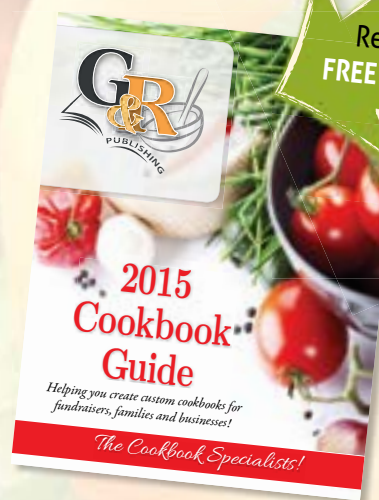
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Farmgirl Calendar

Springtime in the South

Southern Princess Glamping & Adventure Club

When: April 9–12, 2015

Where: Pine Mountain RV Resort, 8804 Hamilton Road, Pine Mountain, GA 31822

Hostess: Julie Lanham

More Info: [MeetUp.com](#), Facebook: Southern Princess Glamping & Adventure Club

Mitten Kitten Glampout

When: June 5–7, 2015, Friday to Sunday

Who: Lindy Brown from Paddle the Mitten

Where: Mitten Kitten Glampout, Seven Lakes State Park, Fenton, Michigan

How: e-mail inquiries to Lindy@paddlethemittensup.com or 810-626-8923

Website: [PaddleTheMittensUp.com](#)–2015 Events

Celebrate National Glamping Weekend with us! 2015 will be our 2nd year for providing Glamping in Michigan. Our group is called the Mitten Kittens and we love to stand-up paddle, but you don't need to stand-up paddle to join us. It is NOT a requirement. We are all about making women feel good about themselves and others around them. Our trips offer a variety of activities, including yoga, hiking, swimming, antiques, zentangling, stand-up paddling, relaxing, and more! Seven Lakes State Park is a quiet, peaceful gem in Michigan.

Ages usually range from 30s to late 60s (you must be 21 years of age); we are a unique and diverse group. All activity levels are welcome. I honestly can say that I have never had anyone not enjoy their time on my "retreats." As we get closer to February, I will have prices and details. Early RSVP is suggested—we do fill up our Glampouts!

Two types of camping:

1. Bring your own camper or tent and join us at our main base camp.
2. Stay in the 1965 vintage Airstream or our glamped-out bell tent (space limited).

continued ...



Mitten Kitten Glampout

When: July 10–14, 2015, Friday to Monday

Who: Lindy Brown from Paddle the Mitten

Where: Mitten Kitten Glampout, Young State Park, Boyne City, Michigan

How: e-mail inquiries to lindy@paddlethemittensup.com or 810-626-8923

Website: **PaddleTheMittensUp.com**–2015 Events

Voted one of the United States' most beautiful lakes, Young State Park sits on the shores of Lake Charlevoix. Join us for 4 days of enjoying the sandy beach, sun, fresh water, and sisterhood. Area attractions and activities include yoga, good food, hiking, sightseeing, stand-up paddling the Jordan River, stand-up paddle yoga on Lake Charlevoix, shopping in Boyne City, and antiquing at Deer Creek Junk in East Jordan. Nighttime campfires on the beach under the sapphire black sky with brightly shining stars. Ages usually range from 30s to late 60s (you must be 21 years of age); we are a unique and diverse group. All activity levels are welcome. I honestly can say that I have never had anyone not enjoy their time on my "retreats." As we get closer to February, I will have prices and details. Early RSVP is suggested—our Glampouts sell out fast!

Two types of camping:

1. Bring your own camper or tent and join us at our main base camp.
2. Stay in the 1965 vintage Airstream or our glamped-out bell tent (space limited).

Mitten Kitten Glampout

When: August 7–10, 2015

Who: Lindy Brown from Paddle the Mitten

Where: Mitten Kitten Glampout, Leelanau Peninsula, Michigan

How: e-mail inquiries to lindy@paddlethemittensup.com or 810-626-8923

Website: **PaddleTheMittensUp.com**–2015 Events

Voted one of the United States' most beautiful places in America by *Good Morning America*, join your guide, Lindy, for a memorable weekend. From early morning yoga, stand-up paddling, hiking, sightseeing, wine tasting, and enjoying the local fresh farm fare, you will not be disappointed to join this Glampout. We will be Glamping and renting a house for those who are coming from out of state or do not have a trailer. I also will have the bell tent available. This is one of our most popular weekends of the year. Ages usually range from 30s to late 60s (you must be 21 years of age); we are a unique and diverse group. All activity levels are welcome. I honestly can say that I have never had anyone not enjoy their time on my "retreats." As we get closer to February, I will have prices and details. Early RSVP is suggested—our Glampouts sell out fast!

Three types of accommodations:

1. Bring your own camper or tent and join us at our main base camp.
2. Stay in our glamped-out bell tent (space limited).
3. Stay in our Mitten Kitten-approved comfy and cozy beach house.

continued ...



continued ...

Farmgirl Jubilee

Dream it! Make it! Bake it! Shake it! Mini garden Jubilee. Submitted by Bonnie Ellis

How about we celebrate the jubilee with a “fairy” garden? Miniature banners, barns, animals, etc. These gardens are really hot in our area, and it will remind me how much fun MJF is to us. Anyone interested in the idea? Share your ideas [here](#).

Wear it! Charms? Submitted by Red Tractor Girl

Whoop!! Late yesterday, my Farmgirl necklace and Jubilee necklaces arrived with my Milk Cow Kitchen fabric. The Jubilee necklace is so sweet, and Elaine did a really nice job with the design. I am so excited! Not sure what I want to do with my fabric yet. It is just one of my favorites, as I love the design and colors! Order your Farmgirl Jubilee Charm Necklace [here](#).

Wear it! Official Apron Pattern. Submitted by Sonshine4u

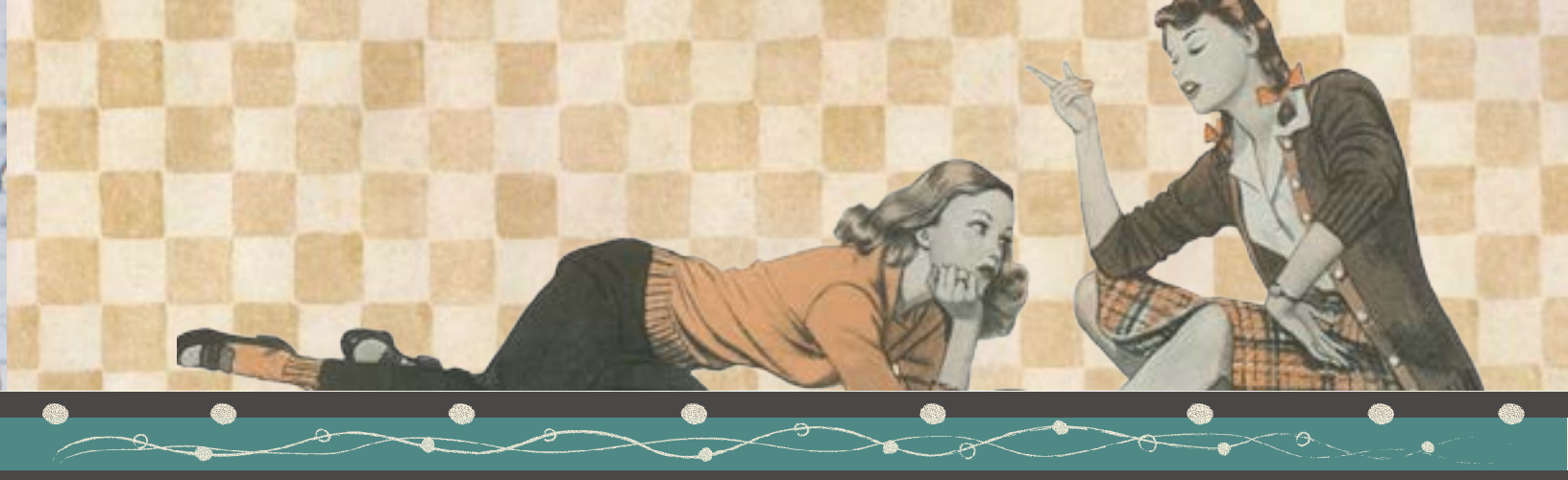
Here is my Jubilee apron. I’m super-excited to wear it! I’m also excited to teach the farmgirls in my chapter how to make one in a couple of weeks. This sure is fun!!! Share your apron [here](#).

Did it! My garden flag. Submitted by katmom

I got my Farmgirl Flag finished ... now to start my garden. LOL! Share your ideas [here](#).



Order your Farmgirl
Jubilee Charm
Necklace [here](#).



Farmgirl Chatter

Across the Fence: Happy Day! Happy Day! Happy Day! Submitted by wildflower17

Hey Girls! SPRING IS FINALLY HERE, at least on the calendar. Surely it can't be long until the wet, cold, and snowy weather is behind us. :)

Can't wait for drier, warmer, and sunnier weather!

HAPPY SPRING TO ALL MY FARMGIRL FRIENDS! Share your thoughts [here](#).

Across the Fence: Good morning, ladies! Submitted by Alea

Hi Everyone!

It has been awhile and I deeply apologize, my friends. Things have been so full of change for us over the past two years, I feel like I am barely coming up for air! I am working at a local aviation company and I love my job and the people I work with. It is such a diverse company and things are always changing.

We bought a cute little 1942 house last May, and we are in the process of trying to get her back to her old glory. It's a long and arduous path to try and restore a house that has had so much neglect and wear on it. One of our first steps was to start pulling up the carpet. Only a few rooms left and the house will be free of that burden. Thankfully, the original hardwood floors are still there. Nora just celebrated her 8th birthday. I can hardly believe it!

I've missed you ladies—I can't wait to catch up! Share your story [here](#).

Barnyard Buddies: Favorite chickens. Submitted by Cozynana

I am getting some chicks this year and wondering what your favorite variety would be. I love the Ameraucanas and the Buff Orpingtons. I want to get some Blue Cochins and some Red Lace Wyandottes. I would like a Frizzle or two, also. Have any of you had the last three? I have had Ameraucanas and Orpingtons and know them, but wonder about how friendly and hardy the others are. What is the most tame and affectionate breed? I have 9 chickens right now and want to get up to maybe 2 dozen, plus a couple of peacocks. Give your advice [here](#).



continued ...



continued ...

Barnyard Buddies: Bird watching. Submitted by YellowRose

Birds that came to feed today:

- young mama cardinal (when I talk to cardinals, I call them mama and daddy)
- pair of blue jays
- pair of mourning doves
- several wrens, sparrows, Carolina chickadees, white-breasted nuthatches, and the backyard bullies, grackles

Are you a bird watcher too? Share your story [here](#).

Barnyard Buddies: Rescued a new horse. Submitted by Alea

At the beginning of the month, I drove down to the Colorado Springs area and picked up a “free” horse. She was probably pretty close to a body score of 2 (hollow neck, could count all her ribs even through winter hair, tail dock very visible, etc). I was worried she wouldn't even make the trip home, honestly.

I got a blanket on her so she wouldn't have to fight so hard to keep her body warm, got her some weight-gainer grain and hung a hay bag for her. We made a fairly easy drive back home, but had to stop and refill the hay bag a few times for her.

Now that she is here, she's getting free-choice hay, still gets the weight-gainer grain, has a big pasture to run around in, and Tala to keep her company.

At first, she would eat and then just stand and stare into the distance. She had very little connection with her surroundings. I think she was really focused on healing and just trying to hang on until she has some reserves.

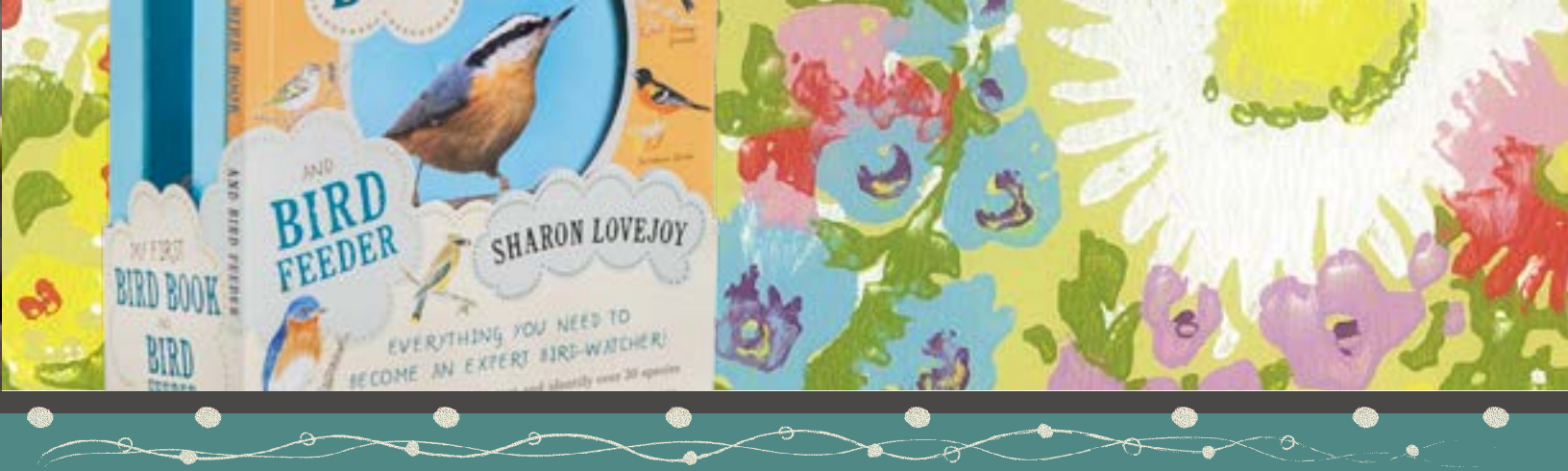
I am happy to report that she has gained weight slowly but consistently, and she is now fully engaged in her surroundings. She has started playing with Tala, and will trot or even canter around the field as the mood strikes her. She still needs probably another 75–100 lbs of healthy muscle and fat reserves before she is fully healthy, but we are on the way. Share your story [here](#).

Cleaning Up: Farmgirl handmade deodorant. Submitted by star-schipp

Hello my farmgirl friends,

I'm working on some more merit badges and made my own deodorant. I really do like it! I had been thinking of switching to deodorant instead of antiperspirant since so many of them use aluminum to block the sweat from coming through.





That probably isn't a really good idea, since we were designed to sweat for a reason. However, I don't think we were designed to smell bad, LOL.

This **recipe** has really worked on the odor for me. I hope it helps you, too. It takes less than 5 minutes to make. :)


Is anyone else working on this badge right now? Share what you're working on **here**.

Farm Kitchen: Truly wheat-free. Submitted by GailMN

I have been eating wheat-free—not gluten-free, but wheat-free. I have been enjoying improvement in my overall health. Wondering if anyone else is following this way of eating, and if so, any great recipes? I eat homemade soups and stews, lots of veggies, fish, and poultry, but would like some more ideas. Right now, I have a split pea soup in the crockpot, smelling great. Hope to get some new recipe ideas. Share your recipes **here**.

Farm Kitchen: Keeping eggs. Submitted by YellowRose

I was looking through the MJF Sister Issue this morning and I read that she has new products. I checked it out and liked the **ceramic egg crate**. I don't need it for the fridge, but my question is, how long will eggs keep out on the kitchen counter in a reasonably warm/cool kitchen? Store-bought eggs or from backyard chickens. Planning ahead to when I have some.

I also liked the **stoneware berry baskets**.  Nice colors. Give your advice **here**.

Farm Kitchen: Electric grain mill ... please help me decide. Submitted by Ninibini


Hi girls!

I'm trying to decide which electric grain mill to purchase. I've narrowed it down to the NutriMill or the WonderMill, but I just can't decide. Any thoughts? Is there one better that you'd like to recommend? I'd really appreciate your help! I do have a WonderMill Junior, but I need to get an electric one for everyday use. Thanks so much! Share your ideas **here**.



Girl Gab

GirlGab.com




the world as
our garden

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




lessons in
herbalism



food from scratch



farmgirl pets



farmgirl love

Find MaryJane's farmgirl bloggers—city, rural, suburban,
ranch, mountain, and beach—at GirlGab.com. You'll also
find daily posts from 130 (and counting) sister blogs.

To find out more,
scan here with
your smartphone.



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MARYJANE'S CHILLOVER® POWDER

GELATIN ALTERNATIVE



Stabilized whipped cream is a light and delicate frosting for cakes, cupcakes, and layer cakes, and it can be whipped up ahead of time to top pies, cobblers ... really, anything you can think of. Unlike plain whipped cream, stabilized whipped cream keeps its shape over time instead of melting or deflating. When making this recipe, the key is to slowly sprinkle in our ChillOver Powder while whisking to avoid any clumps, and to keep whisking during the 3-minute simmer time.

STABILIZED WHIPPED CREAM

PREP TIME: 10 MINUTES,
PLUS 2 HOURS CHILLING
COOK TIME: 8 MINUTES
MAKES: 4 CUPS

2¼ cups cream, divided
½ t vanilla
¼ cup honey
¼ cup water
1¼ t MaryJane's ChillOver Powder

1. Add 2 cups cream and the vanilla to a medium bowl or stand mixer; set aside.
2. Bring honey and water to a simmer in a small saucepan over medium heat; slowly sprinkle in ChillOver Powder and continue to simmer for 3 minutes, stirring constantly. Remove from heat and whisk in remaining cream.
3. Begin whipping cream. Add honey mixture just before soft peaks form, then continue to whip into stiff peaks.
4. Pipe cream onto your baked goods and refrigerate for 2 hours to set.

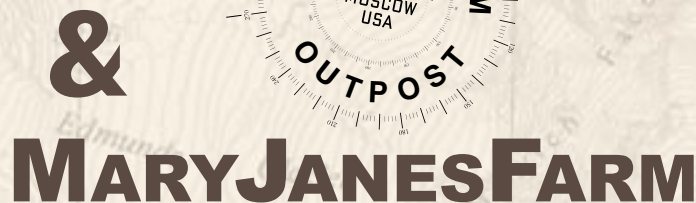


Looks like gelatin. Tastes like gelatin. But it isn't. It's better!

My innovative ChillOver® Powder is for all the people who grew up loving gelatin desserts but gave up on them, knowing their animal origin. It sets up in half the time gelatin does. It seals in flavors more quickly. And it doesn't melt at room temperature. Once you try it, you'll never go back!

To order, call 888-750-6004
or go to MaryJanesFarm.org

* You'll find several jam recipes using our ChillOver Powder in the magazine section of our website: MaryJanesFarm.org/Recipes-Patterns-Instructions



Here's a delicious way to help Mary Janes Farm help veterans help disaster victims.

“Your food made our day in the Philippines!”

I just wanted to let you know that we love your products. We were on the ground in Tacloban, Philippines, four days after the typhoon hit, doing relief work and setting up operations for our teams out there. Conditions that first week were challenging and extreme. We never complained, and your instant (just add water) pouches of food sure helped. We ate the awesome Outrageous Outback Oatmeal in the mornings and fought over the Shepherd's Pie in the evenings. We didn't have the luxury of taking a lot of them, but when the 15 of us were able to sit down to eat them, it was all smiles. Thank you! ”

— Kirk Jackson, TeamRubiconUSA.org



When we received the above e-mail and photo from Kirk Jackson of Team Rubicon, a veteran-focused disaster relief organization, we were humbled and pleased that our just-add-water organic meals found their way to the Philippines after the devastating typhoon in 2013. We also knew we wanted to help this great organization carry on their inspiring and important work.

So we teamed up with the Team: For every 3-lb box of our emergency food you buy (15 to 25 servings, depending on entrée), **we donate two single-serve pouches of food to Team Rubicon** to help feed them when they travel to help those in need. Each box of emergency food contains one 3-lb bulk oxygen-free mylar bag of our just-add-water organic meals for emergency preparedness long-term storage. Shelf life: 15+ years.



one
**3-lb
bulk box**
for you
=
two
**single-serve
pouches**
for
Team Rubicon



Why Prepare?

Natural disasters—floods, fires, earthquakes, tornadoes, and windstorms—affect tens of thousands of people every year. One week of emergency food is needed in order to ride out most disasters. That's a minimum of three meals per person per day for one week. Do the math and then get ready!

Why Eat Organic?

Surviving any kind of disaster is stressful. Why compound your burden by eating bad food? You need nourishment, not the mindless calories found in most preparedness meals that are overly laden with salt and preservatives; laced with pesticides, herbicides, and fungicides; and formulated using genetically modified ingredients.

Team Rubicon & MaryJanesFarm

The Mission

Team Rubicon unites the skills and experiences of military veterans with first responders in order to rapidly deploy emergency response teams, oftentimes arriving on the scene before traditional aid organizations.

MaryJanesFarm helps feed Team Rubicon's emergency response teams by donating two pouches of food for every box of emergency food sold. That's where you come in. Every time you buy a box of our emergency food, you're feeding Team Rubicon.

Team Rubicon Saves Lives

Since its creation in January 2010, Team Rubicon has impacted thousands of lives—in Haiti, Pakistan, the Philippines, and here at home most recently during Hurricane Sandy; the tornadoes in Moore, Oklahoma; and massive flooding in Colorado. Team Rubicon reaches victims outside the scope of where traditional aid organizations venture.

Team Rubicon Engages Veterans

Thousands of U.S. military veterans, many returning home after fighting 10 years of war, find a renewed sense of purpose for their skills and experiences through Team Rubicon.



MaryJanesFarm just-add-water organic meals—everything from instant pastas and rice to soups to breads to desserts—are perfectly complemented by the BioLite Camp Stove (BioliteStoves.com) that boils water with nothing but twigs. And, by converting heat into electricity, it can also charge your flashlights, phones, and other gadgets while you cook.

Product of USA

EcoPouch® Packaging



Our unique pro-environment **EcoPouch® Packaging** has offset 1,547,955 sq ft of aluminum foil since 1996. **That's 58 tons of landfill waste avoided!**

for a hefty dose of inspiration, watch Team Rubicon on YouTube.com/TeamRubiconUSA

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★ ★ TIME FOR A LITTLE ★ ★ TEA PARTY?

.....
★ BREW SOME ORGANIC ★
★ HERBAL GOODNESS

.....
AND FILL YOUR
CUP WITH PURE
BOTANICAL
★ FUN! ★
.....



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Our sentiments exactly!

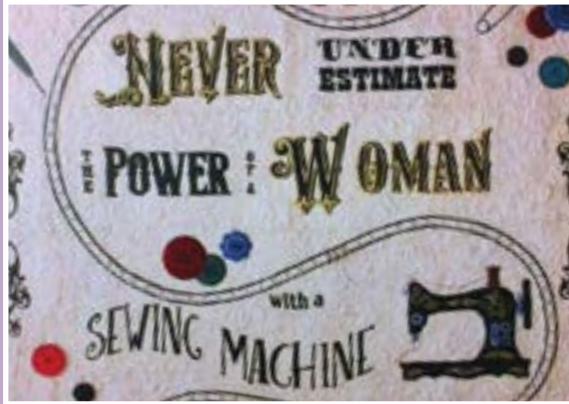
This adorable 8" x 8" plaque, printed on canvas and stretched on a wood block edged with burlap, is available at BraveGirlsClub.com. Sisters Melody and Kathy believed there needed to be a place where women could go to feel supported and never alone, no matter what struggles they were having. They wanted to create a place full of good news, good people, good ideas, good adventures, and good times—a place where they could teach women that no matter what curveballs life handed them, they were going to be okay. Get a daily dose of Brave Girl magic by subscribing to the free Brave Girl Daily Truth e-mail affirmation messages—a little present the girls have been giving the world five days a week since 2009. Also sign up for Brave Girl Camp Art + Life Retreats, take online empowerment classes, encourage other Brave Girls with the Brave Girl Truth Card Exchange, and more. Read all about Brave Girls Club in the "Yesteryear" Aug/Sept 2014 issue of *MaryJanesFarm*.

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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 6,346 (and counting), we've earned an amazing number of Merit Badges so far—9,010 total! We've recently started alerting earned Badges daily on our MaryJanesFarm **Facebook** page. We started out alerting just the expert-level earners, but decided recently to alert all levels AND add photos if you include them. We're just so darn proud! Can you hear the clucking?

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

If you're a Facebook or Twitter kind of gal, you'll find my posts teased on my **Twitter** account and our **Facebook** account. Updates for all things glamorously glamping 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





shabby apple



vintage-inspired clothing with quality & style
~~~~~ shabbyapple.com ~~~~~



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





# Merit Badge

## Awardees



### Merit Badge Awardees

**Ally Neal: AFinkberry #5762**

Beginner badge: Each Other / Farmgirl Jubilee

**April Choate: sonshine4u #658**

Beginner badge: Each Other / Farmgirl Jubilee

**Bea Campbell: quiltingbea #2575**

Beginner badge: Garden Gate / Rootin' Tootin'

Beginner badge: Outpost / Speak for the Trees

Beginner badge: Stitching & Crafting / Origami

**Beth Lohman: #2591**

Beginner badge: Each Other / Farmgirl Jubilee

Beginner badge: Stitching & Crafting / Crochet

**Betty Hoffman: Dapple Grey Lady #5589**

Beginner badge: Stitching & Crafting / Origami

**Bev Gamache: sageradish #5776**

Beginner badge: Cleaning Up / Shopping Green

Beginner badge: Stitching & Crafting / Knitting

**Catherine Griffin: cajungal #76**

Beginner badge: Cleaning Up / Water Conservation

Intermediate badge: Cleaning Up / Going Green

Intermediate badge: Cleaning Up / Water Conservation

**Christine Clark: ChristyC #2737**

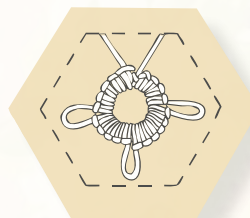
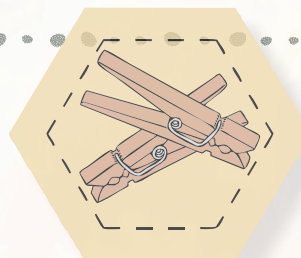
Beginner badge: Garden Gate / Gaining Ground

**Cindy Kinion: Aussie Chick #6058**

Beginner badge: Cleaning Up / Going Green

Beginner badge: Cleaning Up / Shopping Green

Beginner badge: Farm Kitchen / Know Your Food







**CJ Armstrong: ceejay48 #665**

Beginner badge: Each Other / Farmgirl Jubilee  
 Beginner badge: Farm Kitchen / Bread Making  
 Beginner badge: Farm Kitchen / Rootin' Tootin'  
 Beginner badge: Outpost / Pampered Pets  
 Beginner badge: Outpost / Speak for the Trees  
 Intermediate badge: Farm Kitchen / Bread Making  
 Intermediate badge: Farm Kitchen / Rootin' Tootin'  
 Intermediate badge: Outpost / Pampered Pets  
 Intermediate badge: Outpost / Speak for the Trees  
 Expert badge: Farm Kitchen / Bread Making  
 Expert badge: Outpost / Pampered Pets

**Debbie Cox: OneRedZinnia #5585**

Beginner badge: Each Other / Farmgirl Jubilee

**Deborah Meyer: dmeyer #4099**

Intermediate badge: Each Other / Know Your Roots  
 Expert badge: Cleaning Up / Recycling

**Denise Meister: Denisemgm #1976**

Beginner badge: Farm Kitchen / Bread Making  
 Beginner badge: Make it Easy / Make it Pretty

**Erin McBride: notathreatinsight #3762**

Beginner badge: Each Other / Civic Heritage

**Jennifer Pierson: MossHillFarmMomma #6269**

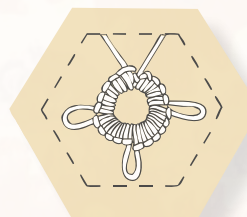
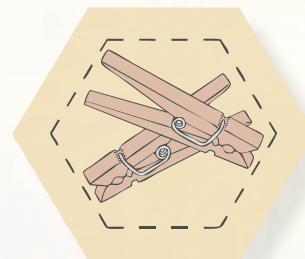
Beginner badge: Cleaning Up / Recycling  
 Beginner badge: Cleaning Up / Shopping Green  
 Beginner badge: Each Other / Farmgirl Jubilee

**Jill Schrader: OneCountryChick #6177**

Intermediate badge: Each Other / Entrepreneurial Spirit  
 Expert badge: Each Other / Entrepreneurial Spirit

**Katie Wright: Katie Wright #5600**

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



continued ...





## continued ...

Expert badge: Stitching & Crafting / Knitting  
Expert badge: Stitching & Crafting / Quilting

**Linda Van Ausdell: Vanavista #4347**

Beginner badge: Outpost / Papered Pets

**Linda Woodruff: #5951**

Beginner badge: Each Other / Civic Heritage  
Beginner badge: Each Other / Farmgirl Gratitude  
Beginner badge: Make it Easy / Make it Pretty  
Beginner badge: Stitching & Crafting / Crochet

**Lisa Schroder: Lisa Ann #6182**

Beginner badge: Farm Kitchen / Embroidery  
Beginner badge: Make it Easy / Make it Pretty  
Beginner badge: Stitching & Crafting / Embroidery

**Lisa Washington: Lisa Ann #6182**

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

**Lynette McPherson: Azalea #6300**

Beginner badge: Farm Kitchen / Self-Sufficiency  
Beginner badge: Stitching & Crafting / Knitting  
Beginner badge: Stitching & Crafting / Quilting

**Mary Jo Boyd: quiltsister413 #5559**

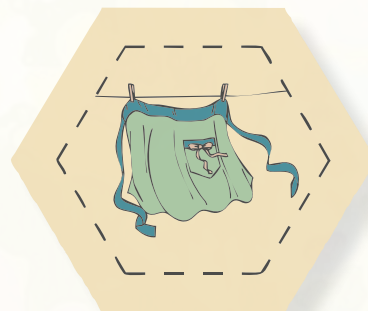
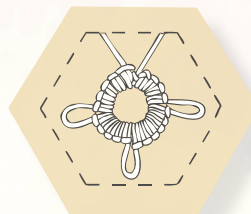
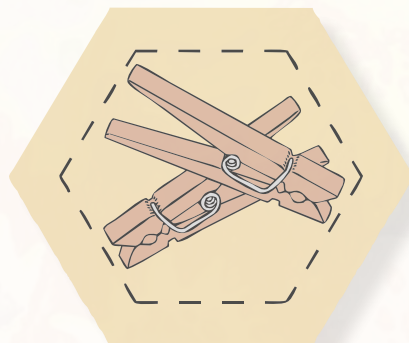
Beginner badge: Outpost / Woman-at-Arms

**Mary Lynn Bernhard: Mary-Lynn #3868**

Beginner badge: Cleaning Up / Going Green

**Melanie Jones: #4211**

Beginner badge: Cleaning Up / Recycling  
Beginner badge: Cleaning Up / Shopping Green  
Beginner badge: Make it Easy / Make it Pretty







**Miranda Strickland: Missus Miranda #3535**

Beginner badge: Each Other / Entrepreneurial Spirit

**Mona Tucker: Mummie #4477**

Intermediate badge: Farm Kitchen / Recipes

**Patty Byrd: thebyrdhaus #1840**

Beginner badge: Each Other / Farmgirl Jubilee

Beginner badge: Garden Gate / The Secret Life of Bees

Beginner badge: Stitching & Crafting / Knitting

Beginner badge: Stitching & Crafting / Spinning

**Sara Knight: YellowRose #6034**

Beginner badge: Each Other / Farmgirl Jubilee

**Shannon Hudson: hudsonsinaf #5349**

Beginner badge: Cleaning Up / Shopping Green

Beginner badge: Each Other / Farmgirl Jubilee

**Sharon Battaglia: frankrb #6140**

Beginner badge: Each Other / Community Service

**Sherrilyn Askew: Sherri #1350**

Beginner badge: Outpost / Pampered Pets

Beginner badge: Outpost / Stargazing Chicks

Beginner badge: Stitching & Crafting / Tatting

Intermediate badge: Farm Kitchen / BakeOver MakeOver

Intermediate badge: Farm Kitchen / Forage for Food

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

Intermediate badge: Garden Gate / Rootin' Tootin'

Intermediate badge: Make it Easy / In the Garden

Intermediate badge: Make it Easy / Make It!

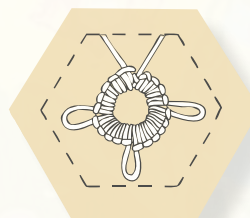
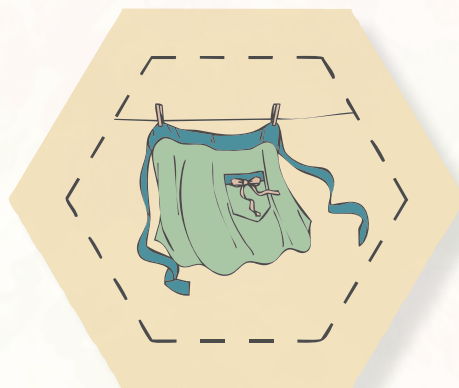
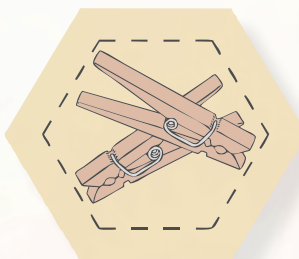
Intermediate badge: Outpost / Pampered Pets

Expert badge: Each Other / Languages/Culture

Expert badge: Farm Kitchen / ChillOver ComeOver

Expert badge: Make it Easy / In the Garden

Expert badge: Outpost / Speak for the Trees



continued ...





continued ...

**Susan English: Ohlawgirl #6033**

Beginner badge: Stitching & Crafting / Spinning

**Theresa Atkinson: atkinst2 #1632**

Beginner badge: Each Other / Farmgirl Jubilee

Beginner badge: Each Other / Farmgirl Shutterbugs

Beginner badge: Each Other / Languages/Culture

Beginner badge: Farm Kitchen / BakeOver MakeOver

Beginner badge: Garden Gate / Herbs

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

Beginner badge: Stitching & Crafting / Spinning

**Tiffany Davis: Tiffanyann #6158**

Beginner badge: Cleaning Up / Water Conservation

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

Beginner badge: Garden Gate / Backyard Farmer

Beginner badge: Garden Gate / Horse Dreams

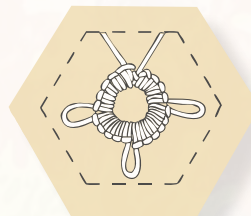
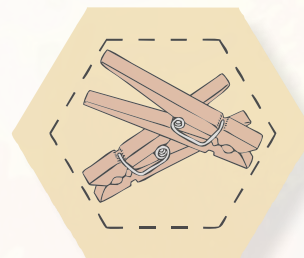
Beginner badge: Outpost / Woman-at-Arms

Intermediate badge: Cleaning Up / Water Conservation

Intermediate badge: Garden Gate / Backyard Farmer

Intermediate badge: Outpost / Woman-at-Arms

Expert badge: Cleaning Up / Recycling









# Farmerettes & Young Cultivators

## Merit Badge Awardees

### *Farmerettes*

**Briana Bloomfield:** Farmerette of Monica Hancock #5851  
Beginner badge: Farm Kitchen / Icing on the Cake  
Intermediate badge: Farm Kitchen / Icing on the Cake  
Expert badge: Farm Kitchen / Icing on the Cake

### *Young Cultivators*

**Hannah Jones:** Young Cultivator of Melanie Jones: #4211  
Beginner badge: Make it Easy / Do Your Eyes Light Up?

**Maile Drinen:** Young Cultivator of Leah Drinen #6220  
Beginner badge: Stitching & Crafting / All Buttoned Up  
Intermediate badge: Stitching & Crafting / All Buttoned Up  
Expert badge: Stitching & Crafting / All Buttoned Up

**Sydney Scheerer:** Young Cultivator of Sabrina Scheerer #3275  
Beginner badge: Each Other / Families Forever  
Beginner badge: Make it Easy / Put me in, Coach!  
Beginner badge: Stitching & Crafting / Toys  
Beginner badge: Stitching & Crafting / Weaving in and Out  
Intermediate badge: Cleaning Up / Trash Talk  
Intermediate badge: Stitching & Crafting / Weaving in and Out

### 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

### Young Cultivators

Our Young Cultivators group concentrated on stitching skills this month by practicing straight stitches for making needle cases to hold all our needles (we'll need those for most of our Stitching badges). Afterward, we switched to a project that was a little more fun—button bracelets! (It's always good to have a take-away at the end of the session to keep the little ones enthused.) With my stash of buttons (I probably have about 20 large storage containers of buttons of all shapes, sizes, and colors that I got years ago from a neighbor whose mother-in-law once owned a button store), the girls were in button heaven!



*Mary Jane* ♥



continued ...



# Farmerettes & Young Cultivators

continued ...

building concentration ...



color coordination ...



confidence!







Stella was so happy with her new button bracelet that she turned a perfect cartwheel!!





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

Our April/May issue (Little Sprouts) hit newsstands on March 10. In it, you'll find recipes for fun foods for little sprouts; learn all about sprouting seeds and grains, then make crackers from your sprouted wheat; get ideas for kids' garden projects with artist and children's author Sharon Lovejoy; do a fun painting project with Annie Sloan Chalk Paint; plan a quilters' retreat; and more. Don't risk missing *MaryJanesFarm* magazine on newsstands. Subscribe [here!](#)





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# Meet our Bloggers

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

Farmgirls are tapping away at their keyboards to bring you news from the homefront, no matter where you live or what your interests. Rebekah Teal, a former judge, writes about being a farmgirl in the city; Alexandra Wilson blogs from the rural perspective; Nicole Christensen gives you the suburban viewpoint, and Debbie Bosworth writes from the beach. You can click to our farmgirl blogs right on our home page ([MaryJanesFarm.org](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 over 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.’”





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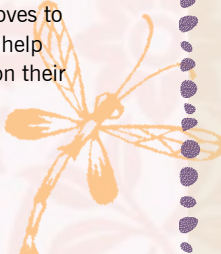


ranch  
FARMGIRL



**Dori Troutman, our Ranch Farmgirl Blogger,** is the daughter of second-generation cattle ranchers in New Mexico. She grew up working and playing on the ranch that her grandparents homesteaded in 1928. That ranch, with the old adobe home, is still in the family today. Dori and her husband always yearned for a ranch of their own. That dream came true when they retired to the beautiful green rolling hills of Tennessee. Truly a cattleman's paradise!

Dori loves all things farmgirl and actually has known no other life but that. She loves to cook, craft, garden, and help with any and all things on their cattle farm.



suburban farmgirl

# Nicole's Favorites

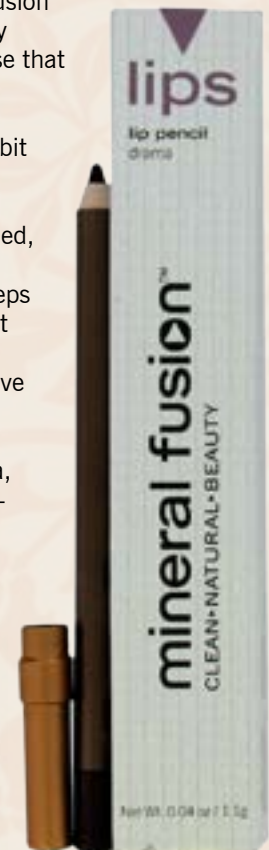
## Mineral Fusion Lip Pencil

Ahhh ... spring! It's such a busy time of year, indoors and out. Starting in April, I'm outdoors readying the garden and planting flowers. Inside, I'm spring cleaning. It's a good time to "spring clean" your cosmetics, too. Toss out anything past its prime. Did you know all cosmetics have a shelf life, just as foods do? Even if you don't use up a product, after a while, you should toss it (store-bought or homemade), as it can separate, lose effectiveness, and harbor bacteria. All cosmetic products should be kept only for so long; but this is especially crucial with eye makeup and lip products. There's an icon on most packaging of store-bought cosmetics showing an opened jar with a number next to an "m"; for example, "10 m" printed on a package indicates a product shouldn't be used longer than 10 months after being opened. It's important to remember with any cosmetic, but especially important with natural-based products since they lack preservatives in their ingredients.

Recently, when I picked up some of my favorite lip colors for spring, I also purchased a product I haven't used in a few years: a lip liner. Gone are the heavy, dark-lined lips of the early 2000s. In the past, lip liners by conventional cosmetic companies have irritated my lips with harsh ingredients and chemicals. My mouth once sported a painful "burned ring" from an allergic reaction to a lip liner. Some natural ones I've tried in the past were chalky, or too mushy to work with and simply melted off. **Mineral Fusion Lip Pencil** is soft but not greasy and is hypo-allergenic. It's free of parabens, artificial colors, talc, and gluten. Mineral Fusion Lip Pencils come in beautiful, natural tones that easily blend. (My choice for spring is Splendid, a beige-y rose that matches my natural lip tone).

When warmer weather breaks, I tend to "dress up" a bit more than other months. I also love vintage-inspired clothes and accessories. One of my favorite dresses looks like a 1940s design, and it needs a more polished, finished lip than just a swipe of pale gloss or a balm. Softly outlining lips with Mineral Fusion Lip Pencil keeps my brighter, natural-based lipsticks from bleeding past my natural lip line. Layer Mineral Fusion Lip Pencil under your favorite natural gloss or sheer lipstick to give it better staying power in hot weather—it's one of my favorite warm-weather beauty tricks! Long-lasting but not drying, with shea butter, vitamin E, mango, jojoba, and meadowfoam oils, this is one of the most natural-looking, non-drying lip pencils I've ever used.

I found Mineral Fusion Lip pencils for \$15.99 at my local Whole Foods, or you can pick them up on the web at **MineralFusion.com**.







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# Magazines, Books & More



Our April/May issue (Little Sprouts) hit newsstands on March 10. In it, you'll find fun foods for little sprouts; learn about sprouting seeds and grains, then make crackers from your sprouted wheat; get ideas for kids' garden projects; do a fun painting project with Annie Sloan Chalk Paint; plan a quilters' retreat; and more.

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

If you're a subscriber, you should have received your magazine by about March 5. (Those of you near postal hubs get faster delivery; rural delivery takes a little longer.) If you 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 **2015 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:

April 1 ~ April Fools' Day  
April 2 ~ Children's Book Day  
April 3 ~ Good Friday  
April 5 ~ Easter Sunday  
April 7 ~ World Health Day  
April 10 ~ National Farm Animals' Day  
April 13 ~ Scrabble Day  
April 14 ~ International Moment of Laughter Day  
April 15 ~ World Art Day  
April 18 ~ Husband Appreciation Day  
April 19 ~ National Garlic Day  
April 22 ~ Earth Day  
April 23 ~ National Picnic Day  
April 24 ~ Arbor Day

April  
Sisterhood  
Special!  
(see p. 50)

### 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!**



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