

MaryJane's Cluck™

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

November
2010

Life made us FRIENDS, MaryJanesFarm made us SISTERS!

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Hello from Sister #1

Annie Up, Sisters!

Always on the prowl for something playful, I couldn't resist displaying my Farmgirl Sisterhood merit badges the same way Annie Oakley shared her prowess.

A household name when I was growing up, Annie, born in Ohio in 1860, is one of the best-known figures of the Old West. But what did I really KNOW about the back story of the famous Miss Oakley, other than whenever I hit a target dead-center, my father, a man of many guns, would say, "Good job, Annie!" Vaguely, I knew she was a skilled sharpshooter who traveled the vaudeville circuit at the turn of the century.

What I didn't know was that at the age of 9, her Pennsylvania Quaker father died and she and her siblings were sent to an orphanage (known back then as "the county poor farm"). She was able to rejoin her mother at the age of 13, hunting quail and rabbits for food, something she'd been doing since she was 6 years old. Like a modern-day entrepreneur, Annie talked local restaurants and hotels into buying the game she shot. By the time she was 15, she had paid off the mortgage on her mother's farm.

Already becoming famous by the age of 21, she signed up for a sharpshooter contest against the traveling show marksman Francis Butler. When he couldn't best her, they instead married.

Less than five feet tall and weighing roughly 100 pounds, she wore fringed skirts, embroidered blouses, and a variety of felt

continued ...



(Reprinted from *MaryJanesFarm* magazine, Dec/Jan 2011 "Emotional Currency" issue.)





Girls can't what?

Using a .22 caliber rifle at 90 feet, Annie could split a playing card in half and put five or six more holes in it before it touched the ground!



continued ...

hats. She began her show by standing on a galloping horse and shooting the flames off a revolving wheel of candles. In one of her acts, Annie flipped a playing card into the air and perforated it five or six times as it fell—thus, any punched ticket, like a theatre ticket punched with a hole to prevent it from being resold, has traditionally been called an “Annie Oakley.” I've finally solved the mystery of why my father called his hole-punched decks of playing cards (p. 71) his “Annie Oakleys.”

Annie continued to set records into her 60s, but she was also involved in women's rights issues and charitable causes, giving most of her money away, in particular to young women that she personally mentored. Throughout her career, Annie not only taught thousands of women how to shoot (and hold their heads high), but she also filed lawsuits against male newspaper magnates that libeled her. In the early 1900s, sensational stories sold well, so Annie was accused of everything from a cocaine habit to theft to prostitution. She spent years winning all but one of 55 libel suits, collecting less in judgments than her legal fees. But for Annie, defending a woman's reputation justified the loss of money.

In 1922, two years after women won the right to vote, Annie was injured in a railroad accident, suffering paralysis, but fully recovered after enduring several painful surgeries. In 1924, she was again setting records, and in a contest in North Carolina, she hit 100 clay targets from 16 yards.

Madly in love with Annie throughout their marriage, her husband, Frank Butler, was so distraught when Annie died at the age of 66 in 1926 from pernicious anemia, he stopped eating and died 18 days later.

“Annie Get Your Gun,” a fictionalized version of Annie and Frank's lives, became an Irving Berlin Broadway hit in 1946, with Ethel Merman as Annie, and then again in 1999, starring Reba McEntire.

**Be an Annie Oakley in your own right,
flaunting merit badge couture.**

See how I created my Annie Oakley
Sisterhood merit badge couture on the following pages.

MaryJane ♥

continued ...



Annie at 62 in 1922

“After traveling through 14 foreign countries and appearing before all the royalty and nobility, I have only one wish today ... that when my eyes are closed in death, they will bury me back in that quiet little farmland where I was born.”

MAKE YOUR OWN Farmgirl Sisterhood

Jewelry



Last month ALONE, farmgirl sisters earned 147 merit badges, and their children another 40 badges (see a complete list of our Merit Badge Awardees at www.farmgirlsisterhood.org). Not only are their meritorious accomplishments given public accolades here in the Cluck and in our chatroom, but they're also given a link to a printable 4-inch badge specific to every accomplishment. (Already, we have some "sharpshooters" who've earned more than 100 badges!) Typically printed on muslin and then stitched to jackets or shoulder bags, made into wall hangings, or sometimes quilts, I'm thinking there might be other sisters, like me, who want to turn their badge insignias into necklaces, bracelets, chest medals, ring or earring signets, or even aglets and stampede straps!

Here's how I did it. Using a few basic jewelry tools, the Internet, and a visit to my local craft store, I took my badges (that arrive in an e-mail when earned/approved) and sized them down. You can size your badges yourself using this step-by-step process, or take your jpeg files to your local copy shop and have them do it for you. If you have other ideas on how you like to resize and color your badges, feel free to share your ideas on our **Farmgirl Connection™ Chatroom**.

1. Download your jpeg badge file, right-click (PC) or command-click (Mac) the image, then choose "Save Picture As..." or "Save Image As..." Save them to your computer somewhere you can find them again (like the desktop). 2. My design team knew how to color them on the computer using Paint or Photoshop, but when left to my own devices, colored pencils worked just fine. I left many of mine black and white, aiming for that vintage, somewhat industrial, frugal, farmish look. 3. Open Microsoft Word. 4. Click "Insert," "Picture," "From File," and select the badge image to insert. 5. Select one of the corners of the badge image. Using Word's rulers for size reference (under toolbars), resize your badge the desired amount by clicking, holding, and dragging. 6. If you make a mistake while resizing, simply hit the "Reset Picture" button on the picture editing toolbar and start over ("View," "Toolbars," "Picture"). 7. To make a circle cutting template around your badge you will need to again select "View," "Toolbars," "Drawing." Select the oval shape, and while holding your shift key down, drag until the circle is the correct size for your badge. Click the paint bucket on the drawing toolbar while your circle is selected, and click "no fill" to make your badge visible through the circle. 9. Print and enjoy!



continued...



For Scrabble tiles, I found the best quality and most reliable gear on **Etsy**. First, I brushed the paper badge with a thin layer of matte-finish Mod Podge to seal the paper, then I let it dry. You will use Mod Podge for all of these jewelry crafting projects; it works as both a glue and a sealer. Next I cut out my paper badge insignia and brushed the blank side of the Scrabble tile with Mod Podge and placed the paper badge onto it, gently working out any air bubbles with my bone folder (find at your local craft store.)

After it dried, I placed a self-adhesive square epoxy dome on top of the badge insignia and used a bone folder to remove the air bubbles. Next, I glued a metal bail (see left) on the lettered side using a 24-hour clear epoxy. Finally, I attached it to my chain necklace using a jump ring.



Bone Folder



For smaller, round bezel cups (my favorite), I turned to scrapbooking supplies for the most economical source. Idea-ology™ "Type Charms" (the stickers that come in the package look like typewriter keys, but I used my badge insignias instead) are sold in packages of 16 that include self-adhesive round epoxy domes that insert into each cup and sell for around \$8 (50¢ each). Available at **Michael's** or **online here**.

I think the 1/2" diameter size of this charm is good because of the price and availability. Soon, we'll all be *charming*! (You can go a more expensive route using bezel cups made from sterling silver and filled with liquid clear casting epoxy. You can **purchase supplies here**, or **Google** "sterling bezel cups.")



Sterling Silver Bezel Cup



continued...



Look to **Jill Schwartz** for a line of jewelry embellishments for adding non-badge charms to your necklace. I used a variety of charms from her line, as well as Industrial Chic, Lost & Found, Pearls & Pumps, Bella Boho, Forged, Blue Moon, and Black Lace. If you haven't discovered the jewelry aisle in your local craft store yet, head on out. There may be other lines or new lines available online or in stores near you by the time you read this.



Picking through the above lines of jewelry makings, I also Mod Podged my badge insignias onto any flat surface I could find, adjusting the size accordingly. I even used a locket from the Industrial Chic line for my main hexagonal Sisterhood Badge (inside are photos of my grandchildren). Note the cool safety pins you can buy that don't have the bottom double curl.



continued...

Or buy a button-making machine.

Merit Badge Buttons



Industrial Chic's ring blank didn't come with a self-adhesive resin dome, so I picked up some EasyCast to make my own. First, I followed the Mod Podge steps and gave the badge an extra coat to protect it from losing color and let it dry. I chose a well-ventilated area and covered the surface I was working on with wax paper. Next, I put on gloves and eye protection. Following the EasyCast instructions that come with the kit, I mixed my EasyCast and poured it into a squeezable condiment bottle with a spout (like a mustard container). I put the ring upright in a vice and gently squeezed the EasyCast onto my "bee kind to mother earth" badge that was nestled inside. (If you don't have a vise, you could use a bowl of uncooked rice or make jigs out of foam-core board or styrofoam.) Lastly, I covered the ring with a box while the EasyCast was hardening to protect it and followed the EasyCast instructions for proper clean up.



each other

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

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

EACH OTHER with Megan Rae To earn a Sisterhood badge in our **EACH OTHER** category, [CLICK HERE](#)



Megan Rae (Sister #2) grew up “on the farm”—MaryJanesFarm. She attended Gonzaga University and received a bachelor’s degree in Journalism. After marrying her college sweetheart, they moved to Kansas and bought their first home on a cobblestone street. Her love for writing, editing, and well, her Mom, finally brought her back to the farm. Raising her 3-year-old and 1-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), her stepsister in New York City (the perfect excuse to slip into a pair of stilettos), and one of her favorite farmgirls that she met when she lived in Kansas (scheduled around working the cows, of course).



Apple Pie Time

So, I’ll admit it. The real reason I love canning is that it’s a good way to cross a lot of people off my holiday shopping list—a gift that is heartfelt and handmade.

Now, my favorite dessert is pie. Any kind of pie. Put it in front of me and I’ll eat it. So, I figured I’d make my mother’s tried-and-true apple pie filling, top the jars of yumminess with a bit of Christmasy fabric, and give them as gifts—or bake a few pies with the filling and gift those. We harvested apples from our own tree and then picked up an extra box of apples at our Saturday morning Moscow Farmers’ Market and went to work.

We did boil over the sugary, hot liquid once, but the house smelled so delicious, and our young ’uns enjoyed helping us with the peeling and slicing. Well, truth be known, they mostly ate freshly peeled and sliced apples. The job was a cinch, using our Lehman’s hand-crank apple peeler (www.lehmans.com).

Now I can proudly cross my mother-in-law, best friend, dad, dentist (a good family friend who makes a killer pie crust and loves a good pie like I do), and a few others off my holiday list. Not to mention, I got to enjoy a beautiful fall day with just my family and the aroma of apple pie.

Find Mom’s Apple Pie Filling recipe in *MaryJane’s Ideabook*, p. 135, and her favorite pie crust recipe on p. 238. (If you haven’t picked up a copy of the *Ideabook* yet, find it **here** — and it makes a wonderful holiday gift!)



farm kitchen

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FARM KITCHEN with Alyson Oüten To earn a Sisterhood badge in our **FARM KITCHEN** category, [CLICK HERE](#)



Alyson Oüten (Sister #100) is a farmgirl, trapped in a city-girl career. A two-time Emmy-award-winning reporter, Alyson spent 20 years in the hustle and bustle of television news. Alyson recently hung up her microphone and parlayed her professional experiences into a new career as Corporate Communication Strategist for the international semiconductor company, Micron Technology. Alyson lives in a 1910 Craftsman-style bungalow in downtown Boise. She spends as much time as possible cooking for friends and preening and pruning her cottage garden. Alyson is a regular guest at our wall-tent bed and breakfast, where she soaks up our little piece of paradise in a bath under the stars. "It's my happy place!" she says.

Peaceful Belly

It was surreal ... like stepping into the pages of a magazine. Colorful fabric swatches gently flapping in the wind ... a long, perfectly appointed table ... a dramatic backdrop of rolling hills.

Every year at harvest time, Peaceful Belly Organic Farm in Boise, Idaho, hosts an intimate outdoor dinner. The seven-course menu is comprised, in large part, of produce picked on-site just hours before the meal is served.

This year, the dining room was erected in the middle of the tomato field, where some wily gofers had spoiled an entire portion of the crop. Turning the tables on this agricultural adversity (literally), farmers Clay and Josie Erskine set up the table in the bare patch.



MENU

Appetizer: Braised Leeks, Marinated Chioga and Red Beets, Dill Sabayon

Soup: Potato Gnocchetti, Smoked Chicken Brodo, Squash Blossoms

Salad: Sweet Corn, Okra, Basil, and Fried Green Tomato Salad with Bagna Cauda

Mezzo: Tomato Lavender Sorbetto

Entree: Chicken Breast al Mattone, Braised Chicken Legs with Caramelized Honey Baby Onions and Shallots, Angel Hair Potatoes, Green Chutney

Cheese: Manchego Cheese with Apple Butter Chutney

Dessert: Dumplings with Nectarine Brown Butter Sauce, Ballard Family Farm Ricotta Salata, Fennel Flower Candy

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While the Erskines and crew grow the organic produce, they leave the cooking to former farmhand and chef Abby Carlson. Her creations (each paired with a wine from a nearby winery) delighted the 30 guests ... each of whom paid \$100 to be in attendance.

“One day, Josie [Erskine] and I were harvesting on the farm talking about food and the things we could make with the beautiful produce,” said Carlson. “So we began playing with the idea of doing dinners on the farm. I enjoy doing the dinners because it gives people an all-sensory experience of food.”



Dressed in their finest, those who grew our food served our food on this night.

“Course by course, as the dinner proceeds, the food becomes a conversation piece of the evening,” said Carlson. “When the guests can look out over the field and see the tomatoes growing in front of them that now reside on their plate ... that’s when they understand the connection. It’s not only something to put in your mouth, but an opportunity to gain new friendships.”

Each dish defied description; the appetizer (roasted beets) was one of my favorites.



{Squash Blossom Soup}



{Roasted Beets}



{Nectarines with Ricotta and a Fennel Brittle}



recipes next page ...

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FARM KITCHEN with Alyson Oüten To earn a Sisterhood badge in our **FARM KITCHEN** category, [CLICK HERE](#)

Featured Recipes

Roasted Beets and Braised Leeks with Dill Sabayon

Roasted Beets

6 small red beets
6 small chioga beets (if you can't find this variety at your local farmers' market, you can substitute red)
1 bay leaf

Marinade

1 clove of garlic
1 lemon
4 T Barolo vinegar (or really good quality red wine vinegar)
4 T good quality olive oil
salt and black pepper

1. Preheat oven to 350°F.
 2. Place beets in a baking pan with just enough water to cover the bottom of the pan.
 3. Add bay leaf, a pinch of salt, and a drizzle of extra virgin olive oil. Cover with foil and bake until fork tender, about 30 minutes.
 4. When cool enough to handle, peel the beets and cut into wedges. Place the beets in two bowls keeping the two types separate and preserve their colors.
 5. Using a microplane, grate the garlic over the beets (it will be pulpy). Use the microplane to then zest the lemon into the beets.
 6. Drizzle the vinegar and oil. Season with salt and pepper. Toss the beets to incorporate marinade.
- *The beets are best when marinated overnight. Can be done up to 2 days before using.

Braised Leeks

6 small leeks
2 cups chicken or vegetable stock
4 T butter
Salt

1. Cut the green tops off the leeks, leaving the light green towards the bottom of the leek. Discard the tops. Cut in half lengthwise (if larger, quarter lengthwise). Clean very well in water by submerging, as leeks tend to be very dirty.
2. Lay leeks flat in a deep sauté pan. Cover by 3/4 with stock and add butter in pieces. Season with salt. Cook on the stovetop at low heat. You may have to add stock during the cooking so the leeks are always covered 3/4 by stock. Cook until very tender and they melt in your mouth and are no longer fibrous (they should be silky). This should take about 1 hour, depending on the size of the leek. Set aside.

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Featured Recipes

Roasted Beets and Braised Leeks with Dill Sabayon (continued)

Dill Sabayon

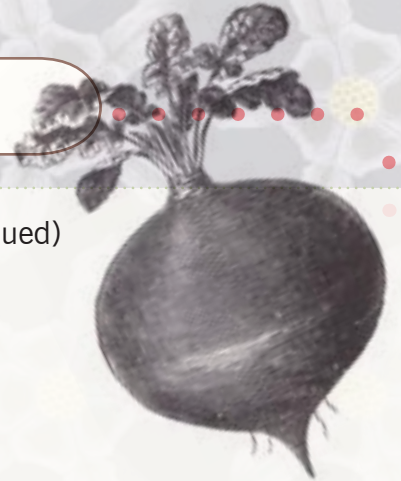
2 egg yolks
1/3 cup white wine
Pinch of salt
1/2 lemon, juiced
1/2 cup chopped fresh dill

1. In a medium mixing bowl, combine all ingredients except dill. Whisk until a ribbon starts to form with the yolks.
2. Transfer bowl to double boiler and continue whisking. The sabayon will expand and become fluffy. As soon as it begins to lose volume, or if the bottom of the pan becomes visible, remove it from the heat. Add chopped dill. Whisk it for 15 seconds to prevent curdling and to incorporate the dill.
3. Cover the sabayon with plastic wrap to prevent a skin from forming, use within 10 minutes.

Salad Assembly

Pile beets on the plate (may need to refresh with a little olive oil). Warm the leeks in braising liquid. Drape leeks over the beets. Spoon sabayon over the top of the salad.

{For amazing nutritional facts about many different types of foods, [click here](#) to visit the website *Self Nutrition Data: Know What You Eat.*}



garden gate

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GARDEN GATE with Mary Ann Newcomer To earn a Sisterhood badge in our **GARDEN GATE** category, [CLICK HERE](#)



Mary Ann Newcomer, (Sister #246) is a MaryJane Farmgirl, living in Boise, the capital of Idaho. Her great grandparents' homestead was established in 1899 on the Palouse prairie and is still in the family. She learned to cook, garden, can, and sew with her grandmother. Never without a garden or, at the very least, a shelf of plants in an apartment, she followed her passion to become an Advanced Master Gardener, a director of the Idaho Botanical Gardens, and a scribe, scout, and speaker for all things gardening.

“I prefer winter and fall, when you feel the bone structure of the landscape—the loneliness of it, the dead feeling of winter. Something waits beneath it, the whole story doesn't show.”

—Andrew Wyeth

Celebrating the Great Outdoors

I've just returned from a wonderful weekend of camping on the Yakima River in Washington State: a true celebration of the great outdoors. What started eight years ago as a handful of fly fishermen gathered round the fire pit has become an annual rite of seasonal passage for several families (three generations in one case), old friends, new friends, devoted fly fishermen, food and more food, and crackling campfires. I asked the celebrants and others, “What does autumn mean to you?”

Heather (Medford, Oregon): Indian Summer and the shortening of days, the quality of the light, the intensity of the colors.

Nancy (North Dakota): Autumn is all about anticipation. It will always mean new beginnings—more than New Year's Day: new beginnings, clean chalkboards, new pencils, erasers, the distinctive smell of the autumn air, the start of deer season.

Janet (North Carolina): The end of gin and tonics and the start of red wine season; the change of menus for warm, deep soups, stews and vegetables—a whole new menu that I so look forward to.

Mary (originally from Cutbank, Montana, now from Washington): Change. I love the change of seasons, and autumn is my absolute favorite: the thought of books stacked for winter reading, roasted vegetables, rich flavors, apples, warm spices, early nights, and lamplight.



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Shay (Oroville, Washington): The amazing azure blue of the autumn sky, unlike any other sky of the year, changing trees outlined against the sky, children and grownups kicking through the piles of crispy colorful leaves.

David (Washington; although not a farmgirl, I interviewed him, too!): Watching the change of light, the coming “inward” of the season, and watching nature make ready for the quietude of the next six months. It’s just the opposite of the explosion of spring.

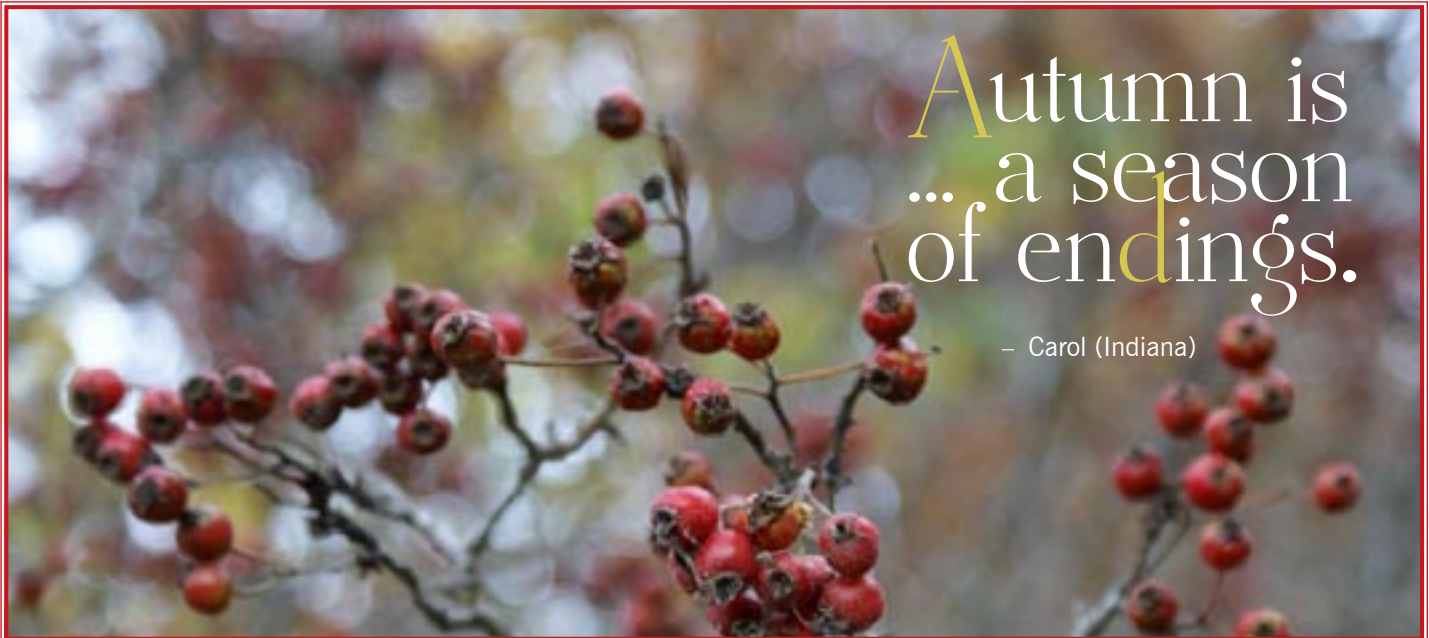
Layanne (Rhode Island): Autumn is bright light with long shadows, liquid gold walks in the woods, the call of the jays, and the sweet earthy smell of decay.

Frances (Tennessee): Fall is wonderful, natural, decay. And in the garden, a fine tapestry of brilliant leaves.

Nancy (Texas): Shorter days, cooler nights, the ripening of future possibilities—seeds!

Carol (Indiana): Autumn is a time to reflect, a season of endings. A time to prepare, to remember the thin thread that connects to the next spring.

I wonder ... what does autumn mean to you?



stitching & crafting room

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

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

STITCHING & CRAFTING with Rebekka Boysen-Taylor To earn a Sisterhood badge in our **STITCHING & CRAFTING** category, [CLICK HERE](#)



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

Modern Sweater Makeover

Farmgirls in big cities and little towns alike know the value of shopping secondhand. Doing this not only saves dollars, it allows you to get more out of the money you do spend. When I go to the thrift store or consignment shop, I have a list of things I am looking for in my wallet. Winter is right around the corner, and sweaters are at the top of my list. On my last trip to the thrift store, I spotted a classic cotton cardigan, cream in color and high in quality. The only holdup was a small bleach spot on the front, but for \$1.99, the price was right, so I took a chance on making it over.

With a bit of ribbon and a sewing machine, you can cover small holes or stains while adding style and charm. For my sweater, I created blossom embellishments with two types of chocolate brown ribbon. Using about a yard of ribbon, I began in the center of each flower and worked my way around, stitching the ribbon into place as I went (you are spiraling out from the flower's center). The best type of ribbon for your first blossom is grosgrain, since it won't fray as easily as others.

Depending on the look you prefer, choose thread that matches your ribbon or contrasts with it (you can see examples of both on my sweater). When your blossom is big enough, fold the end of the ribbon under and stitch back and forth twice to secure the end. For the second flower, I used ribbon that was already ruffled—this created a much fuller flower.

To make a leaf, you can cut one out of nice wool felt and stitch it into place or make one using 6" of ribbon. Start by finding the center of the ribbon, folding both sides of the ribbon down toward you evenly. This creates a point at the center of the ribbon. Now sew a basting stitch along the seam where the ribbons overlap. Gather this thread to make your leaf shape. Finally, cut off the excess ribbon 1/4" from the seam, tuck it under, and stitch along the center of your leaf to secure it.

This project is versatile and can be easily adapted to embellish clothing, tote bags, or pillow covers.



make it easy

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

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



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

“Climb the mountains and get their good tidings. Nature's peace will flow into you as sunshine flows into trees. The winds will blow their own freshness into you, and the storms their energy, while cares will drop off like autumn leaves.”

— John Muir

Pudgy Pumpkins

Our local MaryJanesFarm Sisterhood Chapter held its monthly “hen party” last Sunday. My friend, Michele, was our hostess and she had prepared a pumpkin production craft project for our flock. Who isn't partial to pumpkins this time of year?!

These pudgy pumpkins are an ideal project choice for mothers and daughters to make together. There is only one pattern piece — perfect for young farmgirl seamstresses.

You're going to run into a problem though. One lonely little pumpkin is not enough! You'll want to make a bunch because they look so cute as a flock cuddled up together. Arrange them anywhere ... in an old wooden bowl, on a cupboard shelf, on a coffee table. Or give one to an old teddy bear to hug.

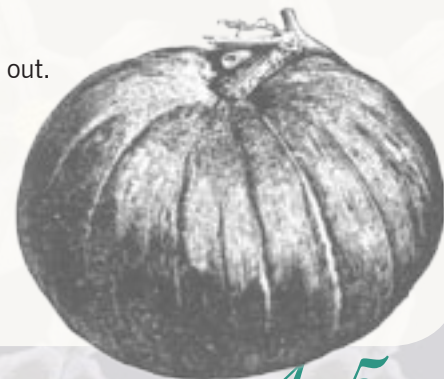
Supplies:

Fabric: cotton calico, velvet, satin, cutter quilt, homespun plaid, chenille.
Bags of rice (for “stuffing”)
Tree branches or old thread spools for stems
Heavy-duty thread (button type)
Needle, scissors, funnel, ballpoint pen
Paper to make circle patterns or plastic-ware lids and plates

The How-To:

1. We opted to go to the kitchen for our pattern templates and used dinner plates, salad plates, and plastic-ware lids. Michele made a large pumpkin from a galvanized metal tub. Keep in mind that there is a lot of “shrink” with these pumpkins. You'll need a pattern circle that is at least twice the diameter of what you envision your finished pumpkin to be. For example, a 12” circle pattern will result in a 5” pumpkin. So, there is your math guide. Michele made a varied herd of about eight pumpkins from several different fabrics. I made three in graduated sizes – one of velvet, one out of an old quilt top, and another from homespun plaid.
2. To begin, trace your circle pattern onto the fabric. Cut it out. You can leave the pumpkin fabric piece right side out.

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make it easy

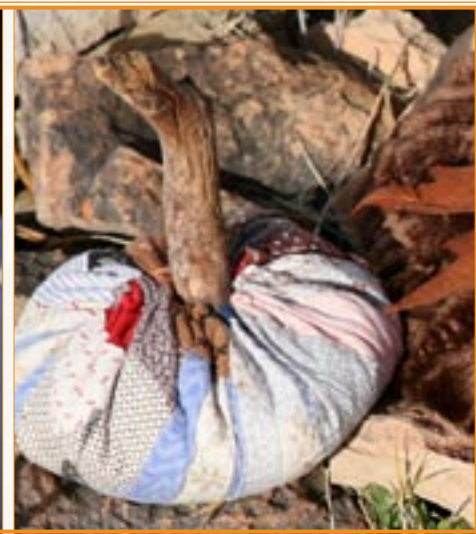
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MAKE IT EASY with Shery Jespersen To earn a Sisterhood badge in our **MAKE IT EASY** category, [CLICK HERE](#)

continued ...

3. Load your needle with heavy-duty thread and knot the end. Make sure you have enough thread to go all the way around the circumference of the pumpkin ... and then some. Begin hand sewing your pumpkin and use a simple running stitch. Don't make the stitches too small. They will be easier to pull and gather if they're about 1/4" long. Sew close to the raw edge (about 1/8"). If you turn the raw edge under, it will double the thickness of the fabric and it may result in having to choose a stem that will look too fat for the size of pumpkin you make.
4. When you have stitched all the way around the pumpkin, gather the opening from both ends with your thread (refer to photos). Using a funnel if need be, pour the rice into the pumpkin cavity.
5. Now, push the tree branch (or spool) down into the rice. Pull the gathering thread up tight around the "stem." You might need to make one more trip around the pumpkin with your needle and thread to firm up the gathers and to hide the raw edge. It just depends on what kind of fabric you're working with. When you're happy with the fit, tie your ends firmly and clip the thread.
6. You can leave your pumpkin "as is" or you may want to add a little garnish ... leaves, buttons, or a bow of raffia. Have fun, and you might as well make a few extra for gifts because your sister, mom, and gal-pals will all want one!



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

Winter Recipes with Spice

For me, spices are the perfect complement to chilly autumn and winter months. The tantalizing aromas are reminiscent of holiday favorites like apple and pumpkin pie, mulled apple cider, eggnog, clove-studded oranges, and hot toddies. Plus, the scents are uplifting to the spirits, comforting, energizing, and good for overcoming mental fatigue and stress. Topically, they are warming and excellent for increasing circulation making them useful for sore muscles and arthritis.

Winter Spice Aroma Spray

Mist this intoxicating scent around your home for a nostalgic holiday aroma, or just because it smells so good!

3 oz water
1 oz witch hazel extract
20 drops organic cinnamon essential oil
15 drops organic cedarwood essential oil
10 drops organic clove essential oil
5 drops organic ginger essential oil

Add all ingredients to a 4 oz bottle and cap with a mister top. Shake before each use, as the contents will naturally separate.

Clove and Sweet Orange Lip Balm

A warming lip balm with a delightful scent reminiscent of orange and clove pomander balls.

1 T organic shea butter
3 T organic sunflower oil
1 T plus 1 t beeswax
15 drops organic sweet orange essential oil
5 drops organic clove essential oil

Coarsely chop the beeswax or use beeswax pastilles. Place beeswax, butter, and oils in a small pot or glass Pyrex measuring cup and gently heat in the top of a double boiler until the beeswax and butters have melted. Once melted, remove from the stovetop and add essential oils. Immediately pour the mixture into lip balm containers. You can purchase lip balm tubes and jars, or you can reuse glass or plastic containers. Allow to cool completely before placing caps onto the lip balm containers. Your lip balm is finished! You can now add labels, ribbons, twine, or any other decorative elements. Makes 10 lip balm tubes.

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Oatmeal & Spice Bath

Oatmeal soothes while spices warm, assist circulation, and aid sore muscles.

- 1 cup organic oatmeal
- 1 t organic cinnamon powder
- 1 t organic ginger root powder
- 1/2 t organic cardamom powder
- 1/2 t organic nutmeg powder
- muslin bag or cheesecloth

Mix the oatmeal and spices together. If using right away, place in a muslin bag or in cheesecloth and wrap under the faucet, allowing the warm water to flow through the bag. Once the bathtub is full, untie and oatmeal-spice bag and use it like a washcloth to soften and sooth your skin. If giving as a gift, package the mixture in a pretty glass jar or tin, and attach a muslin bag and include instructions for usage.

Cinnamon & Brown Sugar Body Scrub

This simple recipe smells delicious, increases circulation, and will make your skin feel silky smooth.

- 3/4 cup organic brown sugar
- 1/4 cup plus 1 T organic carrier oil of your choice
- 1 T honey
- 1 t cinnamon powder
- 20 drops organic cinnamon essential oil

Combine sugar and powdered cinnamon. Add oil, honey, and essential oil. Mix well. Package in jars, and enjoy!



continued ...

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continued ...

Favorite Chai Tea

Make a pot of this enchanting tea to enjoy while whipping up all of these body care products! This is my favorite spiced tea recipe. I love to share it with friends and family during the fall and winter months. Many families in India create their own version of this tea, so feel free to play with the recipe.

4 slices fresh organic ginger root
2 organic cinnamon sticks
8-10 whole organic cloves
8-10 whole organic cardamom pods
1/4 t organic whole black or white peppercorns
dash of homemade or organic vanilla extract
2 T black tea (organic English Breakfast, Ceylon, or Assam) or make a decaffeinated version by substituting Red or Honeybush Tea
organic honey to taste
2 cups water
2 cups organic milk or a milk substitute

Lightly crush cinnamon sticks and cardamom pods. Bring 2 cups of water to a boil, and add all spices. Reduce the heat and allow to simmer for 5 minutes or longer, stirring occasionally. Add milk and allow it to heat up, then remove from the stove and add vanilla and honey. Strain and enjoy!

Here are some other fun ways to use spices during the holidays:

Spice Candle - Dip a cheap paintbrush into melted wax and dab a bit of wax onto a candle. Press cinnamon sticks or star anise pods onto the melted wax. Allow the candle to cool thoroughly and then holding it carefully by the wick, dip the entire candle into the hot wax briefly. Once cool, tie a decorative ribbon around the base.

Herbal Tree Decorations - Fill clear glass ball ornaments with colorful spices. Try cloves; black, green, white or pink peppercorns; cardamom pods; or any herb or spice that looks pretty or smells fragrant.

Spice Garland - String cinnamon sticks, chili peppers, and star anise pods on twine for a lovely fall-inspired decoration.

Fragrant Sachet Ornaments - Cut fabric or lace into fun shapes and fill with cinnamon, cloves, and star anise, and sew closed to make fun and fragrant ornaments.

Breakfast Treats - Grind cardamom or cacao nibs with your coffee beans and brew; use cinnamon sticks in coffee or black tea drinks as a stir stick; or mix pumpkin pie spice into cream cheese for a delicious toast or bagel spread.



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

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

OUTPOST with Shery Jespersen To earn a Sisterhood badge in our **OUTPOST** category, [CLICK HERE](#)



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

“My friendships with women give me a deeper experience of myself.”

– Amy Lawrence. 1889

Foundlings

Some of us are helplessly drawn to “foundlings.” What is a foundling, you ask? Well, there is no tight-fitting definition. A foundling is something you find and for a variety of reasons, it is special to you. Foundling finders have a curious sort of appreciation for found objects, whatever they may be. Invariably, the foundling hounds I know possess a sentimental seeking nature. We’re also appreciators of detail. That is how we spy foundlings in the first place. We’re lookers.

Children are natural-born foundling hounds. Curiosity is key and children have it in spades. Have you managed to hang onto your childlike fascination for the little details in life? I hope so. There is depth in being a fan of foundlings. Taking the time to pause and look around is not a matter of frittering away time that could be better spent on less frivolous pursuits. You can learn something from so many little things that we often overlook and walk right past. My grandfather was my foundling mentor. I was blessed as a child to be born to his daughter, and that blessing is ongoing.

Grandpa found arrowheads, fossils, stone artifacts, and beautiful stones wherever we ventured outdoors. He was a master of foundling finding. The town dump was a harvesting area of great wealth. I was his shadow. We were inseparable. He was elderly and I was often his feet and hands. It never occurred to me that I was digging around in trash. Oh no, it was an adventure that resulted in finding many treasures!

Foundlings need a new home. Small foundlings are content living in an old cigar or fishing tackle box. Over time, a true collector will outgrow a small box, to the point of needing a shed! Or, you can do as I do ... I decorate with my favorite foundlings—outside, inside, everywhere. Found objects add a fun, eclectic, and very personal touch.

The world is your hunting ground. Flea markets and forests, trail rides and roadsides, backpacking hikes and mountain-bike trips ... one and all provide the foundling seeker many opportunities to fill their pockets. Souvenir pinecones, an old blue jar filled with smooth river rocks, an armful of fallen tree branches placed in a crock, a bundle of grass tied up with jute. The list of decorative foundling options is endless, and quite likely you’ll be tidying up the world as you go. So, where were you yesterday? Did you drive right past “some kind of wonderful”? Did you notice that tree branch on the side of the road? Did you give any thought to how lovely it would look on top of your antique cupboard? If you’re a dyed-in-the-wool foundling hound, you already picked it up. If you’re a foundling rookie, I’ll let you go. You better skidaddle and go get that branch before some other foundling hound beats you to it.

continued ...

“No hour of life is wasted that is spent in the saddle.”

– Winston Churchill

outpost

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continued ...



cleaning up

“ Housework is something you do that nobody notices until you don't do it. ”

– Author Unknown

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

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CLEANING UP with Toni Salerno To earn a Sisterhood badge in our **CLEANING UP** category, [CLICK HERE](#)



Born and raised in Florida, Toni Salerno (Sister #197) left her city life as a Theatre Director/Teacher to live a more holistic, serene life in Idaho. Five years ago, she found her dream home in Troy, Idaho, and embraced the Palouse way of life. Now, Toni and her husband, Adam, and their four daughters own Clean Green, an organic cleaning service. This company specializes in chemical-free cleaning using their own line of environmentally safe products. Visit their website at www.cleangreenocs.com.

Make Mine
GREEN

Non-toxic Oven Cleaning

Preparing your oven for Thanksgiving Day is one of the many rituals we do worldwide. A clean oven is a healthy oven, and I am thankful for ovens to cook my scrumptious MaryJane meals in. And I am also very grateful for the little button entitled “self cleaning” on my oven to clean with. If you, too, have a self-cleaning oven, with the touch of a button you can transform a drizzled-on, greased-down, crusty oven into a shiny clean one with only ash to remove. But, there are guidelines to follow when using a self-cleaning oven for the best results. For instance, you want to first remove the wire racks inside of the oven. Then set the dial or button to self clean. Be prepared to wait anywhere from 2 to 6 hours and be sure to ventilate your kitchen well by opening some windows. Sometimes your oven may smoke and fill up the room as it is reaching high temperatures to incinerate the debris. Afterwards, have a dust buster hand-held vacuum or a stand-up vacuum with an attachment to remove all the ash at the bottom of the oven after it has cooled. Then with a damp cloth and water, you can wipe down the oven to reveal its true shine.

However, if you find yourself having to clean the oven the old-fashioned way, there are some innovative suggestions to assist you in cleaning thoroughly while remaining toxic free. In my own childhood, I remember the tireless chore of my mom cleaning the oven with “easy” spray products. The fumes and toxic smell would burn your eyes and take your breath away. Even hours after the cleaning, the smell of chemicals would still linger through the air in the kitchen. But nowadays, we have gotten more conscious of our health and the environment by taking a more green approach to our cleaning.

First and foremost, prevention is the key. The more you prevent your spills in the first place, the less you will have to be cleaning. To do that, you can line the bottom of your oven with aluminum foil or use silicone mats that are made especially for spills. They are found at most household stores and price out at \$20. Another aid to remember is when you are cooking to put a cookie sheet underneath the food you are preparing to catch the spills. However, after all of your preparation, if you find there are still messes made in your oven, another way to combat them is with a steam blaster. The steam wand literally blasts the crusty bits off. Then with rubber gloves, a steel “chore boy,” and warm water with natural soap, you can easily scrub the remainder off the inside of the oven. Another favorite of mine is using warm water and baking soda to make a paste and rub on the spills. After a few generous applications, I can usually remove any mess. If all else fails and you still cannot remove a stubborn spill, try using a plastic putty knife to lift up the spill without scratching the surface. Remember to always clean your oven when it is cool to avoid burns and injury. And if you can prevent the spills from happening and/or wipe them up right away, you, too, will be thankful you saved a lot of time and energy in cleaning. Here's to a happy, clean Thanksgiving.



The Scoop from MaryJanesFarm

Indexes Now Available!

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

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

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

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

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

Farmgirls Unite!

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

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

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

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



MARYJANES FARM. TV



the scoop continues ...

MaryJanesFarm.TV

Head on over to www.maryjanesfarm.tv and check out our new Farmgirl “U” (University) Sisterhood Merit Badge videos. (Search through the list for those that are underlined—those are links to completed videos.) Also, our new “DIY Magazine Projects” has a video of paper guru Jaime Whitney demonstrating how to make beautiful paper out of junk mail as a companion to her how-to pages in the April/May 2010 issue of our magazine. And for a bit of escape, enjoy our “Farm Romance” videos.

Farmgirl “U” is for YOU—the gal who still giggles with her girlfriends and craves vine-ripened tomatoes, homemade jams, and healthier living in general. (Let’s not forget simple pleasures in particular.) And you were born with enough curiosity that continuing to learn is a must. In can-do, will-do “I can do this!” fashion, we are slowly offering how-to videos that match our written Merit Badge requirements. So take heart, visual learners, we heard you loud and clear! But be patient, our list of videos-yet-to-be-completed tells us we have about a year’s worth to shoot. Stay tuned! We’re hard at it.

MaryJane ♥

P.S. Don’t be shy! If you have a video camera, don’t hesitate to put yourself, a Farmerette, or a Young Cultivator in front of it describing how a particular badge was earned. They can be sent to us on a DVD as a .mpeg file for inclusion on our www.maryjanesfarm.tv website (upon approval). Send them to: MaryJanesFarm/Merit Badge Videos, Box 8691, Moscow, ID 83843. Include your e-mail address and the badge earned so we can let you know when it will go live. (You still need to apply online for approval of badges, but don’t hesitate to shoot videos of ANY badges you’ve earned in the past. And sorry, we can’t return the DVDs you send.) Think Farmgirl “U” Tube and get those cameras rolling!



Farmgirl Chatter

What are farmgirls chatting about?

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

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A Farm of My Own: Farmhouse Decorating Ideas.

Submitted by highlandviewpantry
My husband and I looked for an old farmhouse to renovate for years; however, real estate in our area is inflated. So, we decided to build a new “old” farmhouse. Help me brainstorm decorating ideas to add old charm to our new house. The construction is almost done and it is getting close to the fun part. The house is all white with white lineal trim around the windows. The roof is slate gray and we hope to add a big porch soon. I need ideas for curtains, front door colors, wide plank wood floors, lighting fixtures, etc. I also need accessories like dishes, glassware, silverware, artwork, etc. Any ideas would be helpful and so would website links. Thanks! Click [here](#) to share your ideas.

Across the Fence: Recipes Up and Some Chit-chat.

Submitted by Okie Farm Girl
I just wanted to let you know that a number of new recipes are up **at the blog**, including waffles, smoothies, beef veggie soup, and others. I would love to do some stories of funny cooking incidents if anyone wants to contribute their disasters. :-)) We farm women know that everything doesn't REALLY come out perfect!! Would appreciate comments and your favorite recipes as well. Share your comments [here](#).

Barnyard Buddies: Milking a Jersey Cow.

Submitted by Dorinda
I have a question. I am looking into getting a Jersey milk cow. Does this cow have to be milked twice a day everyday or can she be milked every other day? My neighbor said I am making a big mistake getting this cow because they are a lot of maintenance. That they get sick a lot and you have to milk them everyday, twice a day, or they will get mastitis. Is this true? Click [here](#) to give advice.

Cleaning Up: Help! I think I've got pantry moths...

Submitted by Annika
What, besides get rid of everything they've gotten into and thoroughly clean my pantry, can I do to get rid of them with out nasty chemicals? I've never had them before. Ick! They got into my bags of flour, so I'm going to be looking for a better way to store flour and grains than bags ... Share you suggestions [here](#).

Cleaning Up: Ridding of mice?

Submitted by Penny Wise

Any “natural” way??? I don't want to set traps as I don't want to hurt my own fingers...and I have to be careful of poisons due to a very nosy small indoor dog—also parrots ... I understand WHY they come in (I live in the midst of woods and fields in northern Michigan, for Pete's sake!!!) and don't really mind that part—I just don't care to house and feed them all winter!!! Suggestions??? Thanx! Share your suggestions [here](#).



the chatter continues ...

Entrepreneurship: Secondhand Store. Submitted by nanny

I am a mom of 5, now all in school, and looking to open a secondhand clothing store in my town, offering fun, funky, fashionable clothes for kids, teens, and adults. I'm looking to do something a little different ... anyone have any experience or good advice on getting started? I would really appreciate some feedback. Click [here](#) to give feedback.

Farm Kitchen: Black walnuts ... too late to use them? Submitted by missusprim

We have a pile of black walnuts and have had too much going on at our house to tend to them. Unfortunately, the hulls are now almost all black. Is it too late to do anything with them? If not, any pointers on how to get to the shell—we've never attempted this, as we've never had black walnut trees. Many thanks in advance! Click [here](#) to give advice.

Farmgirl Fashion: ??? Girly denim jacket. Submitted by Penny Wise

Hope this hasn't been posted to death—my viewing time today is short, but I need some ideas! I'm short too, and a teeny, well, chubby—I'm in 14's and 16's, but petite—so many things don't always look good on me that do on someone more slender and tall...

Ok—my denim jacket is a man's jacket, and I would love a frillier, girly type. I am not into sewing it myself this month. Would love it for an upcoming trip and wonder where I could maybe find one? I haven't had any success at the gagillion thrift stores nearby ...

Ideas??? Thanks and a hug for good measure!!! Click [here](#) to share your ideas.

Garden Gate: Milk-free Butternut Squash Pie. Submitted by Pie Gloria Bonde

I recently posted a recipe for my favorite "pumpkin" pie — I make it with Butternut Squash, or you can use pumpkin or a nice yellow pumpkin-like consistency squash. I usually cook up a big squash or two and use the leftovers (at least 2 cups) to make a pie. Yummy. Get the recipe [here](#).

Garden Gate: Strawberry advice, please. Submitted by Lessie Louise

I planted my strawberries in a 4x4 foot planter and they did very well so far. I have a few questions: my neighbor insists that I can just ignore them all winter and they will do just fine, but I feel I should cover them or something. Also, when is the best time to transplant them into another planter box? Now or in the spring? Thank you, I always get the best advice from you ladies. Click [here](#) to give advice.

Gathered Up: Calling VA farmgirls. Submitted by SuzieQ

I am coming for a visit to the Harrisonburg area the first week in Nov. My husband has to work and I am catching a ride. I am wondering if there are any farmgirls who would like to show me the area or give me some ideas to go see. I love to see pioneer villages, gardens, museums. I am coming from the Dallas area. Please email me and let me know. Thanks. Click [here](#) to go to topic.



the chatter continues ...

Herbal Wisdom: Red Clover Blossoms and Red Raspberry Leaves.

Submitted by LenaSassafrass
Hey all. I have been reading about the benefits of red clover blossoms and red raspberry leaves for fertility and hormone balance/overall good health for women, and in some instances, animals. Has anyone used these before for those reasons? Did they work? And did you buy in bulk or capsule form? Thanks for any info! Click [here](#) to share helpful information.

Here's to Your Health: Eating for your blood type.

Submitted by goneriding
I found a book that discusses this. As much as I can, I've modified my diet and I feel MUCH better! Well, as much as driving a big rig allows me to do. I'm sleeping properly too. I have more energy and interest to do things, even things I've only half done and couldn't get to the last of it.

So, if anyone wants to try this, I would recommend it. You can find most of the items at your local grocery store (I have) or herbal place. It doesn't take much effort to change your diet. Click [here](#) to comment.

Holidays: I need homemade gifts ideas for men.

Submitted by kristin sherrill
I want to make all my gifts this year for Christmas and need ideas for men. I am drawing blanks here. I am coming up with all kinds of gifts to make for kids and women.

So if anyone has easy homemade gifts to make for men, please tell me! Thank you. Share your ideas [here](#).

Make It Easy: STRONG clothespins?

Submitted by missusprim
I absolutely love to hang out my laundry, but now that we live in the country and are surrounded by fields, it's awfully windy. We have clothesline rope hung between two trees (how green is that?) and I use the standard spring-loaded pins you buy at grocery stores. They're fine for less windy days, but just not enough on the windy days. Because I have a rope line, I can't use the push-on kind.

I bought a package of those all-plastic, light-blue spring pins, but they are designed to clamp the clothes, but not to the line. So, the clothes often 'slide' up and down my line or together. KWIM?

Anyone know of a source for strong clothespins that aren't your average or standard ones? I don't give a hoot what they look like or how much they cost ... I'm just desperate! Or, maybe even someone who uses something 'un'clothespin like to hold my laundry on the line? Or who modifies existing clothespins?

Thanks for any tips or hints ahead of time. And I am so psyched about this site and can't wait to get into the farmgirl life! Share you ideas [here](#).



the chatter continues ...

Nifty Thrifty: The best homemade furniture polish. Submitted by harmonyfarm

I ran out of furniture polish last week and found a simple recipe for homemade: 3 parts Olive Oil, 1 part Vinegar ... that's it! I put it in a clean, recycled spray bottle and shook it a little to blend before I used it. (Don't shake too much or you'll have mayonnaise). Wipe with a soft cloth (old T-shirts or old socks work wonders) ... This stuff is great and my wood furniture sparkles!!! Click [here](#) to comment.

Nifty Thrifty: What do you do about water? Submitted by lilwing

I have a question—what do you do about drinking water when you live in the city? I live in a 6 million to 7 million population (in Houston Texas) in the middle of the thick of it (not like I LOVE this but I have to right now) ... I refuse to drink the tap water.. Especially after I saw what came out of it the other day(!)... So far, for the last several years, we've been buying the big things of spring water from the store... I get two each usually. I hate doing this. I'd rather do some other way. I have been wondering if the Brita filter thingies are worth it, but it seems to me the filters are more expensive after you buy the decanter or the sink filter ... I wish it were different ... It seems there surely are better ways of getting water ... !!? Click [here](#) with your suggestions.

Stitching & Crafting Room: A NEW sewing machine/crafting group now open.

Submitted by naturemaiden

Hi girls! Recently, I had been a member of 2 different Yahoo sewing machine groups. I was disappointed with them because you could only list vintage Singer machines like from the early 1900's—but not any that were 1957! Then you couldn't post pics of your own machines in your own folders—only as a reference for helping other group members!? I didn't get it. Then if you needed help, you'd have to wait to have your message approved for 2 days. It seems the owners of the groups were so into controlling everything, it just took the joy out of being a part of it. I just left the groups. I mean, what's the point of being a part of a group if there are so many rules that don't benefit you?

Anyhow, I love MaryJane's forum—but wondered if I started my own sewing machine Yahoo group where everyone could post help/info on ALL types of machines, and have their pics as well—would anyone be interested in being a part of it? I am not a sewing machine expert, but learn as I go, and I figure that we can all help each other—whether we need advice, are looking for parts, share pics, etc. Any feedback would be appreciated. I will post a link when the group is ready. Share your feedback [here](#).

Editor's note: We've just added a feature to our chatroom that allows you to post photos right on our chatroom (you won't have to upload your photos to a site like Photobucket any longer). Look for a photo button on the row of editing buttons that appear when you write your post. How about a sewing machine topic right on our forum? You can now load photos as easy as you can on Yahoo or Facebook.



Join in the fun— join the Farmgirl Sisterhood!

When you add your name to the Farmgirl Sisterhood, you will receive a consecutive number according to when you signed up (for example, Farmgirl Sisterhood Member #750). Once you're officially signed up, we'll mail your official Farmgirl Sisterhood badge depicting an adorable aproned hen, our official logo, ready to wear or embroider, and an official Farmgirl Sisterhood certificate signed by the Queen Bee herself. We also offer for purchase a Sisterhood necklace customized with your unique number (see p. 30). Over on the Farmgirl Connection chatroom, you'll get a special hexagonal Farmgirl Sisterhood designation by your name. In addition, you'll start receiving The Cluck newsletter—packed with project ideas, news, and tips—each month; you'll be eligible for "Members Only" special product offers from MaryJanesFarm; and you can start earning Farmgirl Sisterhood Merit Badges right away (think Girl Scouts for grown-ups) and post photos and narratives of your projects on our website (braggin' rights). In other words, you'll be strutting your farmgirl skills for all the world to see! Members are also the only ones permitted to mentor Farmerettes (farmgirls-in-training between the ages 14–18) and Young Cultivators (girls and boys between the ages 6–13) and work with them to earn badges. But if you're not inclined to earn merit badges, there are plenty of other benefits to joining up. Whether it's cooking, stitching, gardening, make-it-yourself projects, going green, cleaning up, or just getting together, you'll gather with other farmgirls for lots of fun! **Click here** to purchase your Sisterhood membership.

and ...

Start or Join a Farmgirl Chapter

If you're yearnin' to meet up face-to-face with other farmgirls in your area, start or join a Farmgirl Chapter. MaryJane is proud to say that there are now over 1,097 Farmgirl Chapters located in all 50 states and 8 countries with 2,140 Sisterhood members — growing stronger every day!! These groups consist of diversified, talented, caring, creative, like-minded women just like YOU! This is truly the best sisterhood to be found anywhere!

Click here to join in.

Farmgirl Sisterhood News

Merit Badge Updates:

Become a Legend in Your Own Time!

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

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

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

We've also added four new badges for you to earn (we do this on Jan. 1 and July 1 each year). You can now earn badges for "Green Energy" in the Cleaning Up category, for "Knotty Farmgirls" in the Outpost category, and for "Farmgirl Shutterbugs" and "I Should Have Been in the Movies" in the Each Other category. And for those of you who like to print out the badge requirements, we'll have updated pdfs available soon. Find complete instructions for becoming a Farmgirl Legend and for earning the new badges [here](#).



... more Farmgirl Sisterhood News

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.**

FYI: We're working on earrings and a charm necklace with small, round "charms" that represent the Merit Badges you've earned. Stay tuned ...



Hello Elaine!

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,
Veronica Laviolette

Forsyth County News

COMMUNITY

'Calling all Farmgirls'

Members of new club seek simpler lifestyle

By Alyssa LaRenzie
alyssalarenzie@forsythnews.com

The flyer read: "Calling all Farmgirls."

It didn't take long until there were enough to fill a henhouse.

Now the Farmgirls are clucking away in their club, all while quilting, canning, crocheting, crafting and learning about different ways to enjoy a more simple and natural

lifestyle.

Forsyth County resident Mary Ann Witcher, often known in writing as "MAW," started the Georgia Farmgirls in June 2009 as a local chapter of the international MaryJane Farmgirls.

While Witcher did grow up on a farm, she said it doesn't take an agrarian past to be a Farmgirl.

"All of us want to have a simpler lifestyle," Witcher said while knitting on a recent afternoon. "That's our common thread."

The local group, according to its mission statement, "embodies the goals of empowering, promoting and educating women of all ages in vintage methods of home-making, gardening and achieving an eco-friendly and self-sustaining lifestyle."

The global organization began with an organic lifestyle magazine by the original Farmgirl, MaryJane Butters, and has since grown into an international sisterhood with



Photos by Autumn McBride Forsyth County News

Mary Ann Witcher, founder of the Georgia Farmgirls, works on a knitting project.

At a glance

- **What:** Georgia Farmgirls fall /winter flea market
- **When:** 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays through year's end, except for holiday weekends
- **Where:** Henhouse, 7645 Bannister Road at Hwy. 9
- **Online:** www.georgiafarmgirls.com

773 chapters worldwide. After years of reading the magazine and becoming Sister 600 in the Farmgirls (of 2,071 now), Witcher decided it was time to see if there were any other local women

looking for such a group. "I had no earthly idea what it would turn into," Witcher said. "It just took off instantly."

See CLUB | 4A



Marla Jones, with son Carson, browses items at the weekly Georgia Farmgirls flea market.



Autumn McBride Forsyth County News

Several items are on display during a recent Georgia Farmgirls weekend flea market. The market is one of many events the new group holds.

FROM 1A Club

Four months later, the group had enough members to get their own clubhouse at Bannister Road and Hwy. 9.

Witcher named it The Henhouse, after Farmgirls' online forums, and the group painted it with warm colors. It is also filled with homemade crafts.

The club, which has more than 40 members, meets monthly, takes field trips and visits classes on various topics.

And each weekend, it holds a flea market featuring members' crafts and organic goods.

Many Farmgirls work on crafts at home, but the Thursday night craft party is a popular one for them to work on projects or learn new ones

in classes.

Whether it's quilting or baking sourdough bread, Witcher said the female friendships are often the best part for members.

"We get this place cackling pretty good on Thursday nights," she said.

Crafts and laughter aside, the group's main mission is preserving and spreading farm-rooted talents, especially to younger generations.

That's how Christy Freeman found the club in February.

Raised as a farmgirl in the traditional sense, Freeman wanted to ensure her daughters, ages 4 and 6, had a chance to include the old-time ways in their own lives.

"It was great to find a group of women who were armed with that knowledge," Freeman said. "It fit what I needed as a mom."

Many of the club's members have grown children or grandchild-

dren, but Freeman said there's been a recent surge of mothers with young children.

She's working with Witcher to start a Young Cultivators' Group for kids 16 and younger to learn from the wisdom of the Farmgirls.

"In today's culture ... there's a lot of people who are like, 'I want to go back to the simple way of life,'" Freeman said.

Farmgirl Cynthia Willard said her idea of camping is going to a hotel, but she's down home on the farm.

The quilting diva, as she's sometimes known, joined the club for developing friendships and knowledge.

"If you have chickens for fresh eggs or think you might like to have fresh eggs, if you like wearing jeans, if you like fresh air — you might be a Farmgirl and just not know it yet," Willard said.

JOIN UP TO JOIN IN

EARN MERIT BADGES

(think Girl Scouts for grownups) for stitching, cooking, gardening, carpentry, community service, and more!

What do 2,000+ women have in common?

MARYJANE'S FARMGIRL SISTERHOOD

We are Sisters—a sisterhood of farmgirls. We're country, we're city, and every texture and stripe in between. It's not at all about where we live, but how we live. We stay in touch in an active online chatroom, where 500 new posts are added daily, and form in-the-flesh Farmgirl Chapters and even virtual chapters called Henhouses. We love to share stories, to craft, to garden, and to nurture the next generation of Farmerettes and Young Cultivators. And when our work is done, we get together to go camping, fishing, and "glamping" as Farmgirls on the Loose. Learn all about us!

WWW.FARMGIRLSISTERHOOD.ORG

BONUS

Farmgirl Sisterhood members can watch exclusive how-to videos about earning merit badges at www.maryjanesfarm.tv

ANNA earned a beginner Each Other merit badge in Entrepreneurial Spirit. "I finally opened my real-estate firm, after years of planning and wishing. Thanks for the motivation I needed—I have already recruited two new agents!"

CINDY earned a beginner Each Other merit badge in Farmgirl Spirit. "I welcomed a new neighbor, a single woman who moved here from out-of-state. My kids and I made her a cake and cookies and gave her info on local farmers' markets and stands. We are now great friends."

"Henrietta" is the Farmgirl Sisterhood's official logo. She symbolizes the "can-do" attitude of being a farmgirl.



I'm not nuts;
I'm a farmgirl!

— Julie, Louisiana

Merit Badge Awardees

Woo-Hoo! This month's Sisterhood Badges go to (drum roll please):

AnnaLena Seemann, svenskamma #361

Beginner badge: Bee Good to Your Mother Earth / Garden Gate
Beginner badge: Heirlooms Forever / Garden Gate
Beginner badge: Plant It Forward / Each Other
Beginner badge: Shopping Green / Cleaning Up

Anna Vaagen, vaagen #2074

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

April Choate, sonshine4u #658

Beginner badge: Quilting / Stitching & Crafting

Beverly Sherman, Beverly44 #799

Beginner badge: Bee Good to Your Mother Earth / Garden Gate
Beginner badge: Grow Where You're Planted / Garden Gate
Beginner badge: Gaining Ground / Garden Gate
Beginner badge: Backyard Farmer / Garden Gate
Beginner badge: What's Your Beef? / Garden Gate
Beginner badge: The Secret Life of Bees / Garden Gate
Beginner badge: Horse Dreams / Garden Gate
Intermediate badge: Heirlooms Forever / Garden Gate

Chelsey Lewallen, #2097

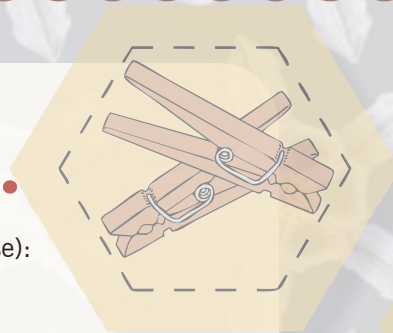
Beginner badge: Sew Wonderful / Stitching & Crafting
Beginner badge: Shopping Green / Cleaning Up
Beginner badge: BakeOver MakeOver / Farm Kitchen
Beginner badge: Buttoned Up / Stitching & Crafting
Beginner badge: What's Your Beef? / Garden Gate
Beginner badge: Bustin' Out / Farm Kitchen
Beginner badge: Families Forever / Each Other
Beginner badge: Get It Together / Farm Kitchen
Beginner badge: Backyard Farmer / Garden Gate

Christine Deal, Drafty #2099

Beginner badge: Shopping Green / Cleaning Up

Tera Barton, Tera Barton #1704

Beginner badge: Self-sufficiency / Farm Kitchen



continued ...



Merit Badge Awardees

Christine Johnson, Babynurse #831

Beginner badge: BakeOver MakeOver / Farm Kitchen

Intermediate badge: Shopping Green / Cleaning Up

Christy Harrill, MerryHeartSister #1951

Beginner badge: Farmgirl Shutterbugs / Each Other

Beginner badge: Sew Wonderful / Stitching & Crafting

CJ Armstrong, ceejay48 #665

Beginner badge: Farmgirl Spirit / Each Other

Beginner badge: Knotty Farmgrils / Outpost

Intermediate badge: Farmgirl Gratitude / Each Other

Intermediate badge: Farmgirl Spirit / Each Other

Expert badge: Public Service / Each Other

Expert badge: Farmgirl Gratitude / Each Other

Expert badge: Farmgirl Spirit / Each Other

Deana Miller, dmiller2003 #1118

Beginner badge: Embroidery / Stitching & Crafting

Beginner badge: Going Green / Cleaning Up

Intermediate badge: Going Green / Cleaning Up

Denise Kleppe, dkleppe #1600

Beginner badge: The Secret Life of Bees / Garden Gate

Eleanor Batson, Ellie Bee #839

Beginner badge: Know Your Food / Farm Kitchen

Intermediate badge: Know Your Food / Farm Kitchen

Elizabeth Parodi, elizparodi #1979

Beginner badge: Backyard Farmer / Garden Gate

Beginner badge: Heirlooms Forever / Garden Gate

Intermediate badge: Backyard Farmer / Garden Gate

Expert badge: Backyard Farmer / Garden Gate

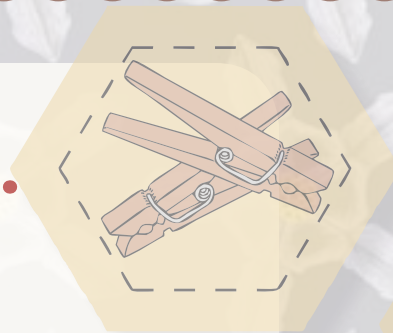
Hallie Harris, Hallie #1112

Beginner badge: Light the Way / Make It Easy

Beginner badge: In the Garden / Make It Easy

Tammy Schroeder, tea_lady_tammy #1889

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



continued ...



Merit Badge Awardees

Jennifer Morris, #2052

Beginner badge: Backyard Farmer / Garden Gate

Beginner badge: Crochet / Stitching & Crafting

Jessie Yonkovit, JessieMae #134

Beginner badge: Tatting / Stitching & Crafting

Beginner badge: Safe Toys / Stitching & Crafting

Joan Van Roo, Tourguide Joan #1413

Beginner badge: Know Your Food / Farm Kitchen

Beginner badge: Get It Together / Farm Kitchen

Beginner badge: The Secret Life of Bees / Garden Gate

Karrieann Warr, FieldsofThyme #766

Beginner badge: Tatting / Stitching & Crafting

Beginner badge: Aprons / Stitching & Crafting

Intermediate badge: Tatting / Stitching & Crafting

Intermediate badge: Aprons / Stitching & Crafting

Expert badge: Tatting / Stitching & Crafting

Expert badge: Aprons / Stitching & Crafting

Kristina Nelson, FieldsofThyme #800

Beginner badge: Little Squirts / Each Other

Expert badge: Light the Way / Make It Easy

Laura Hughes, Morning #1915

Intermediate badge: Horse Dreams / Garden Gate

Laurie Lemieux, Montrose Girl #1587

Beginner badge: Heirlooms Forever / Garden Gate

Beginner badge: Self-sufficiency / Farm Kitchen

Intermediate badge: Self-sufficiency / Farm Kitchen

Linda Calhoun, Goose Creek Gals #2116

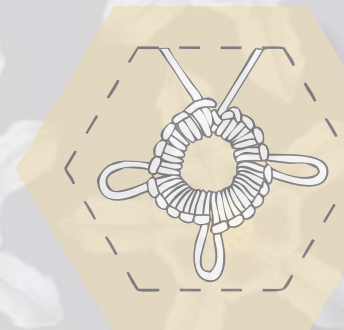
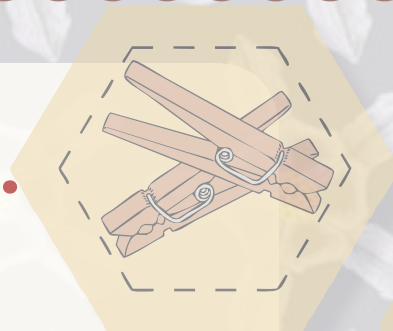
Beginner badge: Farmgirl Gratitude / Each Other

Beginner badge: Community Service / Each Other

Lori MacDonald, lorileemacd #2174

Beginner badge: Backyard Farmer / Garden Gate

Beginner badge: Shopping Green / Cleaning Up



continued ...



Merit Badge Awardees

Linda Douglas, lindadouglas #2117

- Beginner badge: Sew Wonderful / Stitching & Crafting
- Beginner badge: Buttoned Up / Stitching & Crafting
- Beginner badge: Heirlooms Forever / Garden Gate
- Beginner badge: What's Your Beef? / Garden Gate
- Beginner badge: In the Garden / Make It Easy
- Beginner badge: Gaining Ground / Garden Gate
- Beginner badge: Embroidery / Stitching & Crafting
- Intermediate badge: Backyard Farmer / Garden Gate
- Intermediate badge: The Secret Life of Bees / Garden Gate

Maria Somdecerff, #2166

- Beginner badge: Knitting / Stitching & Crafting
- Beginner badge: Quilting / Stitching & Crafting
- Beginner badge: Buttoned Up / Stitching & Crafting
- Beginner badge: Get It Together / Farm Kitchen
- Beginner badge: Shopping Green / Cleaning Up
- Intermediate badge: Knitting / Stitching & Crafting
- Intermediate badge: Quilting / Stitching & Crafting
- Expert badge: Quilting / Stitching & Crafting

Melissa Carr, dragonflyhoneybee #2157

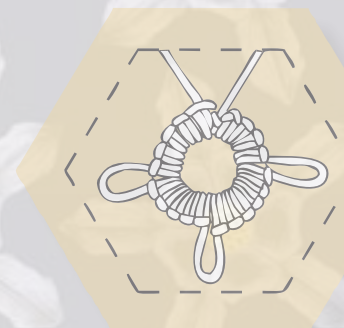
- Beginner badge: BakeOver MakeOver / Farm Kitchen
- Beginner badge: Going Green / Cleaning Up
- Beginner badge: Shopping Green / Cleaning Up
- Beginner badge: Gaining Ground / Garden Gate

Nicole Christensen, texdane #1155

- Beginner badge: Going Green / Cleaning Up
- Beginner badge: Farmgirl Gratitude / Each Other

Patty Byrd, thebyrdhaus #1840

- Beginner badge: Gaining Ground / Garden Gate
- Beginner badge: 3R's Rule (Reuse, Recycle, Revive!) / Garden Gate
- Beginner badge: Buttoned Up / Stitching & Crafting
- Beginner badge: Sew Wonderful / Stitching & Crafting
- Beginner badge: Shopping Green / Cleaning Up
- Intermediate badge: Buttoned Up / Stitching & Crafting



continued ...



Merit Badge Awardees

Paula Purtteman, dandylee #2195
Beginner badge: Aprons / Stitching & Crafting

Rebecca Tando, HennyBecca #1952
Beginner badge: Crochet / Stitching & Crafting
Intermediate badge: Crochet / Stitching & Crafting

Ruby Slider, narjay #1663
Beginner badge: Self-sufficiency / Farm Kitchen
Intermediate badge: Self-sufficiency / Farm Kitchen

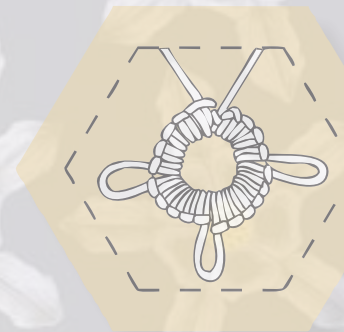
Sheena L. Keenan, Rural Lady #2156
Beginner badge: Going Green / Cleaning Up
Beginner badge: Shopping Green / Cleaning Up
Beginner badge: The Secret Life of Bees / Garden Gate
Intermediate badge: Going Green / Cleaning Up
Intermediate badge: Shopping Green / Cleaning Up
Intermediate badge: The Secret Life of Bees / Garden Gate
Expert badge: Going Green / Cleaning Up
Expert badge: Shopping Green / Cleaning Up
Expert badge: The Secret Life of Bees / Garden Gate

Sherri Reece, slreece #2090
Beginner badge: Buttoned Up / Stitching & Crafting
Beginner badge: Aprons / Stitching & Crafting
Beginner badge: Get It Together / Farm Kitchen
Beginner badge: Embroidery / Stitching & Crafting
Beginner badge: Heirlooms Forever / Garden Gate
Intermediate badge: Buttoned Up / Stitching & Crafting
Intermediate badge: Get It Together / Farm Kitchen

Sue Frelick, Sunshine_Sue #2133
Beginner badge: Entrepreneurial Spirit / Each Other
Intermediate badge: Entrepreneurial Spirit / Each Other

Susan Klein, docfarmgirl #2201
Beginner badge: Knitting / Stitching & Crafting

Susan Woodward, Greenwoodgirl #2098
Beginner badge: Aprons / Stitching & Crafting



Farmerettes & Young Cultivators

Merit Badge Awardees

Woo-Hoo! This month's **Young Cultivator Badges** go to (drum roll please):

Abby Fulgham, Young Cultivator of Janet Ray #1865
Beginner badge: Horsing Around / Garden Gate
Beginner badge: Table Talk / Farm Kitchen

Adrienne Forsythe, Young Cultivator of Christy Harrill #1951
Beginner badge: All Buttoned Up / Stitching & Crafting
Beginner badge: Weaving In and Out / Stitching & Crafting
Intermediate badge: Weaving In and Out / Stitching & Crafting
Expert badge: Weaving In and Out / Stitching & Crafting

Alexandra Cole, Young Cultivator of Christy Harrill #1951
Beginner badge: All Buttoned Up / Stitching & Crafting
Beginner badge: Weaving In and Out / Stitching & Crafting
Intermediate badge: All Buttoned Up / Stitching & Crafting
Intermediate badge: Weaving In and Out / Stitching & Crafting
Expert badge: All Buttoned Up / Stitching & Crafting

Alex Ewing, Young Cultivator of Christy Harrill #1951
Beginner badge: All Buttoned Up / Stitching & Crafting
Beginner badge: Weaving In and Out / Stitching & Crafting
Intermediate badge: Weaving In and Out / Stitching & Crafting

Davy Harrill, Young Cultivator of Christy Harrill #1951
Beginner badge: All Buttoned Up / Stitching & Crafting
Beginner badge: Table Talk / Farm Kitchen



continued ...

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.**





Merit Badge Awardees

Anthony Howell, Young Cultivator of Christy Harrill #1951
Beginner badge: All Buttoned Up / Stitching & Crafting
Beginner badge: Weaving In and Out / Stitching & Crafting
Intermediate badge: All Buttoned Up / Stitching & Crafting
Expert badge: All Buttoned Up / Stitching & Crafting

Autumn Hughes, Young Cultivator of Laura Hughes #1915
Beginner badge: Families Forever / Each Other
Intermediate badge: Horsing Around / Garden Gate

Elizabeth Howell, Young Cultivator of Christy Harrill #1951
Beginner badge: All Buttoned Up / Stitching & Crafting
Beginner badge: Weaving In and Out / Stitching & Crafting
Intermediate badge: All Buttoned Up / Stitching & Crafting
Expert badge: All Buttoned Up / Stitching & Crafting

Hannah Douglas, Young Cultivator of Linda Douglas #2117
Beginner badge: Horsing Around / Garden Gate

James Harrill, Young Cultivator of Christy Harrill #1951
Beginner badge: Horsing Around / Garden Gate
Beginner badge: All Buttoned Up / Stitching & Crafting
Beginner badge: Table Talk / Farm Kitchen

Kennedy Ashmore, Young Cultivator of Christy Harrill #1951
Beginner badge: All Buttoned Up / Stitching & Crafting
Beginner badge: Weaving In and Out / Stitching & Crafting
Intermediate badge: All Buttoned Up / Stitching & Crafting
Intermediate badge: Weaving In and Out / Stitching & Crafting
Expert badge: All Buttoned Up / Stitching & Crafting

Matt Fulgham, Young Cultivator of Janet Ray #1865
Beginner badge: Horsing Around / Garden Gate
Beginner badge: All Buttoned Up / Stitching & Crafting
Beginner badge: Weaving In and Out / Stitching & Crafting
Beginner badge: Table Talk / Farm Kitchen

Savannah Cole, Young Cultivator of Christy Harrill #1951
Beginner badge: All Buttoned Up / Stitching & Crafting
Beginner badge: Weaving In and Out / Stitching & Crafting
Intermediate badge: All Buttoned Up / Stitching & Crafting
Intermediate badge: Weaving In and Out / Stitching & Crafting
Expert badge: All Buttoned Up / Stitching & Crafting





Young Cultivators Group

Rebekka Boysen has started a Young Cultivators group. She'll be reporting on their activities in future issues.

Horsing Around Badge

My Young Cultivators are used to working from the kitchen table, so it was a big treat for all of us to hit the road for this badge. Horses hold a universal appeal to children. They symbolize freedom and strength. The Horsing Around Badge gives Young Cultivators the chance to spend time with and learn more about horses.

To begin, the kids and I took a drive on the outskirts of town to see what horses lived near by. The girls giggled and talked about which horses they liked, which pastures looked nice. As we drove up and over the ridge to MaryJanesFarm, my daughter began telling the other kids where we were headed. "This farm was made by a woman, totally."

While at the farm, the girls met three horses, two cows, a handful of chickens, and MaryJane. They learned about caring for horses and helped to brush Nutmeg, Holly, and LB. The goal of the day was to meet horses, but the girls couldn't help but learn how to open and close gates, check the chicken coop for fresh eggs, and use proper manners. They shared silly stories with MaryJane as they picked carrots and radishes. To finish their badges, the girls have trips to the library planned so they can research their favorite breed of horse and sketch the horses they saw on our outing. The next time we meet, they will report back on the breed they chose and will apply for all three levels of the Horsing Around Badge. If you are curious about introducing kids and horses, check out the "Attitude of Gratitude" Oct-Nov. 2010 issue of *MaryJanesFarm* magazine.

Badge Requirements

Beginner Level

- With the assistance of your mentoring sister or your parents, drive or walk around your town, county, or neighborhood, taking time to admire horses in the area.
- Take photos of what you see (if you can). If you cannot, then draw pictures of what you saw.

Intermediate Level

- Go to your local library and thumb through books about horses. Choose your favorite breed and write down the name of the breed and the reason you have chosen it.

Expert Level

- Give yourself the opportunity to "meet" a horse. You might do so by asking for help from a neighbor, a farmgirl you know, or a local 4-H or riding club.
- Report to your family, school, home-school club, local Farmgirl Chapter, or Young Cultivators group about your experience.
- If you own a horse, offer to make your horse available to others who do not have one, and to tell them all about it.



November

FARMGIRL SISTERHOOD SPECIAL

VOTING HAS ITS REWARDS!

Vote on 11-02

and get memberships to MaryJane's Sisterhood for

\$11.02

If you vote (or have already voted early), you can join MaryJane's Sisterhood for the incredible price of \$11.02!

**IF YOU'RE ALREADY A MEMBER, RENEW!
OR BUY GIFT MEMBERSHIPS
FOR ALL YOUR GIRLFRIENDS!**

Simply enter the coupon code VOTE1102 during checkout and tell us about your voting experience in the "Order Comments" field, along with the name, address, and e-mail of each gift recipient. (We don't want to know who you voted for—that's between you and Uncle Sam.)

Offer good through the month of November.

[Click Here for New Memberships](#)
[Click Here for Renewal Memberships](#)

If you need some inspiration to get out there and vote, read MaryJane's "Galvanizing a Nation" essay in the October Cluck.

[Click here to read.](#)



Farmgirl Sisterhood Photo Contest

MARYJANES FARM

Photograph Contest Winners!

A hearty thank you, bravo, kudos to all who participated in our photography contest. Here are the winners! But of course, farmgirls see the world through a lens of our liking!!!

Cheryle Duffy-Lehrer, Sister #604



CJ Armstrong, Sister #665



Karriann Warr, Sister #766



Kristina Nelson, Sister #800



meet our bloggers

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

city FARMGIRL



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

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

rural FARMGIRL



Libbie Zenger is a small-town farmgirl who writes our **Rural Farmgirl Blog** and lives in the high-desert Sevier Valley of Central Utah with her husband and two little farmboys—as well as 30 ewes, 60 lambs, a handful of rams, a milk cow, an old horse, two dogs, a bunch o' chickens and two cats. She lives on a 140-year-old farm, in a farmhouse built by her great-great-grandfather, and tries to channel her grandmothers.

Libbie says, "When I found MaryJanesFarm, I found a new sort of sisterhood—one in which hard work, 'heart' work and handwork are truly valued, appreciated, and shared."

suburban FARMGIRL



Paula Spencer writes our **Suburban Farmgirl Blog**. She's *Woman's Day* magazine's "Momfidence" columnist and a contributing editor of *Parenting*; the author of *Momfidence!* and a collaborator on eight other books, including *The Happiest Toddler on the Block*; and a senior editor of Caring.com, a leading eldercare resource. Best and not least, she's a mom of four.

Paula's lived in five great farm states, though never on a farm. She's nevertheless inordinately fond of heirloom tomatoes, fine stitching, early mornings, and making pies. And sock monkeys.

mountain FARMGIRL



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

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

ranch FARMGIRL



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

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

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

www.maryjanesfarm.org



Magazines, Books, and More

Our Dec/Jan issue, "Emotional Currency," is being sent to subscribers now and will hit newsstands on Nov. 9. In it, you'll find upcycled projects for the holidays, learn to make button jewelry, find recipes for shortcut soups and breads, bring back the holiday punch bowl, and more.

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

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

MaryJanesFarm 2011 Calendar

Our 2011 Calendar is now available! Click [here](#) to order your very own copy. 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 8½" x 11" card stock and are bound with black spiral wire, unfolding to 11" x 17".

Current Holidays:

November 01 ~ National Authors' Day
 November 02 ~ Election Day
 November 04 ~ National Men Make Dinner Day/Chicken Lady Day
 November 06 ~ Sadie Hawkin's Day
 November 07 ~ Daylight Savings Time Ends (*Fall Behind*)
 November 11 ~ Veterans' Day
 November 13 ~ World Kindness Day
 November 15 ~ America Recycles Day
 November 16 ~ International Day of Tolerance
 November 17 ~ Homemade Bread Day
 November 18 ~ Great American Smokeout
 November 24 ~ Celebrate Your Unique Talent Day
 November 25 ~ Thanksgiving Day
 November 26 ~ Buy Nothing Day

Magazine "Goodies" on the MJF Website

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

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





Magazines, Books, and More continues ...

SPECIAL: 3-Book Bundle

MaryJane's books are all bundled up for fall. Buy them together and save \$15! *MaryJane's Ideabook, Cookbook, Lifebook; MaryJane's Stitching Room; and MaryJane's Outpost.* [Click here.](#)



Gift Items ...

Inspire yourself or inspire a friend with books, journals, note cards, and other gifts from MaryJane. From the kitchen to the campfire, there's something special here for every farmgirl-at-heart.

[Click here](#) to shop our gift items.

And don't forget to visit our "Product Shop" ...

Click Here

There, you'll find everything from organic bed sheets to beautiful bed sets to aprons to dolls to candles to chocolate to over 60 organic instant or quick-prep meals and desserts to much, much more!



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

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

Over 1,113 Farmgirl Chapters in all 50 states and 8 countries with
and 46 Her 2,226 Sisterhood members — members -
growing stronger every day!