

MARYJANES FARM

Sister Issue | January 2021



With some added pluck,

we came up with this easy way to click (er, cluck) your way back to the farm in between magazine issues. As with any fertile hen, we prefer to accomplish our work with regularity, on a daily basis. That's why, if you sign up to join our chatroom, **The Farmgirl Connection**, you'll be chatting away in no time, reading about each month's Farmgirl of the Month, joining swaps, bartering and bargaining all things collectible, and celebrating things like Apple Pie Sunday and Farmgirl Jubilee. Together, we find our way back to our farmgirl roots, back to healthful eating, and starward to our dreams. A sisterly cyber hug awaits you. Subscribe, join in, and sign up today!

"Silently, like thoughts that come and go, the snowflakes fall, each one a gem."

– William Hamilton Gibson

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– MaryJane Butters of MaryJanesFarm



Hello from Sister #1,
True-Blue Farmgirl MaryJane

Once again, I've been given the honor of introducing you to our Farmgirl Sister of the Year for 2021. (Thank you, Aidan Murphy, for your service as our 2020 Farmgirl Sister of the Year!) We are honored to share with you Cindy Kinion (AussieChick), Australia, Farmgirl Sister #6058.

MaryJane

Farmgirl Sister of the Year 2021

QUESTION: Tell us about yourself, your hopes, and your dreams.

My name is Cindy Kinion and I live in Ravensbourne, Queensland, Australia. I have been a Registered Nurse for 20 years, specializing in emergency nursing for 15 years and more recently in Post Anaesthetic Care. Nursing as a profession has allowed me to travel and I have been fortunate enough to work in Australia, the U.K, and the U.S.A. I also have a special interest in Nutrition and using food as medicine. I completed my Nutritional Therapy Practitioner Training in Olympia, Washington, and was later a group leader for the first NTA class in Australia. I grew up on a 500-acre farm in Mount Walker, Queensland, Australia. My parents are still on the farm where they predominately grow wheat, barley, sorghum, corn, and sunflowers. They dabbled in growing watermelons and lettuces commercially when I was about 7 or 8 years old, but frequent drought made vegetable growing difficult. They also have beef cattle. Mum is a hairdresser, working from home. Her rural customers come around any time, day or night, for a haircut where they usually end up with a complementary cup of tea and engage in several hours of conversation. Besides working on the farm, Dad is a contract harvester and master of windmill repairs.

CINDY KINION



Pictured: Mick and Cindy



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It was a care-free life, growing up on the farm, and there was always plenty to keep my sister and me occupied (anything from catching minnows in the creek, to bottle-feeding our orphaned joey (baby kangaroo). We went to the local primary school of about 25 children where wearing shoes was optional. Mum had us learning to cook in the old wood stove from the moment we could reach the kitchen bench (even if that meant standing on a stool). After completing high school, I went off to the University of New England in Armidale, New South Wales, to study nursing. It was here that I met my husband, Michael (Mick). He was on an exchange program from Washington State University. It wasn't until we had both graduated that we started dating. Yes, it was a pretty old-fashioned courtship with many letters written (snail mail) and long-distance phone calls made. I had moved to London at this stage, so I had to go down to the local news agency and purchase a \$20 phone card every 2 weeks so that I could make an international phone call. We had email, but I didn't have a computer of my own, so I could only email when I visited the library or internet café. Mick visited me while I was living in London and we travelled Europe together. It was during our travels that we became engaged. We were married the following year at my family's home church in the rural town of Rosewood, Queensland.



After we married, I moved overseas to Mick's home of Olympia, Washington. We enjoyed renovating our Californian bungalow. It had a small backyard where I could grow herbs and vegetables and it was exciting to be able to grow bulbs (daffodils, tulips, and irises) for the first time. It was never cold enough back home in Queensland to grow such flowers. After 7 years in the U.S., we made the move back to Australia.



We now live on our little piece of paradise in Ravensbourne, Queensland. Ravensbourne is situated on the Great Dividing Range, and the Bicentennial National Trail goes right past our front gate. Our house is a 1950s Queenslander on 2 ½ acres surrounded by avocado plantations and rolling hills. During my downtime, I like to engage in my farmgirl activities (gardening, growing herbs & vegetables, jumping on my grain maker that Mick has attached to an old bicycle, growing our orchard, baking, sewing, playing the piano, and running on the nearby rail trails).

It is my dream to utilize my nursing skills in order to help those living in less fortunate circumstances. The Lutheran Church of Australia International Mission

partnered together with Saving Starfish Saving Souls and they travel to Cambodia twice each year to perform eye surgeries. I had applied to be part of their team in 2020 and we were all ready to go when the COVID pandemic hit and the trip was cancelled. I am hoping that conditions in 2021 are more conducive to international travel. I'll keep you posted!

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QUESTION: Tell us how you discovered MaryJanesFarm and the Sisterhood.

When we lived in Olympia, Washington, we made frequent trips to Eastern Washington to visit Mick's relatives and it was during one of these trips that I was first introduced to the MaryJane's magazine. Mick's aunt Shirley, from Colfax, Washington, had a magazine she thought I might like to read it, given I was a farmgirl at heart. I was missing the family farm back in Australia, so to immerse myself in the pages of a MaryJane's magazine was a real treat. Shirley also took us to see MaryJane's historic flourmill in Oakesdale, Washington. I joined the Sisterhood in 2014 after moving back to Australia. I felt that MaryJane's values and principles for simple living aligned with my own way of living and I wanted to stay connected to the amazing women in the Sisterhood – these were my people! And, as MaryJane once said, "it's not about where you live, but how you live".

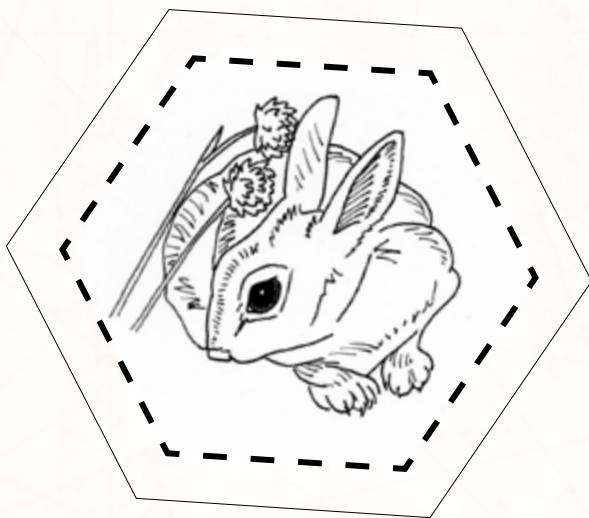


QUESTION: What made you decide to start earning Merit Badges?

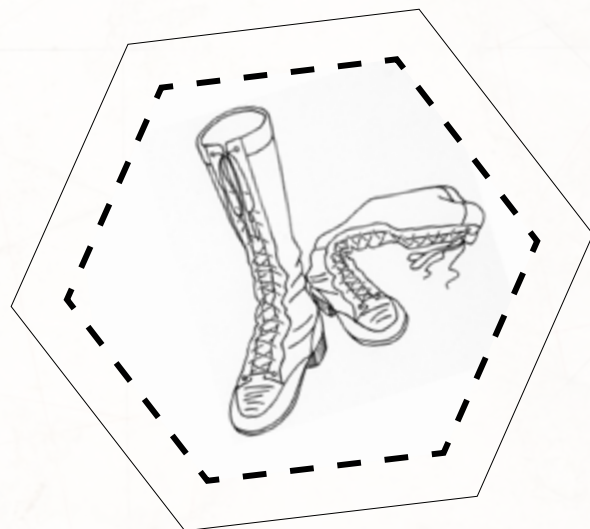
I am a self-confessed "list" person and if you have a type-A personality like me, you'll know what that means. My life revolves around lists and goal-setting. It is always so satisfying to tick something off your list as complete. When my Merit Badge Planner arrived in the mail in 2020, I was in heaven. It gave me such inspiration to delve back into the activities I love, and challenged me to try new things.

QUESTION: What was the first Merit Badge you earned? And your favourite Merit Badge to work on so far?

The first merit badge that I earned was Backyard Farmer. When we moved to Ravensbourne, I immediately got chickens (or chooks as we like to call them) and I also temporarily inherited some ducks from a friend. We had so many eggs that I was giving them away at work. One of my favourite merit badges to work on so far has been the Outstepping Badge. Mick & I love to travel and explore new places, so this one was perfect!



Backyard Farmer Badge



Outstepping Badge

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

Travel destinations would have to be one thing that shows up most on my to-do list. The recent pandemic has limited overseas travel this past year, but it has encouraged us to explore some of the local destinations that we had not yet experienced. Sometimes, you miss what's in your own backyard. Another thing most often on my to-do list is ingredients for the next recipe that I want to try. I love to experiment with cooking new things and I am looking forward to working on the Palate Pleaser merit badge. The third thing that would most often show up on my to-do list would be one of the many renovating tasks that we are working on at the moment. There is always something to be done when you live in an old house. But there is so much character in an older home – we love it! I have an anonymous quote on my kitchen wall that says: “The happiest people don't have the best of everything, they just make the best of everything they have.”



QUESTION: Do you have a favourite book? Movie? Type of Music? Pet(s)?

I enjoy reading autobiographies and books about nutrition. Some of my favourite autobiographies are “Dead Lucky” by Lincoln Hall and “Everything to Live For” by Turia Pitt. Some of my favourite movies are “Red Dog”, “10 Things I Hate About You”, “The Wedding Singer”, “Peanut Butter Falcon”, and some French films like “Lola & Her Brothers”, “Amelie” and “The Finishers”. I love lots of music genres, but especially jazz, anything 1950s-70s, Missy Higgins, Brandi Carlile, Vance Joy, and Mumford & Sons. We still tune in to Olympia’s KBRD radio station via the internet where we get our dose of oldies but goodies. My favourite pet has been our Kelpie Dog, P.J. She sadly passed away in June and it absolutely broke our hearts to have to say goodbye to our gorgeous girl. Pets just have so much unconditional love to give and we miss her every day.

QUESTION: What traditions have been passed down in your family?

One of the most treasured traditions that has been passed down in my family is the importance of eating together as a family. Even if Dad was working late out on the farm, we would wait to eat dinner until we could do it together as a family. We would give thanks to God for our meal and it was such a valuable time to catch up on each other's day. Mick & I still do this and we value time with our extended families when the opportunity arises. We have just celebrated Christmas with my family – a summer Christmas lunch outside in the shade! ●



HAPPY NEW YEAR!





Sister #1 MaryJane

The Promise of Sisterhood

I've been saving this particular "share" for quite a while, thinking that because 2021 needs more hope, kindness, and promise, these two farmgirl gifts could provide you with a healthy dose of "what the world needs now, is love, sweet love; it's the only thing that there's just too little of ..."

Debbie Klann is the author/maker of the quilt and Grace Brown is the author/maker of the yo-yo place mat, both of them cherished possessions. ●

MaryJane 



Farmgirl Quilt, by Debbie Klann



Yo-yo Place Mat, by Grace Brown

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thank you



Cydnie Gray, Farmgirl #2396

Hey Winter, Let's Try This Again

Winter and I have had a somewhat love-hate relationship. Normally, I regard this colder season with a heavy sigh and mournful groans. The cold, the darkness, the ice—not typically my cup of tea. This year, however, I realized that's a foolish way for me to live. Winter will come whether I want it to or not. I can't stop it from arriving anymore than I can control the tides or the rising of the sun. With all of this in mind, I decided to set an intention: repair my relationship with winter.

How does one repair their relationship with an entire season? Beats me, but I decided I'd try to figure that out. I thought about the things I had a negative reaction to when thinking of winter. Cold and darkness, limited mobility, limited recreational activity, seasonal depression, to name a few. With this list, I decided to come up with some solutions I'd try out.

Since moving to Moscow in the summer of 2012 to attend the University of Idaho, I've come to adopt this area as my home. I enjoy spending my time serving as a board member for a local non-profit, painting commission artwork, practicing photography, hiking, rock climbing, and finding ways to get involved in my community. After earning a Bachelor's Degree in Studio Art and Design, I excitedly joined the MaryJanesFarm team and discovered a vibrant community of organic-minded, Earth-passionate, and supportive women. I've come to realize, to live life inspired is what it means to be a part of the Sisterhood.

To combat the cold and darkness, I would try to keep warm and find light. For me this meant finding a way to stay comfortable outdoors and enjoy company in a covid-conscious way. And what better way to stay warm and enjoy company than to do it around a campfire? I decided I needed a fire pit, but not just any pit would do, and especially not for the price tag that most have.

For my needs, I wanted it to be lightweight and portable but able to contain and hold a decent fire. All I needed was a fire-resistant basin that allowed for airflow. I set out to my local junk/treasure yard to take a look at what possible fire pits they might have. After wandering up and down the rows of once-useful items, I found it. A stainless steel sink. It wasn't pretty but it was perfect. Deep enough to hold a fire, heat resistant. I bought it and, with borrowed tools and knowledge from a friend, I was able to carve air vents into the sides and remove the drain from the bottom, so it could lay flat on the ground.

Voilà! Make-shift fire pit, ready to go.



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Before this time, I only knew how to construct a fire in theory. Since the cold season began, I've had 5 fires. Each time allowed me to improve my fire-building and maintaining skills (plus I now have a hatchet and chop my own firewood). When I want to spend some time by the fire, I just invite one friend over and we talk about our lives or the world, or we read out loud from books of poetry or philosophy. Sometimes we just sit in silence and let the flames turn our minds off (MaryJane identified this phenomenon as the 50-yard stare). Something I love to think about when I'm around a campfire is that our human ancestors have been doing this since the beginning of time. My mom, grandmother, great-grandmother—all the way back to our prehistoric relatives—have huddled around a campfire at some point. This basic ritual of gathering, connecting, and simply existing around a warm light in the midst of frigid temperatures helped me to learn the basics of how to feel comfortable in the cold and the dark.



I felt ready to take the next step.

The next fear or hesitation I felt towards winter was the feeling of limited mobility. By limited mobility, I mean that I don't always feel confident driving or embarking on adventures on my own due to winter driving conditions, or not being prepared for colder temperatures. Around Thanksgiving, I went on a solo adventure to a local hiking spot that I've been to a million and a half times. Only this time, I got stuck in the snow. Luckily, a kind family helped me get out of that situation, but getting stuck in the snow is all sorts of disappointing and discouraging when you can't get yourself free. To address this issue of limited mobility, I bought some chains for my car and learned how to put them on. Even though my car has studs and does well in plowed conditions, this small step gave me the peace of mind to feel confident exploring a place I've never been to before: Stanley, Idaho. Onto my next adventure.



The trek was a long, solitary drive. About 7 hours one way. This was the farthest I'd driven from home on my own. And while it was unfamiliar and part of it was in the dark of night, I actually felt confident making the journey. Driving through mountains is one of my favorite experiences because those sleeping giants make me realize how small I really am. Once I arrived at the remote Sawtooth Fish Hatchery where my friend lives, I felt relieved and proud of myself for taking that step. While there, I learned about the importance of salmon to our ecosystems and how salmon and steelhead make the 900 mile journey to the ocean and back to feed, lay eggs, and return nutrients to our freshwater systems.



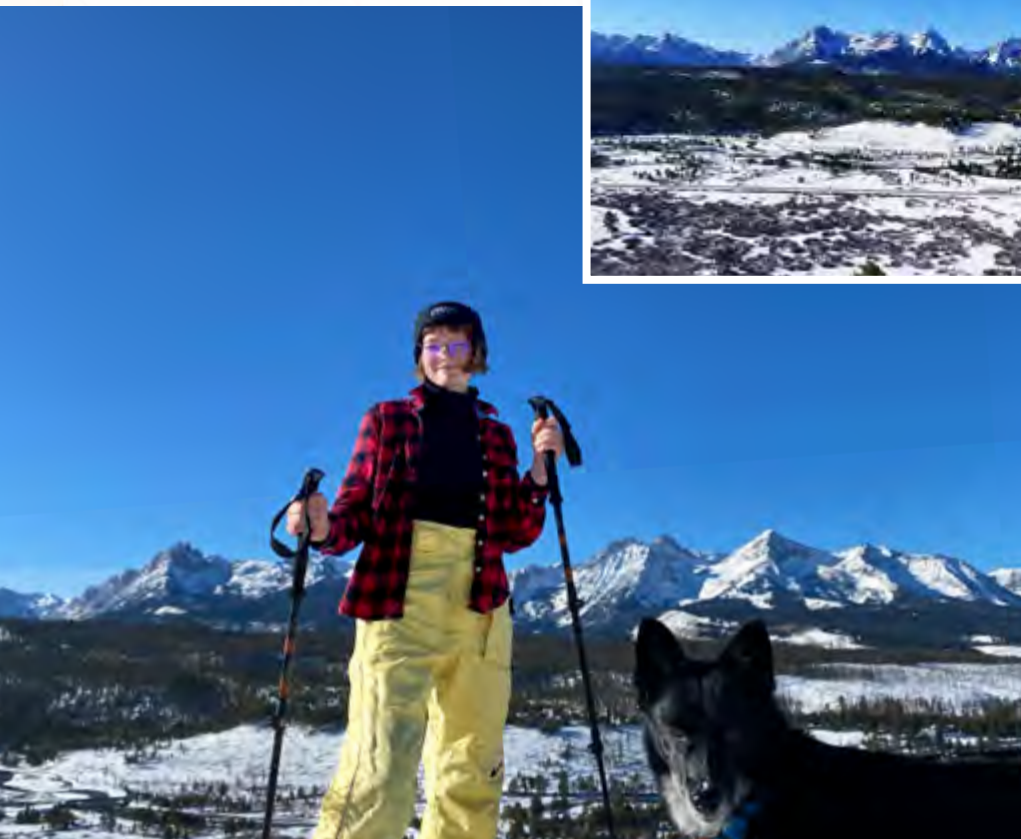
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I was also able to go on a wonderful hike up the mountain across from the hatchery. If there was any time to dress warm, this was it. My layers had layers. Thermals, double socks, undershirt, jeans, scarf, beanie hat, snow pants, cold-resilient gloves, winter boots, and snow-prepped hiking poles. I was determined to be ready. We set off to march up the looming mountain. The sky was deep blue and the sun glistened off the snow like trillions of diamonds. The cold bit at my face and attempted to freeze my running nose in its tracks. The snow was calf-deep and fought to keep hold of my foot when it broke through its ice-crusting surface. We trudged our way up, up, and up this mountain. After my breathing began to get haggard, I rested, trying to gulp the icy shard air into my lungs. Once I'd steadied my breathing, I turned to see how far we'd come. When my eyes discovered how our elevation change had revealed a chain of multiple spiking peaks across the valley, I could feel my jaw drop. The breath I had just caught escaped me again.

I have no words to describe the feeling that came to me at recognizing the stark beauty of those mountains. I turned to my friend, eyes wide as the world. We decided to ascend a bit further to gain more perspective of these ethereal giants, the Sawtooths. So on we went. Once we reached our humble vantage point (a pile of boulders only a third the way up this small mountain) I turned once more to take it in. I almost wept. This spectacular place has been in my backyard all this time. I was so grateful to meet this part of Earth and Idaho and earn this incredible view. Riding the elation of the moment, I decided to make a snow angel.

Winter mobility, achieved.



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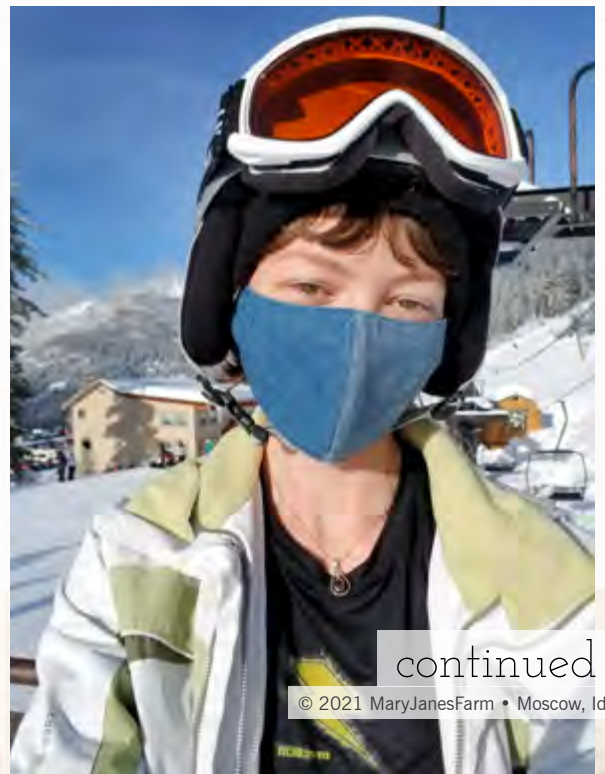
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The last hurdle I wanted to overcome was the lack of recreational activities. The rest of the year, I stay active with hiking, bicycling, climbing, etc. But in the winter, I feel hindered. This year, as part of my attempt to stay active during the cold season, I wanted to learn an outdoor sport. After some research, I decided on snowboarding. The day following my return from my adventure in remote Stanley, Idaho, I turned around and set off north-bound, to Lookout Mountain at the border of Idaho and Montana. I wasn't sure what I was signing up for but I knew that I wanted to learn enough to make it off the bunny hill and onto the bigger hills—even if it was just once. With this intention in mind, I arrived at the mountain, got all my gear (including my facemask), and met my instructor at the bunny hill. His name was Greg and he was such a kind soul. He explained the process of staying balanced, changing direction, and stopping all in a way that was easy to understand. His advice made for the perfect beginner's toolkit. After my lesson, I continued practice on the bunny hill for another 2 hours.



When I left to grab lunch from my car, I realized my gloves were soaked through from falling so many times—oops. I hit up the gift shop to buy some water resilient gloves. The gal behind the counter had a sweet voice and greeted me like I was an old friend. After explaining my predicament and that it was my first time snowboarding—ever—she mentioned I should take the leap and graduate to the bigger hills. She explained the difference in snow quality and the fact that the bunny hill is too short to get the feel of what it's like to actually make it down the mountain. “Worst case, you just walk down,” she said. I'd already been wanting to venture to the larger hills but this bit of encouragement and information really cemented my desire into drive.

I trekked over to the lift. I was paired with another single skier, named Mitch, and we chatted about our vastly differing levels of experience (he'd been skiing for about 15 years, to my 0). When we reached the top of the lift, I fumbled down the steep ramp and hit the snow. If there's one thing I definitely learned it's that there are a million and one ways not to do something. Anyway, Mitch and I made our way over to the easy hill (Huckleberry Ridge). My new friend's group was grabbing lunch so he had a bit of spare time and graciously decided to help me and give some pointers. Humans are pretty incredible for their capacity for kindness. I eagerly accepted the opportunity to pick up some more knowledge. We made our way down the easy hill, I was going slow but really beginning to figure out some of the dynamics at play. It was a rush and though I'd fallen too many times to count, it never stopped me from getting back up.



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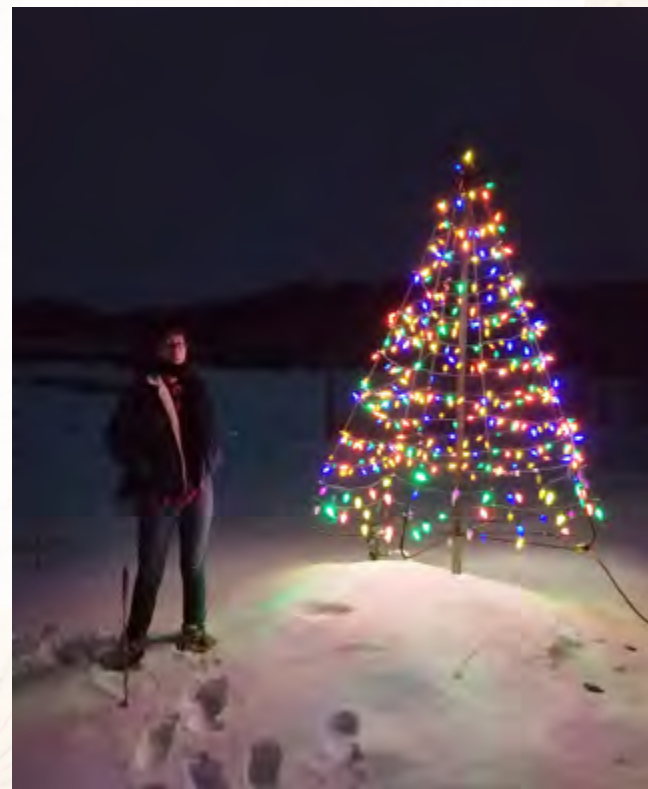
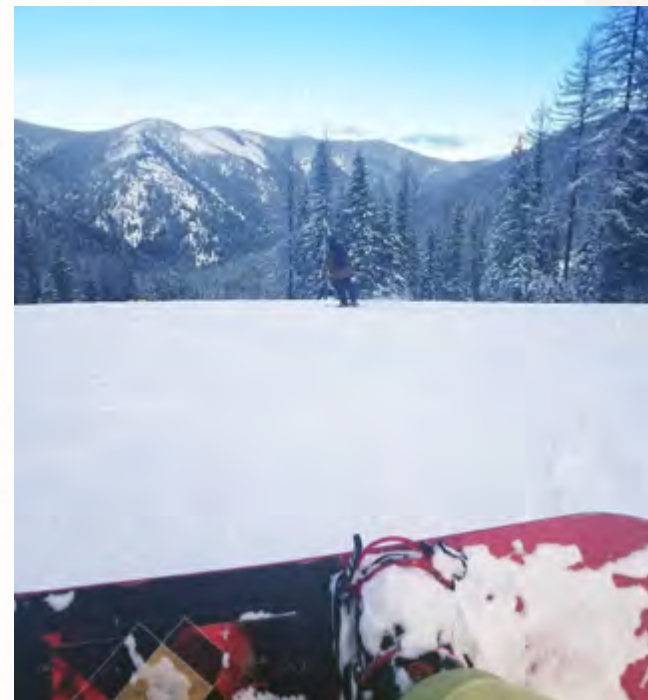
After Mitch and I had been on a couple runs together we parted ways. I was boarding down this narrow stretch and saw a kid about nine-years-old up ahead, stationary and kneeling in the center of the path. I was able to stop before I lost control and ran into him, but I ended up falling down in the process (not gracefully, I might add). After I apologized for almost smacking into the poor kid, I was able to see he was struggling with something. His expression looked like a mix of terrified, embarrassed, and exhausted. I asked if he was okay and he barely raised his head to shake it 'no'. So I asked if it was his first day skiing. He looked up a little and nodded with tears in his eyes. I knew I couldn't stay where I was for long, since I was blocking the narrow path, but I did manage to say, "Hey, you know, it's my first day, too. I get it, this can be scary when you're learning." And then I told him something I'd been told by fellow boarders earlier that day: "The fact that you're up here on this mountain means you're already winning. That's an accomplishment in itself and you should be proud of yourself for getting out here." After he took a deep breath he had the courage to look up at me with a little less anxiety in his expression. After several people whizzed by us, I realized I had to get out of the way, so I got up shakily and said "It's okay to be afraid, just remember we can do this. Take a rest, and then go when you're ready, kiddo. You've got this!"

I slowly tried to make my way down the hill and out of the way. I looked back briefly and saw him gathering his skis and poles, getting ready for takeoff. Then I immediately caught the toe-edge of my board and fell face-first into the mountain. Life is funny like that. At the end of the day, I boarded for a total of 6 hours and I accomplished my goal of making it to the big hill. I even accidentally ran down some blue routes (they're a little harder than the green). My entire body was sore and I must've fallen at least 50 times, but every single one of those falls was worth it in the end.



Winter demands absolute respect and consideration for the elements around you, but it doesn't mean you can't enjoy and connect with nature. What I realized through all these winterizing exercises is this colder season is a time to practice delayed gratification and preparedness. While I don't think you can prepare for everything, if you plan ahead for some of the conditions you'll be in, you can feel confident continuing forward, making the success all the better. Setting an intention has been helpful through all of this and has been key to seeing each task through. I can say with full confidence, winter and I are on good terms now.

Cheers to continuous learning, connecting with winter, and moving on into 2021 with conscious intention. ●





New Merit Badges - January 2021

Our new Merit Badges will go live sometime next week. In other words, give us until the second week in January before going to our FarmgirlSisterhood.org website where you'll find a link to print them. All Merit Badge Planners sold in 2021 will have our new 2021 Merit Badges incorporated. If you've bought a planner in the past, we'll send you a link via email so you can print the new pages to add to your existing planner. If you have any questions, write to cydnie@maryjanesfarm.org.

CLEANING UP: Staying Green

Beginner Level*

- Continue to practice and reinforce the habits developed while earning the "Going Green" Merit Badge for at least three months.
- Keep note of what is easy to maintain and any difficulties you encounter.

Intermediate Level

- Dive deeper into researching homemade "green" cleaners and home products. Is there anything missing from your collection of recipes? What have you used in the past? Were you happy with the results, or would experimenting with a new recipe be worthwhile? Look to published resources on the topic of homemade home products, such as *Natural Solutions for Cleaning & Wellness* by Halle Cottis. (This book is available on loan from MaryJanesFarm; contact library@maryjanesfarm.org.)
- Write down your favorite recipes and develop a system for safely storing your homemade cleaners and home products.
- Stock up on the basic ingredients you need on hand to make your favorite recipes as needed. Some examples include vinegar, distilled water, baking soda, washing soda, citric acid, castile soap, your favorite essential oils, etc. If you already have this, help a friend out by sharing your favorite recipes and a list of must-have basic ingredients.

Expert Level

- By now, thanks to your hard work, elbow grease, and a gentle nudge from the "Going Green" Merit Badge, you're a pro at hang-drying clothes and your walls and carpets (if applicable) aren't emitting volatile organic compounds. However, a farmgirl's work is never quite finished. Conduct an audit to identify areas in your home that could use some additional "greening up."
- Make a list of your top three areas in need of improvement (for example, think of ways to cut down on your electric usage by swapping out lightbulbs or replacing inefficient appliances or installing an air purifier to keep your indoor air clean). Develop a plan of action and begin implementing these changes. Your entire list need not be accomplished to earn the expert-level badge, but an 8-hour time investment is required.



*Please note, in order to apply for any level of this badge, you must have earned all three levels of the Going Green Merit Badge in Cleaning Up.

CLEANING UP: Leave It Better Than You Found It

Beginner Level

- Why is stewardship of the Earth important to you?
- Why is it important to keep our highways, public places, and outdoor recreational areas litter free?
- What adverse effects can the presence of litter have on the environment and wildlife? Tell us about these problems in three different areas of our world, such as roads, nature, waterways, urban spaces, etc.

Intermediate Level

- Make a point to remove litter from public places whenever you can, especially if it's not your trash. This is our Earth, and as such, we need to be mindful of waste—even if we didn't contribute to it directly.
- Pair litter cleanup with conscious waste removal practices by ensuring collected waste is disposed of properly (recycling, composting, landfill).
- To earn the intermediate-level badge, do this on five separate occasions.

Expert Level

- Research ways you can get involved in your community's efforts to control littering.
- Host a litter removal get-together within your community, a popular outdoor recreational area, or along a highway.*
- Research the Great Pacific Garbage Patch and the controversy of why it hasn't been cleaned up.

*Due to the precautions necessary during the ongoing pandemic, this is one that is best saved for a post-COVID time.



CLEANING UP: Path to Zero Waste

Beginner Level

- Research zero-waste living. Here's a great introduction to the concept: <https://trashisfortossers.com/a-beginners-guide-to-zero-waste-living-ps-it-doesnt-happen-overnight>
- Find out what a waste audit is and why you should perform one to start your path to zero waste. Here's a general overview: <https://discardstudies.com/2016/02/21/how-to-do-a-household-waste-audit-and-why/>

Intermediate Level

- Perform a waste audit to identify the areas of your life where you produce more waste.
- Name three significant things you learned about your habits in your waste audit.
- Share something you learned that surprised you the most.

Expert Level

- Think of small, yet meaningful, ways you can reduce your waste and implement them into your daily routine. For example, instead of throwing away kitchen scraps, re-grow veggies, and think of ways to reuse or repurpose things that would otherwise be disposed of.
- Research how to compost, and why it's an easy and substantial way to reduce waste.* Is composting something you could easily fit into your lifestyle? If you lack outside space, see if there is a community compost in your area. Research ways to keep your compost from smelling and how to use your compost.

*For a complete immersion into composting, see the Gaining Ground Merit Badge in Garden Gate.



EACH OTHER: International Civics Challenge

Research a government other than the United States and learn the answers to the following questions:

Beginner Level

- What is the current form of government of this nation?
- What is the general structure of the government (for example, does it have individual governing entities at localized levels, or is it one governing body)?
- Identify the basic doctrines and ruling bodies of this government.
- What is the economic system in this government and who are its international trade partners?

Intermediate Level

- Identify the major parts of this government and how they work together.
- Are there elected officials? If so, identify the primary positions and their term lengths.
- How are laws created in this government?
- How are laws enforced in this government?

Expert Level

- When was this government established?
- How does this government view individual rights and civil issues?
- What were the significant historical events that led to the institution of this government?
- What forms of government existed before the current government?



FARM KITCHEN: Kitchen Renegade

For this badge, you get to choose your own kitchen adventure! What have you always wanted to try? Wine making? Home brewing? Perfecting pickled vegetables? Growing culinary mushrooms? No matter how fringe, obscure, or specific, this is the place for all your ambitious kitchen endeavors.

Beginner Level

- Every kitchen maven knows that when it comes to food processing, safety always comes first. Once you've chosen your latest culinary adventure, start by thinking safety. What are the most common food-safety concerns surrounding your project?
- What are the best sanitary practices relating to your project?
- What other steps will you take to ensure the safety of your finished project?

Intermediate Level

- Make a list of any equipment you'll need to get started and gather it up.
- What are you waiting for?! Dive in and be sure to keep detailed notes along the way. These will prove to be an invaluable resource when you're trying to replicate a result or trying to troubleshoot something.
- Sample the results of your first trial. Are you happy with how it turned out? What did you learn in the process? Is there anything you would do differently next time?

Expert Level

- If you were unhappy with your first trial, rework the recipe or process until you have it just right.
- Now, use your creation in a recipe! For example, if you made wine, create a marinade or cream sauce. Grew culinary mushrooms? Share your favorite way to use them.
- Flex your photography muscle, snap a picture, and include it on your application.



GARDEN GATE: Water Management

Beginner Level

- Research the benefits of planting native plants and list three you could add to your garden.
- Identify the type of soil you have and how this affects your watering practices.
- Research the best times to water to minimize water loss.
- What is deep watering? Is this something that would work for your garden?

Intermediate Level

- Research soil quality and its effect on water absorption and retention. Name two ways you can improve your soil quality.
- Why is mulching your garden integral to soil water retention? Which materials are best for mulching?
- Which ground covers are best for your area/soil type for water retention?

Expert Level

- Why are drip lines an efficient way to water? Is this something that could fit into your garden landscape?
- Research the various rain/runoff water-collection and/or water-redirection methods. Would any of these methods work for your space?
- Finally, choose at least three of the methods researched in any level of this badge and use them to better manage and reduce your garden water consumption.



MAKE IT EASY: Macramé

Beginner Level

- If you don't know how to macrame, learn! Choose a simple project to start, such as macrame feathers, a plant hanger, or a keychain.
- Research the different types of rope and cording and choose the best type for your beginner project.
- Research the knots you'll need to use for your project and learn how to tie each.
- Finish your project. There is a three-hour minimum time investment required.
- If you already know how to macrame, teach someone else how to make a simple project.

Intermediate Level

- Research commonly used knots that you didn't learn in your beginner project. Some examples are the lark's-head knot, half-hitch knot, right and left half-square knots, square knot, and gathering knot. Learn how to tie each.
- Start and finish an intermediate macrame project, such as a small wall hanging, fruit hammock, coasters, or some simple jewelry.
- A 10-hour time investment is required.

Expert Level

- Start and finish a project of expert level, such as an embellished or intricately patterned wall hanging, set of tote bags, or for the ambitious expert, a hammock or outdoor chair.
- A 25-hour time investment is required.





Big welcome to our new and renewing Sisterhood members!

Sept 1, 2020 to Jan 1, 2021

Aidan Murphy
Alexandra Voss
Alison Bunde
Allie Clark
Amanda Middleton
Amanda Poole
Amy Barker
Andrea Wilson
Aneta Smith
Angela Ray
Angie Hofmann
Anita Tidwell
Ann Bofferding
Anna Welcher
April Marcuz
Ashley Adams Aycock
Audrey Sinner
Barbi Mullins
Becky Iannaccone
Bessie Williams
Beth Guinn
Betty Fudala
Brenda Davis

Caitlin Margaret Keyes Edge
Candy Hogan
Carine Ozias-Caccia
Carole Sherwood
Cate Powers
Cathi Carpenter
Cathie Robson
Charlene Gravely
Chris Powers
Christina Dzeskewicz
Christina O'Neal
Christine Box
Christine Martello
Cindy Kinion
Colette Norman
Connie McCaffery
Connie Harrington
Corey Romanski
Corin Atkinson
Cynde Davidson
Cynthia Foote
Danna Rodriguez
Daphne Mitchell

Darla Armstrong
Darlene Litton
Debbie Watson
Debbie Barlow
Deborah Deal
Deborah Morris
Debra Faustini
Debra Shuman
Dianna Hauf
Donna Rowe
Dorothy Jean Pici
Elaine Stuck
Ella Lopez
Ellyn Vander Kaay
Emily Nellinger
Gabrielle Ward
Gae Gundersen-Barry
Gail Flood
Gerri Nellinger
Gina McKnight
Hannah Green
Heidi Schaap
Heidi Sage

Helen Reynolds
Jama Keener
Janet Coomes
Janice Hamilton
Janie Edwards
Jenessa Markland
Jenni Burgan
Jennifer Turner
Jennifer Naprstek
Jennifer Wenzler
Jo Anne Cox
Joanna Ziolkowski
Joi Gifford
Joyce Hellenga Himebaugh
Judy Curtis
Judy Torola
Julie Hofmann
Julie Stancato
Julie A. Weaver
Karen Spires
Karen Hillen
Kathryn Osborne
Kathy Keysor



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Katie Garnes
Katrina Lewis
Kelan Neatherlin
Kelly O'Neal
Kemilee Rainey
Kerry Hubbard
Kimberly Noah
Kimberly Evans
Kristin Jonec
Kristine Christ
Larranie Gonsalves
Laura Poorman
Leona Rossi
Leslie Demarco
Linda Ladendorff
Linda Neves
Lisa Harman
Lisa Barnhart
Lisa Littlejohn
Lisa Neville
Lori Behsman

Lynda Bourland
Marcia Wilde
Marge Hofknecht
Marie Listopad
Marjory Morris
Marlene Burns
Mary T. Jason
Mary Thomas
Mary Bodus
Mary Hannah Cline
Maryjo Zimmer
Meredith Minor
Michelle Coomes
Miranda Howard
Miranda Pace
Monica Rush
Nanci Cooper
Nancy Kinder
Nicole McGinnis
Norma Hart
Patricia Spathes

Patti White
Phyllis Gentry
Rachael Gilchrist
Rachel Hayden
Rae Brewer
Ramona Bean
Rea Nakanishi
Rebecca Alvarez
Rebecca Fratzke
Renee Marsh
Rhonda R. Gaston Brooks
Ruth Farmer
Sarah Krych
Savannah Low
Sharon Costie
Sharon McCulloch
Sheila Carlson
Shelley Solace
Shelley Rabern
Sherry Buck
Shirley Johnson

Susan McManus
Susan Whitakerhill
Susan Kaar
Suzanne Krotje
Tammi Collins
Teresa Merrick
Terri Lamb
Terry Steinmetz
Theresa Shuart
Tracey Frink-Hyde
Traci Clemens
Tracy Behsman
Vanessa Ferrell
Veronica Reid
Victoria Elwood
Wanda Hulion
Wendy Morse



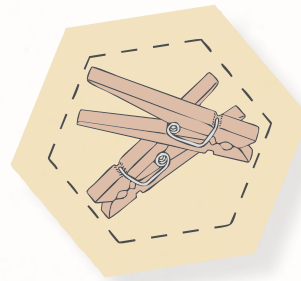


Sisterhood & Farmerette Merit Badge Awardees

Sept 1, 2020 to Jan 1, 2021

Aidan Murphy: Aidan Murphy, #7664

Beginner badge: Each Other / Farmgirl Shutterbugs
Beginner badge: Outpost / Outstepping
Beginner badge: Outpost / 'Out There' Women
Beginner badge: Outpost / Disconnect to Reconnect
Intermediate badge: Outpost / Disconnect to Reconnect
Beginner badge: Outpost / Pampered Pets
Beginner badge: Stitching & Crafting / Crochet



[CLICK HERE TO READ ABOUT MERIT BADGE AWARDEES.](#)

Allison Clark: Allison Clark, #8292

Beginner badge: Stitching & Crafting / Homespun Christmas
Beginner badge: Stitching & Crafting / Origami

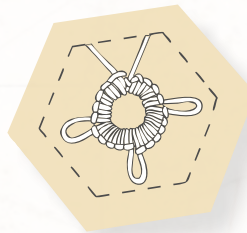


Amy Moberg: Upnorth suburb farm, #8115

Beginner badge: Stitching & Crafting / Sew Wonderful

Andrea Garey: AndreaPA, #8166

Beginner badge: Stitching & Crafting / Aprons
Beginner badge: Farm Kitchen / Canning
Intermediate badge: Farm Kitchen / Canning
Beginner badge: Stitching & Crafting / Buttoned Up



Aneta Smith: #8224

Beginner badge: Cleaning Up / Shopping Green
Beginner badge: Cleaning Up / Going Green
Intermediate badge: Cleaning Up / Going Green
Expert badge: Cleaning Up / Going Green

Bea Campbell: quiltingbea, #2575

Beginner badge: Farm Kitchen / Forage for Food

Candy Hogan: tigger9777, #8283

Beginner badge: Cleaning Up / Shopping Green
Beginner badge: Farm Kitchen / Recipes
Beginner badge: Garden Gate / What's Your Beef?
Beginner badge: Outpost / Farmgirl's Best Friend
Beginner badge: Farm Kitchen / Canning
Beginner badge: Stitching & Crafting / Homespun Christmas
Beginner badge: Stitching & Crafting / Knitting
Beginner badge: Stitching & Crafting / Crochet



continued...

Beginner badge: Make It Easy / Relaxation

Cassie Thompson: FungusChick, #8020

Expert badge: Garden Gate / The Secret Life of Bees

Cathi Carpenter: Picturemommy, #8205

Beginner badge: Each Other / Farmgirl Gratitude

Beginner badge: Cleaning Up / Shopping Green

Charlene Gravely: Charlene Gravely, #7933

Beginner badge: Each Other / Community Service

Intermediate badge: Each Other / Community Service

Expert badge: Each Other / Community Service

Beginner badge: Garden Gate / Herbs

Intermediate badge: Garden Gate / Herbs

Christina Burnham: Christina Burnham, #7305

Beginner badge: Stitching & Crafting / Quilting

Cindy Kinion: AussieChick, #6058

Beginner badge: Outpost / Outstepping

Beginner badge: Outpost / First Aid

Intermediate badge: Outpost / First Aid

Expert badge: Outpost / First Aid

Beginner badge: Make It Easy / Music

Intermediate badge: Make It Easy / Music

Beginner badge: Make It Easy / Emergency Preparedness

Beginner badge: Garden Gate / Birds

Beginner badge: Stitching & Crafting / UFOs

Beginner badge: Stitching & Crafting / Origami

Donna Rowe: MrsNoah, #6059

Intermediate badge: Stitching & Crafting / Quilting

Emily Nellinger: citychick03, #8229

Beginner badge: Each Other / Farmgirl Gratitude

Hannah Frankowski: GinnyBelle, #6994

Beginner badge: Farm Kitchen / Apples

Expert badge: Make It Easy / Let's Get Physical

Janice Carey: Cranberryrose55, #8128

Beginner badge: Make It Easy / Let's get Physical

Beginner badge: Garden Gate / Gaining Ground

Beginner badge: Garden Gate / Backyard Farmer

Beginner badge: Garden Gate / Herbs

Intermediate badge: Garden Gate / Herbs

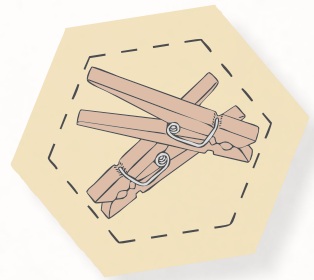
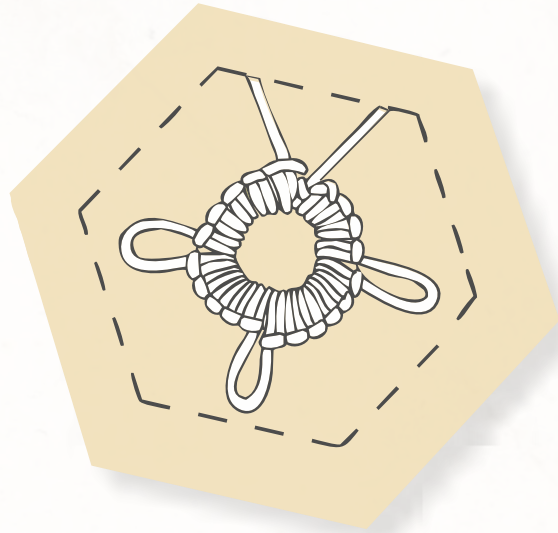
Expert badge: Garden Gate / Herbs

Beginner badge: Garden Gate / The Good, Bad, and Ugly ... Bugs

Beginner badge: Garden Gate / Rootin' Tootin'

Jennifer Naprstek: Julyrain, #8231

Beginner badge: Cleaning Up / Going Green



continued...

Joanne Seruto: JoanneMS58, #7580

Beginner badge: Garden Gate / The Secret Life of Bees
Beginner badge: Each Other / Bibliophile Badging
Beginner badge: Garden Gate / Birds
Beginner badge: Farm Kitchen / Get It Together
Intermediate badge: Farm Kitchen / Get It Together

Julie Kram: Julie Kram, #3733

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

Krista Davis: Maryjanesniece, #528

Beginner badge: Stitching & Crafting / Cross-Stitch

Leslie Demarco: #8254

Beginner badge: Outpost / Fishing

Lisa Barnhart: cdalegang, #4830

Beginner badge: Cleaning Up / Going Green

Miranda Pace: Kitsch_kutie, #7800

Beginner badge: Stitching & Crafting / Aprons
Beginner badge: Stitching & Crafting / Embroidery

Nichelle Miyakoshi: nne9703721, #8159

Beginner badge: Each Other / Bibliophile Badging
Beginner badge: Shopping Green / Cleaning Up
Beginner badge: Each Other / Reading, 'Riting, and 'Rythmatic

Rae Brewer: Kindred Soul, #8239

Beginner badge: Cleaning Up / Recycling
Beginner badge: Each Other / Languages/Culture
Beginner badge: Each Other / Civics Challenge
Beginner badge: Outpost / Rocks and Minerals
Beginner badge: Each Other / Farmgirl Gratitude
Beginner badge: Each Other / Civics Challenge
Beginner badge: Farm Kitchen / Bustin' Out
Beginner badge: Farm Kitchen / Carpe Cocoa
Beginner badge: Outpost / Speak for the Trees

Rea Nakamishi: Brentwood Farm Girls, #8284

Beginner badge: Each Other / Little Squirts
Beginner badge: Stitching & Crafting / Knitting

Rosemary Sissons: BeachGirlLakeGal, #8082

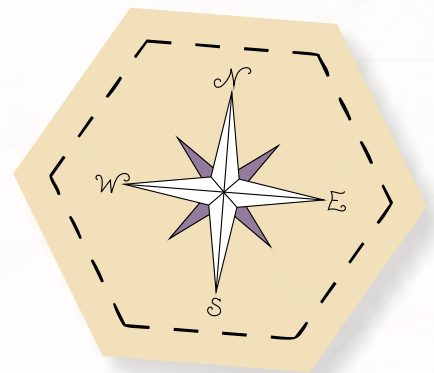
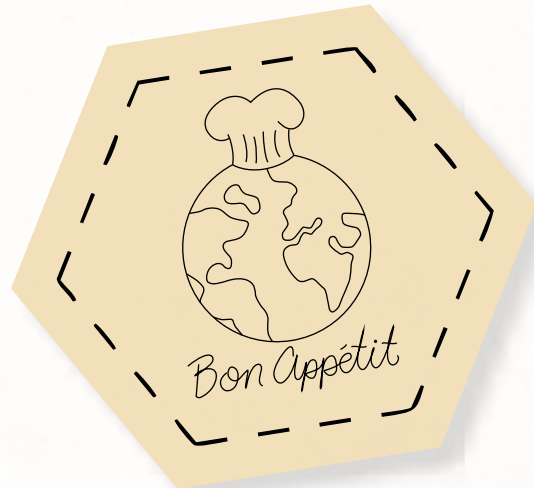
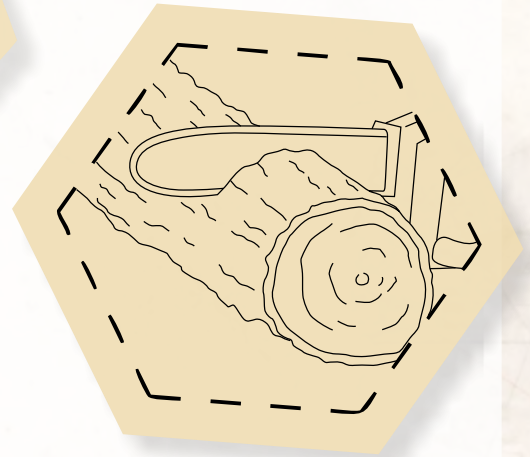
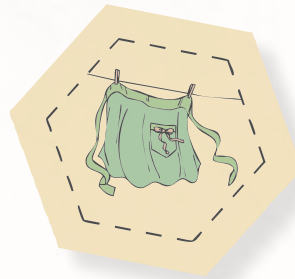
Beginner badge: Make It Easy / Make It Pretty

Sandra McCarter: Sandra McCarter, #7766

Beginner badge: Farm Kitchen / Recipes
Beginner badge: Farm Kitchen / Icing on the Cake

Sandy Japhet: S-Japhet, #8158

Intermediate badge: Garden Gate / Heirlooms Forever!



continued...

Sherrilyn Carroll: Sherri, #1350

Expert badge: Farm Kitchen / Food Allergy Awareness

Susan Wich: #7876

Beginner badge: Cleaning Up / Shopping Green

Beginner badge: Garden Gate / Gaining Ground

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

Tammy Shamlin-Hansen: Tammy Shamlin-Hansen, #8130

Beginner badge: Cleaning Up / Going Green

Beginner badge: Cleaning Up / Shopping Green

Beginner badge: Cleaning Up / Water Conservation

Beginner badge: Cleaning Up / Recycling

Terry Steinmetz: teryouth54, #3600

Beginner badge: Each Other / Differing Abilities

Intermediate badge: Each Other / Differing Abilities

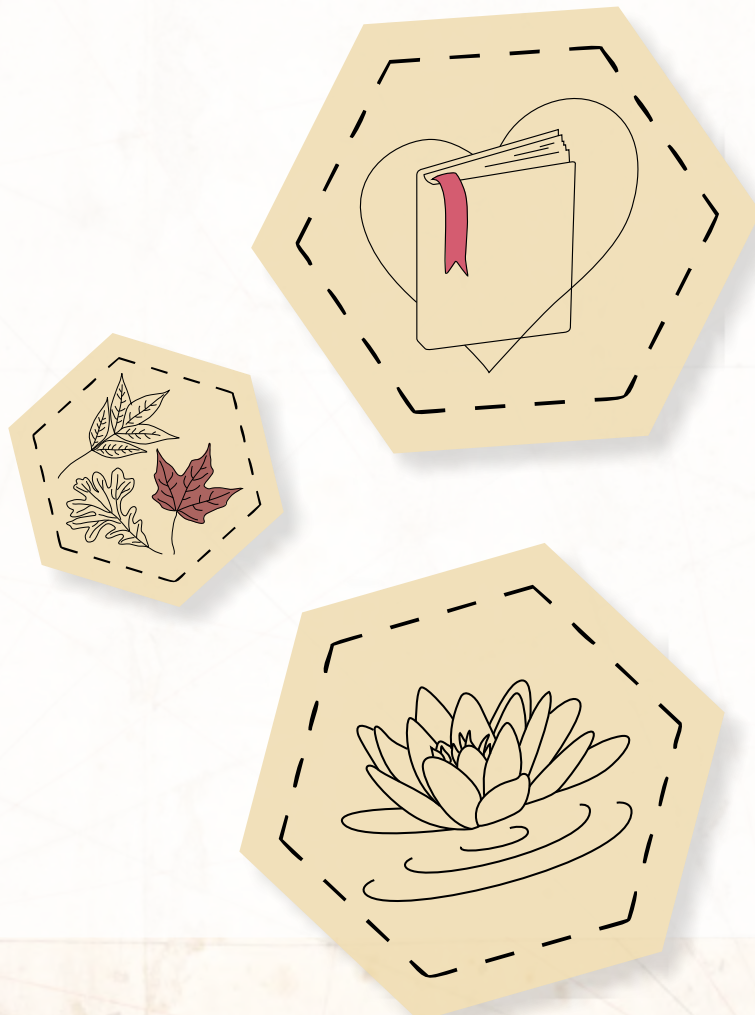
Valerie Phillips: Valerie J Phillips. #8090

Beginner badge: Garden Gate / Herbs

Victoria Elwood: victoria elwood, #8257

Beginner badge: Each Other / Blogging

Intermediate badge: Each Other / Blogging



"In the New Year,
never forget to thank
your past years
because they enabled
you to reach today."

- Mehmet Murat ildan





Young Cultivator Merit Badge Awardees

Sept. 1, 2020 to Jan. 1, 2021

Veronica Webb (Young Cultivator of Michelle Webb: mlwebb14, #8177)

Beginner badge: Farm Kitchen / Mmmm Chocolate!

Intermediate badge: Farm Kitchen / Mmmm Chocolate!

Expert badge: Farm Kitchen / Mmmm Chocolate!

[CLICK HERE TO READ ABOUT MERIT BADGE AWARDEES.](#)

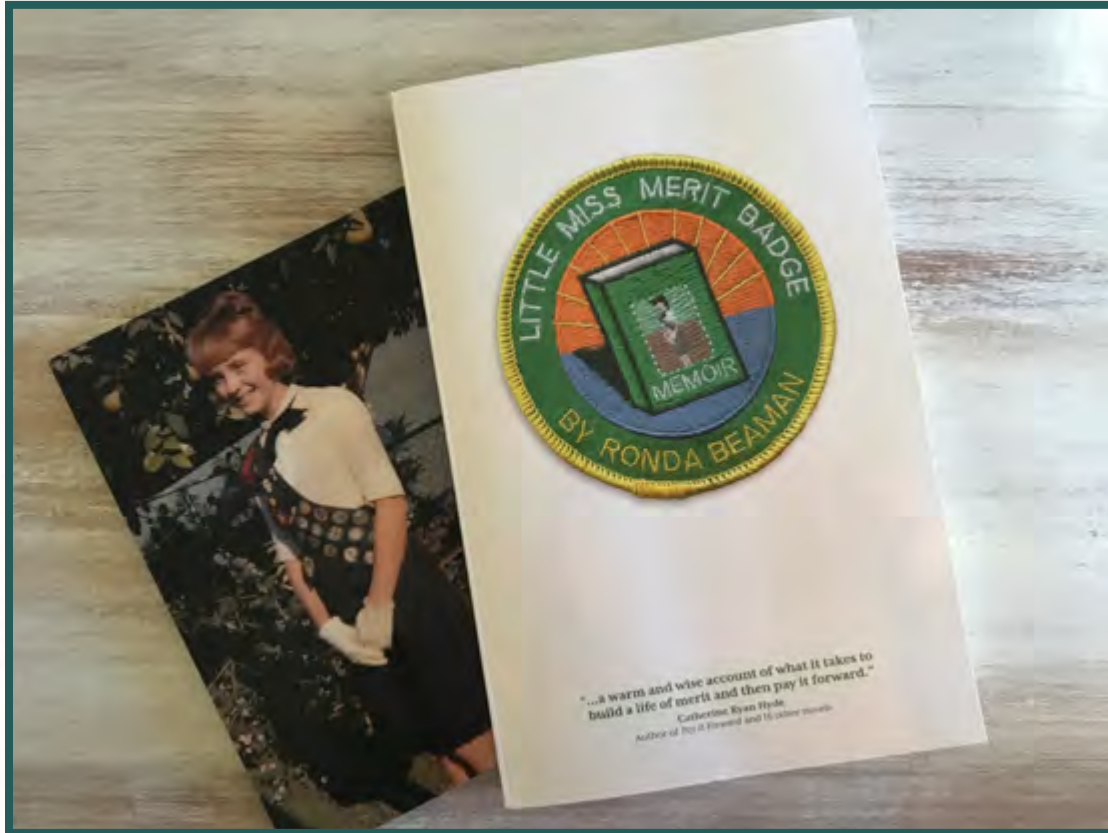
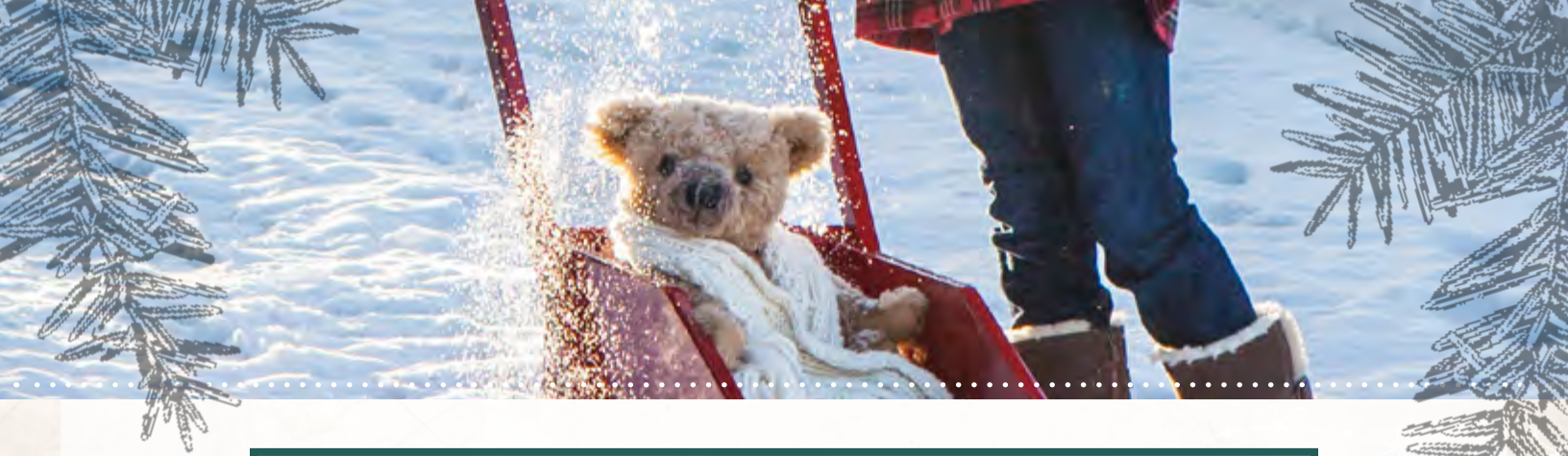


What's a Farmerette?

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.](#)



Little Miss Merit Badge Salutes You!

MaryJane,
You do so much for the enjoyment and empowerment of others—thank you. I appreciate your publications, cookbooks, and outlook! Especially pleased that you started a Merit Badge program, in honor of which I would like to share my memoir with you as a token and thank you.

Badge On!
Ronda Beaman

Dr. Ronda Beaman
CCO, Peak Learning, Inc.
Founder and Executive Director, Dream Makers SLO
Clinical Professor, Orfalea College of Business
Author, *Little Miss Merit Badge* and *You're Only Young Twice*
Speaker, TEDx: *Hokey Pokey and the Meaning of Life*

TED

If you have an extra hour and could use a boost of inspiration, I recommend Rhonda's TED talk: *Hokey Pokey and the Meaning of Life*.



Merit Badge Jewelry

Farmgirl sisters and their children have earned over 10,886 merit badges to date (see a complete list of our Merit Badge Awardees at FarmgirlSisterhood.org). Not only are their meritorious accomplishments given public accolades here in the *Sister Issue* and on our chatroom, but they're also given a link to a printable 4-inch badge specific to every accomplishment. (Some farmgirls have even earned the "sharpshooter" designation for earning more than 200 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 stamper 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!



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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



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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.



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.



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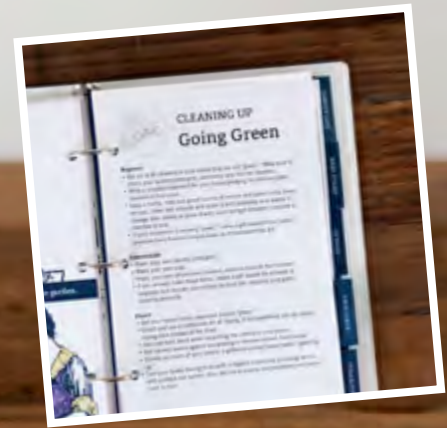
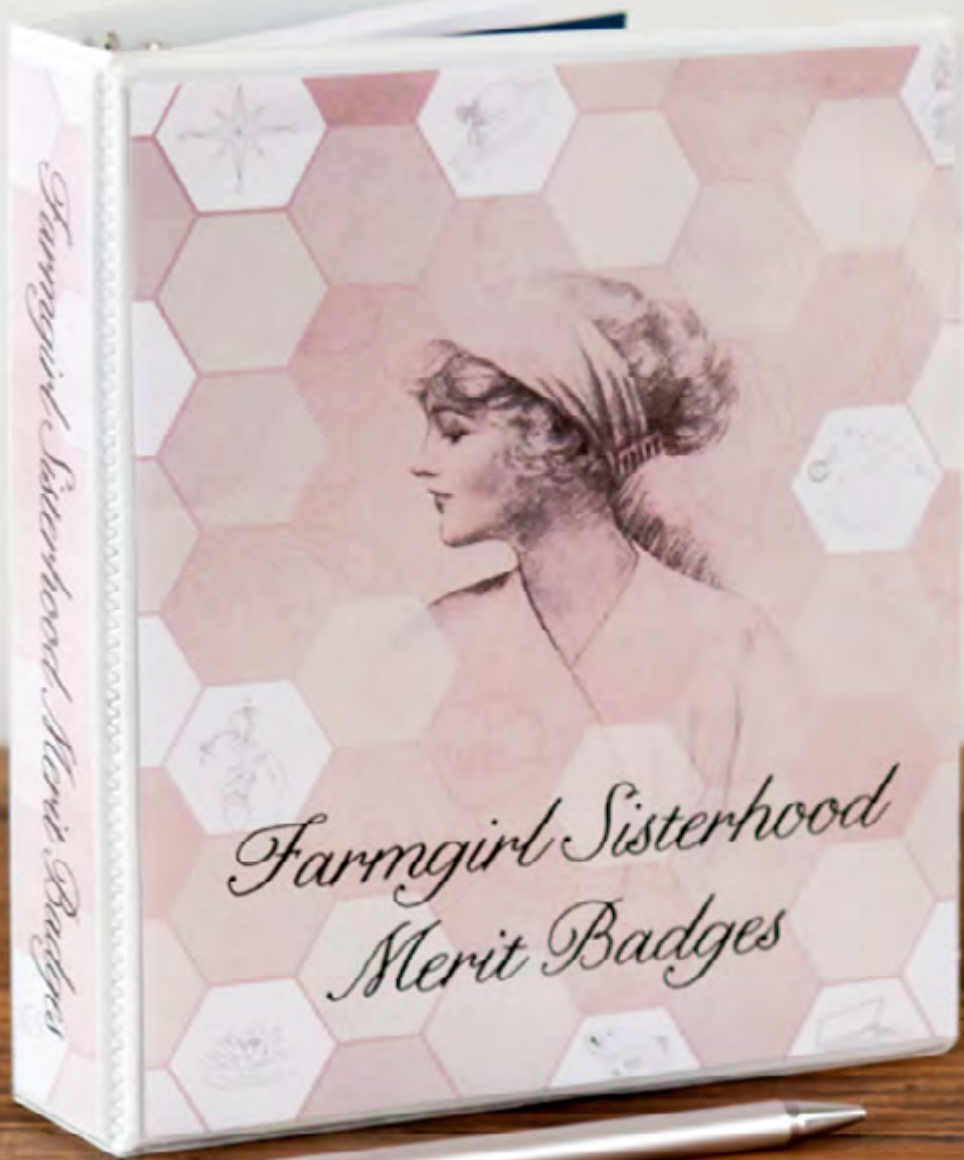
Or buy a button-making machine.

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 vise 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.





Merit Badge Planner

Here 'tis—perfect for life during quarantine or starting the new year off on the right foot. Our Farmgirl Sisterhood Merit Badge Planner features a descriptive page for every level of badge (all 140 of them!). Even though it contains a goals calendar, it's designed to work around your schedule. With inspirational sayings scattered throughout, it's a farmgirl must-have for keeping track of badges you've earned and badges you hope to earn. With plenty of space given to "notes," it's fold-back cover makes for easy writing, especially while on-the-go. Each section is clearly labeled with cardstock tabs to make locating badges a breeze. Order yours today!



\$36^{.79}

reading
with
Donna



I'd like to introduce you to Donna Everhart (Farmgirl Sister #7913). Donna is the *USA Today* bestselling author of Southern fiction with authenticity and grit, including the Southeastern Library Association Award-winning *The Road to Bittersweet* and her most recent novel, *The Moonshiner's Daughter*. Born and raised in Raleigh, North Carolina, she now lives just an hour away in Dunn, along with her husband and a tiny, heart-stealing Yorkshire terrier named Mister. Visit her online at DonnaEverhart.com.

Meg

Farmgirl BOOK CLUB

Dear Farmgirl Sisters,
Welcome to the
Farmgirl Book Club! If
this is your first visit,
here's how it works ...

In each issue of
MaryJanesFarm,
we suggest several
new books, usually
coinciding with a
different theme and
always the kinds of
reads that are fun to
share and discuss. You
pick whichever one
tickles your fancy—
whether that's all of
them, or just one, or
something that's not
on the list at all! Then
we all get together at
[Facebook.com/groups/
FarmgirlBookClub](https://www.facebook.com/groups/FarmgirlBookClub) to
talk about what we're
reading.

Happy reading!


Farmgirl Sister #7913

FEB/MAR: Family in its Many Forms

Generations of my father's family have lived along the same stretch of road in Raleigh, North Carolina, and soon after my parents married, my father built his own house about a half mile from his parents' and grandparents' houses. His brothers and a sister followed suit, constructing their homes all within a mile or so of each other. This close proximity to extended family was the foundation of childhood for my brother and me, running wild with our cousins, always surrounded by aunts, uncles, grandparents.

I feel blessed to have been born into my big, raucous, loving, Southern family. Of course, family isn't just biology or blood. It's those we hold closest in our hearts, the people we share memories with, who give us support and strength. Whether they're the ones we're born into or the ones we choose, family comes in many forms. And those many forms, like seasons, are always changing, sometimes growing, sometimes getting smaller. The year I lost my dear, gentle father, I gained a granddaughter. She shares a middle name with my mother, who passed away a few years later. Over this last year in particular, loss has changed the shape of many families, leaving empty seats at too many dinner tables. But for those who keep an open heart, those seats will surely fill again in time.

Our current crop of books explores family in its many forms, from relationships between mothers and fathers, to siblings and sisterhoods, to the bonds within a close-knit community, and more. Who are the people you think of as family? Has your family changed shape in any way this year? I hope you'll stop by the Farmgirl Book Club to share and discuss!

When the Apricots Bloom

by Gina Wilkinson

The author of this this captivating, powerful novel, an Australian journalist, lived in Baghdad during the years leading up to the Iraq War, and her experiences from that time and place bring deep insight and authenticity to the story of three women desperate to keep their families—and one another—safe under the sinister, violent dictatorship of Saddam Hussein. As children, Huda, a village girl, and Rania, the daughter of a sheikh, were the best of friends, considering themselves “closer than sisters from the same womb.”

But as adults living under a regime of fear and distrust, they haven't spoken in 10 years, until an unlikely woman—an Australian diplomat's wife named Ally—causes their paths and fates to cross again. Huda now works as a secretary



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for the Australian diplomat, and she's paid regular visits by Saddam Hussein's *mukhabarat*, secret police, who insist she report on the diplomat and his wife's every move. If she refuses to spy for them, they'll force her teenage son to join the dictator's brutal militia. Rania, like Huda, is tormented by the need to protect her daughter from a government that thinks nothing of taking 14-year-old girls like her for other violent means. This story takes place in a very different country under a very different government, but despite the almost unfathomable dangers they face, these women's day-to-day lives are filled with details that American readers will find much more familiar than foreign. While they live each day with the threat of the brutal regime hanging over their heads, they also have rebellious teenagers, fuzzy slippers as Mother's Day gifts, family ice-cream nights, and bothersome diets. Above all, they're a powerful illustration of the universal truth that mothers, no matter where they are, will do anything for their children.



Olive Bright, Pigeoneer

by Stephanie Graves

Olive Bright is a young veterinary student in London when WWII breaks out and she's forced to evacuate back to her small hometown village in the English countryside. Inspired by her own mother, who drove an ambulance in France during WWI before dying of tuberculosis, Olive is desperate to do her part for the war effort. Her older

brother is serving in Greece and her best friend, George, has joined the Royal Air Force, but she's stuck at home helping her father with his veterinary practice, indulging her love of Agatha Christie novels, and hoping the beloved racing pigeons she tends daily will be her ticket into the National Pigeon Service. There's so much to enjoy about this novel, with its portrayal of quaint village life, the local murder in which Olive becomes entangled, and the fascinating information on the role of carrier pigeons in delivering critical, coded messages for the allied forces during WWI. The village of Pibley in Hertfordshire, like many close-knit communities, is like an extended family populated by eccentric characters with intriguing dynamics. But most charming is Olive's own little nuclear family of sorts—her grumpy, but animal-loving, father; her admirable stepmother, who volunteers with the Women's Institute while bravely waging her own battle against multiple sclerosis; and the sweet, skittish boy named Jonathan, a London evacuee who's living with them while his father serves in North Africa.



Join us on the Farmgirl Book Club Facebook Group to learn more, meet the authors, enter giveaways, and talk about books: [Facebook.com/groups/FarmgirlBookClub](https://www.facebook.com/groups/FarmgirlBookClub).

A Vineyard Morning

by Jean Stone

It's been more than a year since Annie Sutton, a 40-something author, moved to Martha's Vineyard in hopes of putting her past behind her. Since then, the quaint island has become her adopted home and its residents have become like the family she never had. As Spring announces itself with the chorus of pinkletinks (which I learned are tree frogs whose peeping sounds are usually the first sign of the season in Martha's Vineyard!), Annie's own life is full with new beginnings. She's working on a fresh novel; starting renovations on the old inn she plans on turning into a B&B with her half-brother; and her relationship with the local police sergeant, John, has become something truly special. But when an unexpected visit from the biological mother Annie never really knew brings unwelcome news, the bonds she's forged with her beloved community could reach a breaking point.



The Titanic Sisters

by Patricia Falvey

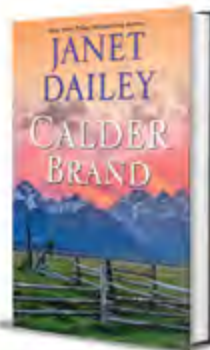
Sisters in Ireland during the early 1900s, Nora and Delia are offered the chance of a lifetime: jobs in America that will allow them to escape their lives of poverty on their family's farm. Delia is to be a maid, while her older sister, Nora, has been given a position as a governess for an affluent family. Unfortunately, the ship on which they secure passage happens to be the ill-fated Titanic. In the chaotic aftermath of the ship's sinking, Delia believes her sister has died and impulsively assumes her identity, stepping into the role of governess to a vulnerable young girl in need of a maternal touch. As Delia grows closer to her charge—and the girl's father—will she be able to reveal the truth to find a chance at happiness? And what will happen when she finds out that Nora is alive, and coming to take what is rightfully hers?



Calder Brand

by Janet Dailey

Joe Dollarhide has spent most of his life building a ranching empire, joining one of the first cattle drives from Texas to Montana in the late 1800s and risking everything to claim his piece of the American frontier. There hasn't been much time for anything else. But when a woman from Joe's past—the only woman he ever loved—comes into town with her young son, Joe is shaken to the core and finds himself reevaluating his entire worldview. Longing to build a family, Joe begins to wonder if power comes not from what you own but how you choose to share it with the people you love.



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Each issue of MaryJanesFarm

is filled with gardening guidance, delightful craft projects, and scores of delicious seasonal recipes. Plus, you'll read ideas for vintage collecting, earth-friendly living, and more.



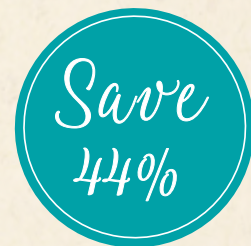
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FEB/MAR 2021 ISSUE

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Contents {WORK. PLAY. CUT LOOSE.}



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- 12 Farmgirl Expressions (artwork with farmgirl flair)

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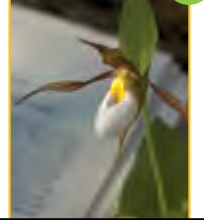
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Magazines, Books & More

Our Feb/Mar issue (Work . . . Play . . . Cut Loose!) will hit newsstands on Jan. 7. In it, you'll find lots of delicious recipes with chocolate (hello, truffles!), and more recipes designed by our very own Stella Jane. You'll also find our favorite ways to dress up your home with some signature farmhouse décor. Don't risk missing *MaryJanesFarm* magazine on newsstands.

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

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



MaryJanesFarm Calendar

Our 2021 calendar is now available. Each month's top page features a full-color image from our farm and each calendar page includes dates, holidays, inspirational sayings, lunar phases, and fabulous farmgirl culture. This is a Project F.A.R.M. (First-class American Rural Made) product. All 26 pages are printed here at the farm on 8 1/2" x 11" card stock and are bound with black spiral wire, unfolding to 11" x 17".

8,293 Sisterhood members
and 12,287 Merit Badges
earned—growing stronger
every day!

Current Holidays:

- January 01 ~ New Year's Day
- January 02 ~ National Cream Puff Day
- January 04 ~ National Trivia Day
- January 05 ~ National Bird Day
- January 08 ~ National Bubble Bath Day
- January 18 ~ Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- January 20 ~ Inauguration Day
- January 21 ~ National Hugging Day
- January 27 ~ Nat'l Chocolate Cake Day
- January 29 ~ Freethinkers' Day
- January 31 ~ Inspire Your Heart
with Art Day

