

FARMGIRL ROUND UP

I am not so sure what came first for me; the proverbial Chicken or the egg; the love of all things “farmgirl” or that it is the extension of the people and the places that I love the most. Either way it is me, it is who I am; it is deep in the core of me. I can scarcely go home to Coulee City or drive into the Palouse, or make my way up the horse heavens without stopping to soak in the wheat fields.. and quickly my mind will race to pulling rye, or driving a wheat truck... being so hot & dusty and piling up in a buddies car and heading to the lake to cool off at the end of the day.

Both sets of grandparents taught by example; Grandpa Teal and Grandpa Knopp kept HUGE gardens and still do – even though they are in there late 80’s. And both Grandmas’s “put up preserves”. Going to the “farms” meant wide open spaces and driving things and getting dirty and exhausted.

My Grandma Teal; sews, quilts, and makes the best homemade rolls, EVER; and refers back to the days when she and the other “farmgirls” would lay out a noon spread for the farm hands during wheat harvest. Grandma Knopp blesses each of us with homemade “birthday cards”, and well, some of you have tried her apple cake. So whether it is just something I love instinctively or it is an extension of the people I love (or some combination of the two) maybe is a mute point – It is me, I am a farmgirl at heart.

So when I came across MaryJane’s website and farmgirl blog a few years back, I couldn’t have been more thrilled. While I wish I would have paid more attention to the amazing lessons my grandparents laid out in front of me, I didn’t... but the “sisterhood” on the blog have been patient teachers, they have like my grandparents allowed me to sit at their “feet” and learn. It has inspired me go back and be a more willing student to the many talents of my grandparents, as well as to my in-laws, who are farm folk through and through. It is on the blog that I have met characters like Franny, and queen-of-quite-a-lot, who challenge me to try something new, or to try again to do something old, plant something, find a new use for something, cook something, make or bake something, weave something or sew, crochet, knit something, take a picture of something, draw or paint something... or in my case write about the amazing people that do all those amazing “something’s”. We have farmgirls that are attorney’s and Doctors, and professional writers, students, stay-at home moms, city dwellers, and country bumpkins. You name it, we got it 18-88 (oh lets not forget the farmetts – 18 and under)

I have learned that a farmgirl doesn’t have to be a master at all the aspects of farm life, doesn’t have to own her own farm. MaryJane says, “***to be a farmgirl is a condition of the heart***”. The desire to know, the wish to know, qualifies you. That longing for “a more simple time”, (simple in the form of less complicated... not easy), a time where being a “farmgirl” was an art form all of its own. Personally, I think there is a little bit of farmgirl in all of us girls; whether it is planting a garden (or a pot) , or making a quilt (or buying one), or learning to can, or baking, or making an apron or wearing an apron.....

If you are a farmgirl at heart; we invite you to come to the FarmGirl round up at the Market May 24th, membership is free. We have named the local chapter “Prosser Farm Chicks” – (since Strutz the Rooster is the Markets Mascot, it seemed only right), we will have as guest other farmgirls from across the state – that day. We will be handing out certificates of membership and bumper stickers as well as patches to put on your favorite aprons or denim jackets that signify you are a “Prosser Farm Chick”.... And add your name to the local roster as well as to the “official” journal. While most of our meetings will be done “virtually”, we will have a couple farmgirl projects as a chapter as well as some farmgirl outings. Consider this your invitation to come join us –Everyone with this particular “heart condition” is invited to be a part. In order to join up with MaryJanes sister-hood – you need to be a part of a local chapter – and we will explain more of that at the round up. The unofficial uniform for a farmgirl is a garden hat, denim jacket, and of course an apron.

As a special treat there will be a Gospel Blue Grass concert in the park that day as well, lots of reasons to come out.

The round up is the beginning of a great market season for us. We have so many things planned, that you will not want to miss. You can find a schedule of events at our newly updated website www.prosserfarmersmarket.com - and while you are there, take a minute to subscribe to our newsletter.

See You at the Market!