

Progressive Farmer[®]

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AOL Keyword: Progressive Farmer

over the fence

beauty from the farm

Brenda Brock fondly recalls childhood visits to relatives' farms near Bartlett, Texas. It was here she began to learn how these women used natural plants, oils and even crops for homemade rash remedies and skin-care products. "My aunts all had the prettiest skin," says Brock, who now lives near Portsmouth, R.I.



Brock learned a thing or two about beauty from her aunts.

PHOTO: BETH ANNE GORDLEY

Four years ago, Brock helped out a friend with a local farmstand by making some of her Nourishing Herbal Cream—aloe vera, lavender, rose water and almond oil whipped up in a kitchen blender. It was a hit.

Now Brock's Farmaesthetics is more than tripling its sales for the third year in a row. The majority of her products are sold only to spas. But because they have no synthetic ingredients and come from organic crops, her products also are used by dermatology clinics.

To make her more than 90 products, Brock uses farm and garden staples—soybean oil, cornstarch, lavender, sage, thyme, rosemary and many others.



Though she's now backed up by laboratory testing and corporate officers, Brock is still the only product developer. "My boots are in the car, and I always have baskets with clippers," she says. "I'm going out today to cut the first harvest of chamomile and calendula."