



It's Hip To Be Cheap, But It Helps To Spend

It's hip to be cheap, but it helps to spend - a letter from the editor of Hobby Farms.

By Karen Keb Acevedo

Depending on your point of view, our economy is somewhere between DEFCON 2 and 4, and we're all searching for ways to save money, to cut back, to do without.

Obviously, if you're feeling the pinch personally—you've been laid off or your sales are down—this is your only tactic. However, if you are maintaining and doing OK, as the majority of you indicated on one of our recent online polls, it's also your responsibility to spend.

This will strike some readers as irresponsible advice (I'm braced for your letters, trust me), but if you believe in the economic system that America was built on—capitalism—you know that it works by individuals making voluntary spending decisions.

If you're holding back on necessary or marginal purchases, companies aren't seeing sales; they're laying off workers, workers are filing for unemployment, the government system (and programs) expands and the downward spiral accelerates.

So if you're financially stable, now is the time to invest in your farm and your personal infrastructure and think about devising your own "stimulus package" where you hold the purse strings.

"Although individuals and groups must act rationally in any society for their own good, the consequences of both rational and irrational actions are said to be more readily apparent in a capitalist society," says Wikipedia on capitalism.

As we continue to watch the story of our present economy unfold, no doubt the reverberations of our economic decisions will be felt far and wide and will be ever-reaching; but I believe this is an American core value—being responsible for our actions and living with the consequences.

At Hobby Farms, we try to keep you all in mind, whichever group you presently find yourself in; in this issue, we have an article on the joy of new-tractor ownership, "Getting Land ... Got Tractor?" on page 44; but we also have down-to-earth advice on foraging for wildings (I never knew to look for wild onions and asparagus) in "Eat This ... Not That" on page 58; and saving money by installing your own split-rail fence in "How Do I ...?" on page 54.

When you page through Hobby Farms and look at the advertisements, or see an article or department "sponsored by" a company, know that these folks are supporting this magazine in a difficult economic time; they are supporting the agriculture industry, and they are asking for your business; please consider their messages.

Something that's free, but costs loads of time, is Facebook. Search for me by typing in "Karen Acevedo" and become my friend. Our newly launched website, also has a fan page; search for it under "hobbyfarms.com." If you're on Twitter, follow me at KarenKAcevedo.

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