

The Chicken Whisperer wrote:

Time and time again I hear people complaining about the problems they think backyard chickens will bring if allowed into the backyards of their city. Some of the more common complaints that I hear are noise, smell, rodents, disease, and property values. I would like to address each and every one of these complaints one by one.

I don't think I have ever been to a meeting about keeping backyard chickens where the noise issue has not been brought up at least once. I often hear people complaining about the potential early morning crow of a near-by rooster. This is a very valid point and I too would be complaining if a rooster were waking me up every morning at 4:30am, especially if I did not have to wake up until 7:00am or later. There are many advantages of keeping backyard chickens, but most urban chicken keepers want to keep backyard chickens for the benefits of having an endless supply of farm fresh eggs. Solution?

You do not need a rooster to enjoy farm fresh eggs every morning. In fact, hens will lay better if there is no rooster around to disturb their routine. Roosters primarily have two jobs, which they do very well. They protect and fertilize. You only need a rooster if you want baby chicks running around in the backyard. I still hate to see cities ban roosters all together because there are ways to keep roosters in an urban area quietly and responsibly. I plan to share how this can be done at a later date.

Smell is another complaint that is often brought up when discussing chickens. Yes, chickens can smell just like dogs, cats, rabbits, hamsters, gerbils, and even people if not taken care of properly.

Many people who oppose the keeping of backyard chickens often sound off during meetings about decreased property values if the city allows the keeping of backyard chickens. All I can say is show me the proof. No one has ever shown up at a backyard chicken meeting that I have ever attended with any valid proof that someone got \$10,000 less for their home because a resident in their city keeps backyard chickens. Keeping backyard chickens can be a fun and rewarding experience.

You can also follow the Chicken Whisperer on Twitter here: www.twitter.com/backyardpoultry
Chicken Whisperer

Tell us what you think

The Neighbor Newspapers encourages letters to the editor on topics of general interest, but reserves the right to edit them for content and length. Letters should be no longer than about 250 words and must include the writer's name, address and daytime telephone number for verification purposes.

Send letters to 10930 Crabapple Road, Suite 9, Roswell, GA 30075 or email nfulton@neighbornewspapers.com

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money

Does any of this sound

So, the federal government help the economy, the p the same time. Its off Rebate System (CARS), "Cash for Clunkers" program and ran out of money Congress and the president speed to pump (\$2,000,000,000.00) into the general tax dollars and drive

The specifics of the program are relatively simple. Owners of an automobile or truck that is at least 15 years old (basically a 1984 model or older) can get up to \$3,500 to \$4,500 toward a new vehicle.

Sounds good in theory, but what happens in the real world?

Now, Sam Citizen can get a clunker that works.

Because it is paid for by the federal government.

Because it has a low income tax bill to pay, and because it works (a car must be drivable), it is a reliable vehicle to get the job done.

So, what happens next? Sam Citizen hears that if he trades in his old car, he can get up to \$4,500 FREE toward a brand new car. That's a great opportunity that Sam can't afford to pass up — FREE from the federal government.

Now, new cars are not just for the rich — especially hybrids. They are efficient cars necessary for the government to get the \$3,500 credit, the new car is better than the car with the credit, the new car has the best calculations are the

So, Sam Citizen is having a fully-paid-for car with no debt and a new car for the next six years (with interest added). And, the income tax bill due in the next six years. And if