

## Example of the Hen

The eagle is America's national symbol, and it is a fiercely proud, regal bird. An experience that sends chills down my back is when occasionally the University of Tennessee, in its pre-game football show, has a bald eagle from Dollywood swoop down from the stadium onto the field while the band is playing the Star Spangled Banner. The moment stirs the patriotic fervor of the crowd.

We all admire the eagle.

But have you considered the merits of the barnyard hen?

Hard work means nothing to a hen. Regardless of what business prognosticators say about the price of eggs, regardless of what others expect of her, regardless of fluctuations in the commodities market, she keeps on digging worms and laying eggs.

If the ground is hard, she scratches harder.

If it's dry, she digs deeper.

If it's wet, she digs where it is dry.

If she strikes a rock, she digs around it.

If she gets a few more hours of daylight in the barnyard, she digs a few more hours.

Have you ever seen a pessimistic hen?

Have you ever seen a hen cackle in disgust at the prospect of her job?

Did you ever hear one cluck because the work was hard, the conditions were poor, and some of her eggs were taken from her before they hatched?

No.

Hens, you see, save their breath for digging. They save their cackles for the eggs that are laid.

So, we may conclude: The secret of success is to start from scratch and keep on scratching.

--Beecher Hunter