

## The Energetic Farmer

An author, a cynical man, once sought to escape city life by moving to a little house in the country. His new home was located across the street from a farm, and from his library window, he often looked up from his writing to watch as his neighbor engaged in a wide variety of jobs that needed to be done on the farm. He was intrigued to the point of distraction.

He watched as the man mended the fence after his cattle had broken through it. He watched as the man replanted a field after a heavy deluge washed out a new planting. He watched as he made repairs to his tractor and removed several large stones from his field after a tractor blade broke.

The farmer seemed to work from sunup to sundown, doing battle against the elements and facing one problem after another with unlimited energy. The author began to wonder about the man's optimism.

One day, the author strolled from his cottage to talk to the farmer. "You amaze me," he said after he greeted his neighbor. "You never seem to lose heart. Do you always hope for the best?"

The farmer thought for a moment and then with eyes flashing, he replied, "No, I don't hope for it, I hop for it!"

And therein is a considerable difference.

It takes more to plow a field than merely turning it over in your mind.

--Beecher Hunter