

Astronaut Farmer

GAVIN SCHNEIDER

Here's to the man who studies philosophy on a tractor
perched high on his motorized throne
—King and Caretaker of the land.
Row after row of GPS synchronization
give him time to think, question,
to idealize and formulate the future.
Dreams grow like stalks of wheat
under a sky so full of celestial life he can't help but ponder
the existence of life on Earth,
intricate human consciousness,
the possibility of galactic conversations:
thoughts in the middle of nowhere
that to the rest of the planet
have little worth. But at the end of the workday
the farmer is content to love the questions themselves.
Because work needs to be done on the land
extraterrestrial thoughts can wait.
Sure, it's pleasant to understand the electromagnetic spectrum
but a spectrum of down-to-earth skills must be understood, too,
while the tires roll and the hydraulics pump,
while the body breaks time and space at sixteen miles per hour
—yup, the examined life in a plaid jacket.

Gavin Schneider is a student of the Earth, owner of two goats, and a bicycle enthusiast from the distant planet of Vulcan, Alberta. He is currently finishing his 4th year in the Department of Geography.

TO SUBMIT YOUR POEM FOR THE AUTUMN 2015 COMPETITION, OR FOR INFORMATION:

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