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Poetry

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easy livin'

the corn is planted
and waiting for rain
the beans are in
the ground
and the milo
is going down
then it's flax
and oats
to cut
before another
go round of alfalfa
and somewhere in between
it's put up prairie hay
combine wheat
cull the cows
sell the feeder pigs
and lambs
at the
right time
disk and harrow

rained-out farmer

too much
of a good rain
sends him
caged panther pacing
across the kitchen linoleum
muttering muddied
meanness
to any
who
dare there

Oklahoma wheat harvest

plump
tan kernels
loll in the July sun
waiting
to be
picked up
by the churning clippers
rolling along
through
the riptide
spraying straw
in a golden wake
wheat farmer

It's there in the earthworm smell of fresh plowed loam.

It's there in the Levi work shirt.

It's there in the worn linoleum and the squeaking Dempster windmill.

I see it in those sun weathered wrinkles.

It's there in every farmer each time it rains on fresh sown seed.