Journal of Progress

Spring Semester 2014:

- Selected advisor: Susan Facknitz
- Selected readers: Richard Gaughran, Paul Bogard, and Jerry Nava
- Read weekly documents Susan assigned on BlackBoard
- Met weekly with Susan to discuss readings
- Participated in poetry events in the JMU and Harrisonburg communities
  - Wendell Berry Reading, February 20th, Little Grill Collective
    - Opener and reader
  - Starry Nights Harrisonburg Reading, March 28th, Edith J. Carrier Arboretum
    - Poetry judge and reader
  - Rocktown Poetry Circle: Celebration of National Poetry Month, April 16th, Greenberry’s Café
    - Reader

Summer 2014 (Beginning May 19th):

- Visited farms:
  - Shine and Rise, Eastern Shore of VA
  - Perennial Roots, Eastern Shore of VA
  - Polyface Farms, Swoope, VA

- Worked on farms:
  - Mattawoman Creek Farms- the month of June
  - Pickett’s Harbor Farms- July-August
➢ Conducted interviews with:
  o Stuart of Perennial Roots Farm
  o Sam of Collicello Farms
  o Rick and Janice of Mattawoman Creek Farms
  o Jay of Shine and Rise Farm
  o Tammie and W.T. of Pickett’s Harbor Farms
  o Joel Salatin of Polyface Farms

➢ Lived out the routine I have outlined for myself Monday through Saturday:
  o Woke up early to read and write
  o Worked on the farm all day, wrote as I worked
  o Returned home to revise and read

Fall 2014:

➢ Met weekly with Susan

➢ Took ENG 494: Advanced Poetry Writing with Laurie Kutchins

➢ Wrote poems and essays for project

➢ Participated in and viewed poetry events in the JMU and Harrisonburg communities
  o Def Poetry Jam, August 7th, Festival Ballroom, JMU
  o Furious Flower Poetry Conference, September 24th-27th, JMU
  o Rocktown Poetry Circle, October 15th, Ruby’s Lounge
    ▪ Reader
  o Andrea Hollander reading, November 10th, Taylor Hall, JMU
  o JMUSE Café Poetry Reading, November 19th, Rose Library, JMU
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- Reader

- Visited farms:
  - Avalon Farm, October 24th, Harrisonburg
  - United Poultry Concerns, November 29th, Machipongo, VA

Spring 2015

- Susan Facknitz takes medical leave, announces retirement
- Select new advisor: Laurie Kutchins
- Select new readers: Elizabeth Hoover, Richard Gaughran, and Paul Bogard
- Met weekly with Laurie
- Took ENG 484: Poetic Forms
- Took ENG 494: Food Writing
- Wrote essays and poems for project
- Participated in and viewed poetry events in the JMU and Harrisonburg communities
  - Word. A show uniting writing and visual art, February 5th, Spitzer Art Center
  - Ross Gay Reading, April 1st, Taylor Hall, JMU
  - Arboretum Poetry Reading, April 21st, JMU

• Reader

- Attended Sweet Briar Creative Writing Conference March 26th-29th

- Visited farms:
  - Weaver Poultry Farm, March 18th, West Virginia
New Community Project Cow Share and Muddy Bike Farm, March 30th and April 1st

Draft Timeline:

- March 6, 2015 - sent first draft to readers
- April 6, 2015 - sent second draft to readers for approval
- April 8, 2015 - submitted final draft to Honors Program