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Feet on the Ground

Five Stories of Farmers

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Three generations of farmers from five French farms discuss their trade, hardships, and hopes.

For thousands of years, farmers have been raising livestock, working the land, harvesting fruits, grains, and vegetables. But in the last hundred years, their trade has completely changed. To answer ever rising demand, fields have gotten bigger, wagons have turned into tractors, and chemical fertilizers and pesticides have become the default. The hedges between fields have vanished, as have countless birds, insects, and mammals. Farmers today want to earn a decent living from their labors, till the soil without destroying it, grow quality products, and protect the environment. In this work, three generations speak of their profession, their lives, their fears and hopes.