

## WORKING FARM GIRL

I'm from holstein, jersey, and charolais,  
warm milk, stray cats; stainless steel  
and glass pipelines, concrete floors scrubbed clean  
twice daily. I'm from grade A inspections,  
library books read on buses to and from  
school. I'm from hand-me-down shoes,  
cut-down dresses and skirts, left over  
corn-bread and milk with onions, scratch  
biscuits & gravy, and cold watermelon.

I've been pulled back from poison-ivy  
death twice, jumped out of maple trees  
bare-footed beyond counting, climbed  
tier poles like a cat, and stretched out  
on roof-tops to sleep sleepless nights.  
I've balanced plank fences, walked  
boundaries of fields and wadded rushing  
river beds. I've walked the edge of life,  
held hands with dares, taken risks with god  
and love. I'm limestone, red clay and rain.

Melva Sue Priddy

*I am from Hardin County KY but have lived in Clark County for 27 years where I taught high school English for 20 years. I attended Berea College, University of Kentucky, and Spalding's MFA Writing Program.*

*Submitted through the Appalachian Heritage Alliance, Wolfe County*