

Farmstead

Chelsea Reynolds

Osage County, Missouri

Warped skeleton of crippled oak beams
shivers alone in the withered brown stalks

near the still cattle pond. Broken plow
grasps barren earth. Behind the dry limestone well,

the tangled tin chicken coop clatters
in West winds, the brambles and thistle.

Propped against the knotted, grey hickory
a rusted scythe waits.