The Moscow Times
30 YEARS
INDEPENDENT NEWS FROM RUSSIA

# Viral ‘Cyberpunk Farm’ Satirizes Russia’s High-Tech Future

November 24, 2020



Video game voice actor Sergei Chikhachev stars as jovial farmer Nikolai. **Screenshot Youtube**

The latest viral sensation taking the Russian internet by storm is...a farm.

A fictional, futuristic “cyberpunk” farm, to be more specific.

“Russian Cyberpunk Farm,” which imagines life at a provincial Russian village in a future dominated by tech corporations, has racked up more than 3.3 million views since it was published on YouTube last week.

“It is a lie that we are a technically backward country,” farm owner Nikolai says in the video’s opening scene while introducing his robot farmhands designed by the fictional Izhevsk Dynamics Corp.

**Embed:**

In heavily accented English, Nikolai calls on his fellow “human workers” to join his “friendly

team" with "big ambitions," showing off the village's high-tech advancements.

In the future, rural drivers no longer have to dodge potholes as the iconic Soviet off-road UAZ vans have been converted into flying cars — but "air holes" replicate the bumpy ride experience. While Russia's postal service has upgraded its delivery vehicles to flying buses, Nikolai still waits two years to receive a package.

Nikolai is also shown tending to drones in the pigeon coop, showing off his produce like a "fractal cucumber" and "genetically modified *chainiy grib* [mushroom kombucha]" and being rejected by a robotic dairymaid who instead flirts with a tractor.

In addition to poking fun at stereotypes of rural Russian life, the video also takes digs at the state corporations responsible for Russia's countrywide innovation, primarily state space agency Roscosmos.

QR code-shaped markings on the farm's cows link to Roscosmos chief Dmitry Rogozin's Twitter profile, where he's been known to trade barbs with SpaceX CEO Elon Musk. Rogozin seems to have taken the joke in stride, changing his banner photo to a screenshot of the QR-code cow.

Rogozin's image can also be seen on a poster on the side of a shed that reads "Let's make the red planet green." Other apparent references to the space agency include the outhouse cesspit being replaced by a literal black hole in space — as well as the video's final surprise reveal.

The video, directed by Sergei Vasiliev and filmed at a real farm in the Ryazan region, was so entertaining that some viewers have even demanded a full-length film about the fictional village.

As many people continue to self-isolate at home due to the coronavirus with no end in sight, even life on a dystopian farm seems utopian compared to our current reality.

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