

# Flint Hills balladeer shares ranching songs

Although most "country" songs today don't actually have much to do with life in the country, Kansas rancher-songwriter Annie Wilson and her band Tallgrass Express are releasing a new double album focusing specifically on stories of life, family, and work on Kansas Flint Hills ranches.

Wilson and husband, John O. Wilson, operate Five Oaks Ranch near Elmdale where her experiences

provide a wealth of ideas for her songs. She was named "The Flint Hills Balladeer" by the Kansas Governor in early 2013 for her positive, uplifting music which "inspires an abiding love for the Kansas Flint Hills."

Now celebrating the band's tenth anniversary, Wilson and Tallgrass Express have been featured on Sunflower Journeys and in Kansas Magazine, and their

music "is a treasure of Kansas and the Flint Hills," according to Bob Workman, Founding Director of the Flint Hills Discovery Center.

The new double CD Sky & Water, Wind & Grass is the second all-original album in the group's Songs of the Kansas Flint Hills series.

Of course, ranch work themes are prominent among the CD's 30 songs. "Ray on His Tall Roan" describes the terrific skills of a cowboy sorting cattle in a remote pasture far from pens or gates. "Drover's Dream" catalogs the many challenges in the working

rancher's day - problems that never happen in his idyllic daydreams. "High Pole Gate" describes moving cattle at shipping time through this tall, iconic "landmark in the endless western sky," and "Mollie Mae Fights Back" is the ballad of a brave cowgirl who stands up to the local bully.

Farm families will be able to relate to Wilson's anthem to many farm women: "The Wife Who Works in Town" describes a harried mom "hauling kids and dodging deer" on her way to work, and "waiting for the weekend when she'll finally get outside, on her horse or in

her garden, out beneath the open sky." The wife worries about her husband getting hurt while working "alone out on the land," but ex-

plains the economic realities of family farms that "can't keep the wolf away" and "need that steady paycheck" "during years of flood or drought time" or to "pay that big repair bill."

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**Sat., Sept. 6**

**Sale Time: 10:00 A.M.**  
Concessions Available  
Restroom Available

The Following Vehicles,  
Tractors, Equipment & Tools,  
Antiques & Miscellaneous

will sell at Public Auction located at 4201 Mill St., New Albany, KS. From Fredonia, KS. Jct. of 3rd St. & Washington St. (Pump N Pete's) west 4 miles to Decatur Rd. then 2 miles north on Decatur Rd. then follow the blacktop west & north 2 miles to Mill St. in New Albany, then 1/2 mile west on Mill St.

**TRACTORS**  
-620 JD # 6201270, reconditioned w/540 hrs.  
-M International #104693, recent engine overhaul  
-6' PTO auger, 3 pt. blade, 3 pt., post hole digger  
-Tractor weights, Easy Flow seeder  
-3 pt. bale mover

**VEHICLES**  
-12 Chevy Silverado 1500, V8 auto, reg. cab, 18,649 miles, very nice  
-12 Lincoln MKZ, leather, navigation, 23,880 miles, like new  
-51 GMC 2 ton, 6 cyl., 4 spd., 2 spd. axle, 8x13-1/2 bed, power up & down hoist, original miles 58,000

**SHOP EQUIPMENT**  
Fuel tanks; hay racks; tilt bed trailer, 4 whl. trailer; stock tanks; steel post driver; hill lift jack; hardware; 500 gal. propane tank; horse manure fork.


**ANTIQUES & COLLECTIBLES**  
Fairbanks platform scales; garden tools; hay grapple; bike; tricycle; books; buttons; pots & pans; wooden chair; dressers; cabinet; 1950 glass-ware; lamps; advertising memorabilia; farm equip. clocks; toys & games; Singer treadle sewing machine; maps; school desk; wooden playpen; wooden baby bed; bassinet; desk; wooden wardrobe; vacuums; kerosene lamps; steel gas cans; LP cast iron stove; WW2 ammo boxes; thunder pot; post drill press

**MISCELLANEOUS**  
Saddle; bridles; halters; lawn furniture; BBQ grill; paint; umbrellas; carpet; metal dog house; 2 whl.



Annie Wilson

**ESTATE/FARM AUCTION**  
Sedalia/Windsor, MO area



**Saturday, Sept. 20**

Sale Time: 9:00 A.M.  
Real Estate Sells at 12 P.M.  
Lunch Served

To settle the estate of Leonard Howery, we will sell the following at auction located from Sedalia south on 65 Hwy. 12 miles to Windsor 52 West Jct., then 2 miles to 20873 Hwy. 52, Ionia, MO.

**TRACT 1: HOME & 280 ACRES**  
Approx. 100 acres tillable, remainder improved pasture and hay ground, but approx. another 100 could be tilled. Mostly Hartwell silt loam, and a small percentage Friendly silt loam. Home has 3 bds., att. gar., full basement. Outbuildings incl.: 2 car det. gar.; 46x56 shop, 48x45 barn, 20x50 loafing shed; 48x40 equip. barn w/5 grain bins and transport augers; 40x64 equip. bldg; 34x60 machine shed; 1500 bu. grain bin w/drying floor. Fenced/cross-fenced, two wells, automatic waterers, a 2+ acre lake.

**TRACT 2: 194 ACRES**  
190 acres tillable, currently in corn. Majority is Hartwell silt loam soil. Ample terracing, and soil tested yearly and applications made as needed. Has a 60x60 equipment barn.

**TRACT 3: 20 ACRES**  
100% tillable, currently in corn. Hartwell silt loam soil.

For more information, or to view, call auctioneers.

**Terms of RE:** The starting bid on all three tracts will be \$3950 an acre. Highest bidder over that will buy this once-in-a-lifetime property! Seller will furnish title insurance, taxes prorated. Closing in approx. 45 days. Possession of house and pasture ground at closing, possession of crop ground after harvest in November.

**Note:** Most of this farm has been in the Howery family for over 100 years. Leonard took pride in maintaining his home and farm, this is a rare opportunity to purchase a farm like this!

**TRACTORS:** JD 2355, bought new w/JD 145 ldr., 5' manure bucket; IH Farmall Super MTA, fast hitch, torque amplifier; Allis B w/5' sickle bar mower; Ford 8N, override clutch, turf tires

**EQUIPMENT:** JD 1517 15' fold up brush cutter, hard rubber tires; Hesston 12 wheel rake; NH 463 7' disc mower; NH 258 rake; IHC 10' tandem wheel disc; \* Danuser Post Hole digger, w/hydraulic down pressure, 14" auger \* Kewanee hydraulic blade, 9' hd \* 3 Section harrow

## Flint Hills music...

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The CD has humor, too. Wilson's award-winning "Dung Beetle Bill" describes this little recycler as "the cattleman's best friend," and transforms many other country themes to song.

The CD package includes a substantial bonus: a 24-page booklet containing song background notes by Annie Wilson along with 75 full-color photographs

taken by her and area photographers.

The album includes five songs by band partner Carl Reed, describing the beauty of the landscape and wildlife, as well as the early days of buffaloes, Indians, abolitionist heroes and the Santa Fe Trail.

As its name implies, Tallgrass Express is a "truly regional band," specializing in "Roots Music from the

Tallgrass Prairie." Along with trademark lyrical vocals and harmonies, their all-acoustic sound crosses genres of country, folk, western, bluegrass, and blues, interpreted through the fiddle, mandolin, harmonica, guitar and bass. Band members on the new CD are Wilson of Elmdale, Carl Reed of Manhattan, Jim Versch of Marion, and the recently-retired Charlie Laughridge of Council Grove. Kim Schmidt of Goessel, formerly of the Greenhorns, is now playing fiddle for the band.

The band's website encourages buyers to find the CD at several listed local retailers, but also tells how it can be ordered on-line. The website also provides lyrics, song clips, background info and extensive photography of the Flint Hills. For more info, see [www.tallgrassexpress.com](http://www.tallgrassexpress.com).

The band will debut the album Saturday, Sept. 13, in Cottonwood Falls, Kan., on the east lawn of the Chase County Courthouse. Guests are encouraged to bring lawn chairs. Suggested gratuity is \$8. In case of rain or excess heat, concert will be two blocks north inside the Prairie PastTimes Hall at 220 1/2 Broadway. □

### Car Lot Re-Location & Hotel Furniture Liquidation



## Sat., Sept. 6

Sale Time: 1:00 P.M.

Location: 715 W. 7th St.,  
Augusta, KS. (Old Frye  
Chevrolet Building.)

**Selling 5 or more, nice vehicles incl.:** Gray '08 Avalanche; red '04 Ford F-150 XLT; red Alero 2 dr. compact car, great school car; 6-8 guns; '01 Suzuki street bike; E-Z Go elec. golf cart; fine office furniture; popcorn machine & hotel furniture—this 35 rooms of furniture came out of a one floor, modern, top three motel chain in Wichita. The mattresses show no stains or wear, very nice. The furniture is clean & beautiful. The large mirrors, lamps & sofa hide-a-beds will look nice in your home, lodge, cabin or another hotel. **These items are nice & will sell. Help will be available to load your truck. Don't miss this auction!**