



#### **MEDIA CONTACT**

Kelli Hilliard  
Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks & Tourism  
P: 785-296-4922  
Kelli.Hilliard@TravelKS.com

### **Food, Wine and Agricultural History on Kansas Ranches and Farms**

*2015, Kansas ...* Kansas is the nation's breadbasket and consistently leads the nation in wheat production. But Kansas is more than wheat; its diverse agricultural background offers visitors a multitude of attractions and activities that incorporate not only fun, but food, history and even support for local businesses.

There are more than 300 agritourism businesses registered in the state of Kansas; and more and more working farms, ranches and wineries are inviting guests to visit, learn and even participate in the work. Now, travelers are looking for new experiences, especially families who want to find an activity the whole family can enjoy. So what better escape from traffic jams, office cubicles and commuting than to hit the countryside and pick your own peaches or apples in a beautiful orchard, rope a calf, or stomp grapes? Learning how food is grown and that milk actually comes from a cow - not a carton - are just some of the fun and fabulous activities available at Kansas ranches and farms.

Experience life on a working cattle ranch by visiting Moore Longhorn Cattle Ranch in Bucklin. Visitors are invited to participate in special events including branding, short cattle drives, and trail drives. You can visit for the day or multiple days (fully inclusive) -- participating in the everyday workings of the ranch. The Moore Ranch is a cow/calf operation with 300 cows and 300 calves (each spring). Visitors are invited to participate in daily ranch activities. Most ranch activities are performed on horseback.

The Flying W Ranch is located in the heart of the Flint Hills, America's last tallgrass prairie, and is operated by fifth-generation Flint Hills ranchers Josh and Gwen Hoy. This 7,000 acre cattle ranch offers grand vistas, relaxation, and memorable experiences for guests. They too offer authentic cowboy lifestyle, complete with horseback riding, cattle round ups, wagon rides, prairie burns, wildflower walks, star gazing, fishing and hiking in the Kansas Flint Hills.

Sample the fruits of labor from a crop that was first cultivated in Kansas in the 1870s; wine! Kansas' many wineries produce a variety of award-winning wines, such as the elderberry wine produced by Wyldewood Cellars Winery in Paxico, the largest producer of elderberry wine in the U.S. Nestled on six acres, Casa Somerset B&B couples fine food with fine wine and offers easy access to the local wine trail, located just 45 minutes

from Kansas City/Overland Park). Other wineries can be found in Basehor, Ellinwood, Eudora, Lawrence, Leavenworth, McLouth, Paola, and Whitewater.

The state's agricultural history can be discovered in more detail in the numerous museums throughout the state including the National Agricultural Center and Hall of Fame in Bonner Springs, which features a Farmer's Memorial and Hall of Fame. The Mennonite Heritage Museum in Goessel tells the story of the Mennonite farmers who introduced wheat to Kansas. The Prairie Museum of Art and History in Colby contains Kansas' largest barn and a re-created 1930s farmstead. The Old Cowtown Museum in Wichita features an 1870s farmstead adjacent to their living history village.

These activities and festivals are only a few of the many hands-on and educational agricultural opportunities in Kansas as many communities have developed agriculture-related tours and activities.

For more information on culinary Kansas, visit [www.TravelKS.com](http://www.TravelKS.com). All press materials, including hi-res photography are available for downloading. Follow us at [Facebook.com/TravelKS](https://Facebook.com/TravelKS), or [Twitter.com/TravelKS](https://Twitter.com/TravelKS).

###