



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Tallgrass Prairie  
National Preserve

226 Broadway  
P.O. Box 585  
Cottonwood Falls, KS 66845

620-273-6034 phone  
620-273-6099 fax

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## Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve News Release

For Immediate Release  
Heather Brown, (620) 273- 8494  
May 9, 2008

### Special Horse- Drawn Haying Demonstration and Memorial Day Weekend Activities at the Preserve

Living history interpreters at Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve will demonstrate historic haying and raking methods using draft horses and 19<sup>th</sup> century machinery throughout the day on Saturday, May 24<sup>th</sup> from 10 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. Living history interpreters will also demonstrate 19<sup>th</sup> century techniques of Dutch oven and ranch stove cooking while preparing a meal for the ranch hands. From noon until 1 p.m., ranch workers will stop for a mid- day meal under the cottonwood tree by the ranch house. Hear the clang of the blacksmith's hammer throughout the day as he demonstrates the art of metallurgy.

Sunday, May 25<sup>th</sup> is children's day. From 10 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. pet the farm animals, feed the chickens, milk the cow, and clean the stalls. Kids can earn a Spring Hill Ranch certificate after doing their chores. Also during the day, visit with living history characters as they go about their daily ranching activities.

Monday, May 26<sup>th</sup> is school day. From 10 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. join the schoolmarm and participate in penmanship lessons, spelling, and reading from the McGuffey Readers at the one- room Lower Fox Creek School. The schoolhouse will be open to the public and staffed by National Park Service volunteers from 12 noon until 4 p.m. each day Saturday through Memorial Day Monday.

A 6.4- mile bus tour of the preserve's backcountry is available at 11 a.m., 1 p.m., and 3 p.m. daily from April 26 through October 26, 2008. The cost is \$5.00 per adult and \$3.00 for ages 5 – 18 years. There is no charge for children age 4 and under. Advance reservations for the bus tours

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are recommended, but arrangements can be made on the day of the visit if space is available. For more information, please call the park rangers' offices at (620) 273- 8494.

Guided tours of the historic 1881 limestone ranch house are conducted hourly on the half- hour starting at 9:30 a.m. and concluding at 3:30 p.m.

Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve is a public/private partnership with the National Park Service, The Nature Conservancy, and the Kansas Park Trust. Located two miles north of Strong City on Kansas State Highway 177 (the Flint Hills National Scenic Byway), the preserve's historic ranch headquarters is open daily from 9 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. except Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day. For more information or to make group reservations, visit the preserve's website at [www.nps.gov/tapr](http://www.nps.gov/tapr), e- mail [tapr\\_interpretation@nps.gov](mailto:tapr_interpretation@nps.gov), or call the preserve at (620) 273- 8494.

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