

TLA Mushrush Ranch – Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve

Virtual Fence Tour

June 23, 2022

11:30AM at [Mushrush Sale Barn](#), Elmdale, KS

The Tallgrass Legacy Alliance is excited to announce our first 2022 TLA Ranch Tour will be at Mushrush Ranch and Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve on June 23, 2022!

[The Mushrush Ranch](#) is located near Elmdale in Chase County, KS. The Family specializes in Red Angus seedstock and replacement heifers to commercial cattle producers. The Ranch utilizes over 9,000 acres of native tallgrass prairie and has integrated tamegrasses and covercrops into their grazing management as they convert cropland acres to grazing acres in order too diversify and extend on-pasture grazing available to their herds. [The Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve](#) was founded in 1996 and protects a nationally significant remanent of the once vast Tallgrass Prairie of North America for all people around the world to visit and experience.

Together, Mushrush Ranch and The Tallgrass Prairie National Prairie Preserve are conducting a joint, both sides of the fence, [Virtual Fence project with Kansas State University Researchers](#).

Please come and join us to learn about this project as well as about the Mushrush Ranch Operation! Lunch and Learn and Ranch Tour Itinerary included at the end of this message and in the attached PDF.

Please RSVP to [Roger Wells](#). And please do not hesitate to holler at Roger or Shelly Wiggam with any questions or needs at:

- Roger Wells: (620) 340-5808 or rnwells@fairpoint.net
- Shelly Wiggam: (785) 477-6592 or shelly.wiggam@tnc.org

We can't wait to see you this June at the first of our three 2022 TLA Summer Ranch Tours!

All Our Best,
Roger Wells and Shelly Wiggam
TLA Ranch Tour Coordinators

AGENDA

TLA Mushrush Ranch – TPNP Virtual Fence Tour

The **Lunch and Learn** portion of this event will include the following presentations as well as catering provided by Josie Hoy of Underhill Catering!

- Ranch history, including:
 - Founding
 - Operation diversification and growth

- Supporting three generations and four families in modern Ranching times
- Ranching operation and function, including:
 - Grazing Management Plan
 - Seedstock program and Annual Sale
 - Handling facilities
- Ranch Stewardship and Grazing Management Innovation, including:
 - Partnering with Federal, State, County, and NGO organizations to meet Ranch and Stewardship goals
 - Cropland to tamegrass planting and inter-seeding
 - Covercrops and grassbanking
- Joint Virtual Fence Project between Mushrush Ranch and Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve
 - Mushrush goals for using VF on Seedstock and Commercial herds
 - Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve Goals for using VF on Preserve Custom Grazers
 - K-State Research on the impacts and effects of VF to forage production, soil health, plant communities, wildlife conservation, stream banks and riparian zones, and water quality.

The **Ranch Tour** portion will include the following stops and discussion topics:

- Hog Pen Restoration Area
 - NRCS Great Plains Grassland Initiative – program development involvement with NRCS and On-Ranch GPGI tree removal progress
 - Grazing Management Plan and System across Ranch, seasons, and needs
 - Watershed approach to Grazing Management and Prairie Stewardship
- Fescue Fields
 - Mushrush Ranch-WRAPS project
 - Using Fescue fields to extend grazing season as well as grass bank Prairie
 - Inter-seeding Fescue fields with legumes and other beneficial forbs
- Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve
 - Grazing and Prescribed Fire Management on the Preserve side of the VF Project
 - Virtual Fence Research overview and timeline
 - Rancher and Partners input session on VF Management and Research Needs