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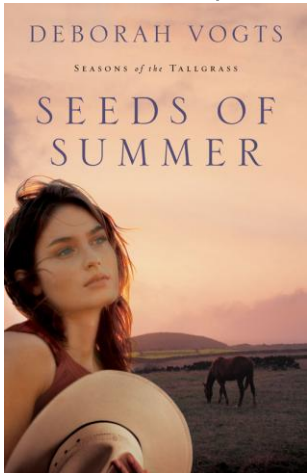
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Sophomore Novel Inspired by Author's Love for Modern Life on the Prairie *Wholesome Contemporary Prairie Fiction is 'part love story, part family saga'*

**"Deborah Vogts is a fresh new voice in fiction"
- Karen Kingsbury, America's No. 1 Christian Novelist**

**"Deborah's books are part love story, part family saga. And unlike some steamy romance novels, hers promote traditional lifestyles and values."
- Country magazine**

Grand Rapids, Mich., May 13, 2010 –Deborah Vogts is a fresh new voice in contemporary prairie romance. Inspired by the rolling Flint Hills of Kansas, Vogts' second novel, *Seeds of Summer* (June, 2010), tells the unlikely love story of a former rodeo beauty queen and the new pastor in the small town of Diamond Falls, Kansas. *The Seasons of the Tallgrass* series features ordinary people who live and find love in the Flint Hills of Kansas – one of the last tallgrass prairie regions in the world.



Country magazine profiled Vogts' quest to capture the timeless appeal of modern life on the prairie and her love of the Flint Hills that started when she discovered the area as a junior at Emporia State University. "Her fondness for the simple life guided her home to southeast Kansas, where she found her soul mate. Her writing talent, her appreciation for the Flint Hills and her devotion to God led her to start a series of novels about Christian women, books inspired by her own rural experience."

Vogts spent countless hours researching the world of rodeo pageants for *Seeds of Summer* by reading magazine articles, watching videos online and following the pageant winners. "My research culminated last summer when I met the current Miss Rodeo America, Amy Wilson and she honored me by showing me her queen items."

After meeting Miss Rodeo America, Vogts was featured in *Miss Rodeo American News*, "Overall this novel truly shows unconditional love from a biblical standpoint and genuine love between a young pastor and his new found friends. Forgiveness and acceptance are reoccurring themes expressed throughout the book."

According to *Romantic Times*, "Vogts writes a heart-warming story, using her love and knowledge of Kansas." The romance begins when a former rodeo queen abandons her dreams in order to care for her deceased father's ranch and her two half-siblings, only to realize with the help of a young new pastor that God can turn even the most dire circumstances into seeds of hope. Though attracted to him, there's no way she'd ever consider being a pastor's wife. Jared repeatedly comes to Natalie's rescue, forcing her to see him with new eyes. When problems arise in the church, he must face his greatest fears—of letting down God, his congregation or those he loves.

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His time with Natalie has shown him the importance of standing by those you love, a lesson he chose to ignore in order to please his father years ago. This is put to the test when Natalie faces a possible battle of custody of her half-siblings against the mother who abandoned them twelve years ago. Natalie's fight for the children turns into a fight for custody of her heart as she learns the true meaning of unconditional love. In turn, Jared must decide which dreams are his own—and whether Natalie is part of those dreams.

Deborah Vogts and her husband have three daughters and make their home in Southeast Kansas where they raise and train American Quarter Horses. As a student at Emporia State University studying English and journalism, Deborah developed a love for the Flint Hills that has never faded. In writing this series, she hopes to share her passion for one of the last tallgrass prairie regions in the world, showing that God's great beauty rests on the prairie and in the hearts of those who live there. For more information visit <http://www.deborahvogts.com>.

About *Seeds of Summer*

By Deborah Vogts
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About Zondervan

Zondervan is the world's leading Christian publisher of books whose authors are noted for their excellence in the craft of writing as well as their worthy contribution to the ongoing global evangelical conversation. The works published by Zondervan not only confirm readers' faith and understanding, they also challenge and stretch readers' thinking. For more than 75 years, Zondervan has delivered transformational Christian experiences through general, ministry, and academic resources by influential leaders and emerging voices, and been honored with more Christian Book Awards than any other publisher. Headquartered in Grand Rapids, Mich., Zondervan publishes bestselling [books](#), [audio](#), [video](#), [curriculum](#), [software](#), and [digital](#) products in such categories as biblical [languages](#) and [studies](#), [biography](#), [business](#), [contemporary issues](#), [counseling](#), [cultural](#), [devotional](#), [evangelism](#), [family](#), [fiction](#), [history](#), [inspiration](#), [leadership](#), [ministry](#), [pastoral](#), [personal development](#), [prayer](#), [philosophy](#), [reference](#), [relationships](#), [textbooks](#), [theology](#), [youth](#) and [more](#). Zondervan resources are sold worldwide through retail stores, online, and by Zondervan [ChurchSource](#), and are translated into nearly 200 languages in more than 60 countries. Visit Zondervan Books on the Internet at www.zondervan.com/books.

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About Deborah Vogts Author of *Seeds of Summer*



Deborah Vogts grew up on a farm with sheep, cattle, pigs and horses in Southeast Kansas. After college Deborah returned to the family farm from the city because her heart ached for wide-open spaces. After returning home, she was reunited with a high school classmate who became her husband. Deborah and her husband have three daughters and make their home in Southeast Kansas where they raise and train American Quarter Horses. Deborah loves living in the country with the beautiful sunsets, fresh air and calm atmosphere.

Deborah began working on her first great American novel in high school. In college, she studied English literature and journalism, but it wasn't until a few years ago that she became serious about her writing. Deborah is a member of American Christian Fiction Writers and past chairman for a local writers group, Christian Writers Fellowship. She contributes to the CWF monthly newsletter and serves on their conference staff.

As a college student at Emporia State University, Deborah developed a love for the Kansas Flint Hills that has never faded. In writing the ***Seasons of the Tallgrass***, a contemporary romance series for Zondervan, she hopes to share her passion for one of the last tallgrass prairie regions in the world, showing that God's great beauty rests on the prairie and in the hearts of those who live there.

Country magazine recently profiled Vogts' life as a Kansas author. "Like the characters she creates, author Deborah Vogts finds contentment and fulfillment by following her passions." The feature explores how Vogts' writing is inspired by the horse stories that she hears from her husband and daughters at the dinner table. The article states that Deborah's novels are "unlike some steamy romance novels, hers promote traditional lifestyles and values."

Deborah writes for more than just romantic females and horse lovers. "I've had so many men read my book, says Vogts. "It's incredible." The first book in the series, *Snow Melts in Spring*, released in June 2009, the second installment, *Seeds of Summer*, releases in June 2010 and *Blades of Autumn* is scheduled to release in 2011.

Deborah enjoys reading, cooking, sewing, gardening and shopping at garage sales. Playing the piano, taking walks with her two golden retrievers and being a 4-H mom are also hobbies of Deborah. At church she teaches Sunday school and sings in the choir. To learn more about Deborah, please visit her web site at www.deborahvogts.com.

To schedule an interview with Deborah or for more information on *Snow Melts in Spring* contact Robin Geelhoed at 616.698.3345 or robin.geelhoed@zondervan.com

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Possible Interview Questions Deborah Vogts, Author of *Seeds of Summer*

1. *Seeds of Summer* is inspired by the Flint Hills of Kansas. How did your passion for this setting develop?
2. You and your soul mate met in southeast Kansas, how does this influence your novels?
3. What was it like meeting Miss Rodeo America, and how did the experience influence *Seeds of Summer*? What else did you do to research this novel?
4. Your family raises American Quarter horses. How is your love of horses incorporated within *Seeds of Summer*?
5. What influenced your creation of the two main characters, Natalie and Jared? Why did you write about a former rodeo queen?
6. Can you give us a short preview of the third book in the series, *Blades of Autumn*, which is scheduled to release in 2011? Any future plans of writing another book series?

To schedule an interview with Deborah or for more information on *Seeds of Summer* contact Robin Geelhoed at 616.698.3345 or robin.geelhoed@zondervan.com

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