



# Southeast Kansan launches book series

By Vicki Cash

Write about what you know' is advice often given to writers. Deborah Vogts is a country girl at heart who fell in love with the Kansas Flint Hills while in college.

"When I was attending Emporia State University, I took a summer course called Flint Hills Folk life," says Vogts. "It involved field trips to the Flint Hills. We would visit with ranchers and people who lived there. Sometimes we would go deep into the pastures and it just took my breath away. That's where my love began for the Flint Hills and it stayed with me all this time. One day a story just started developing, and it blossomed."

Drawing on this love, Vogts' debut book, *Snow Melts in Spring*, takes a modern-day look at ranch life in the Flint Hills of Kansas. Published by Zondervan, it was released in June and is available at all major bookstores. *Snow Melts in Spring* is the first in the *Seasons of the Tallgrass* series. In writing this series, Vogts shares 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.

Vogts has been interested in writing since high school and knew she wanted to write a book. "In 2002, I joined an online group, American Christian Fiction Writers, and became serious about my writing," says Vogts. "I joined a critique group, read how-to books and began attending writer's conferences. My writing developed and grew. I attained my first agent and developed the *Seasons of the Tallgrass* series. One year later, we had no bites so my agent let me go. Six months later, I attained my second agent, who sold the series three months later." Vogts has contracted for three books in the series, with an option for a fourth. She has completed and submitted the second book and has begun work on the third.

The *Seasons of the Tallgrass* series captures the spirit and dreams of ordinary people living in the Flint Hills of Kansas---one of the last tallgrass prairie regions in the world. In *Snow Melts in Spring*, Mattie Evans, a young veterinarian in rural Kansas, saves a horse injured in a terrible accident. But she also finds herself tending the wounded relationship between a prodigal son and his ailing father. Love, conflict, forgiveness, and renewal are the driving forces in Vogts' first book.

As the series continues, different stories about people who live in fictional Charris County will come to life.

"You will see some characters floating around in all the books, but each book will be about a different family," says Vogts.

Vogts shares that she had obstacles to overcome in writing her first book. "The main male character is a professional quarterback. Football isn't exactly my strong point, so I had to do quite a bit of research for that. But it was fun; my husband really enjoyed my renewed interest in football."

The strong cowboy aspect featured in the book comes from Vogts' own background. She and her husband live on a farm with their three daughters in southeast Kansas near Erie. They raise and train American Quarter horses.

For more information about Vogts and her *Seasons of the Tallgrass* book series, visit [www.deborahvogts.com](http://www.deborahvogts.com) or her blog: [www.deborahvogts.blogspot.com](http://www.deborahvogts.blogspot.com).

