



NEWS RELEASE

Cottonwood Ranch State Historic Site
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 6, 2008

**COOKIN' AT THE COTTONWOOD TO
SHOWCASE AREA BARBECUE MASTERS**
Saturday, October 18, 2008 at Cottonwood Ranch State Historic Site

STUDLEY, KS—Last year's Fall Harvest Festival at Cottonwood Ranch State Historic Site featured a barbecue competition and chili cookoff. It was so popular that organizers didn't want to wait until next year's biennial festival to see a rematch between competitors, so they've decided to have a standalone "Cookin' at the Cottonwood" event 1 – 5 p.m., Saturday, October 18.

The barbecue competition is a faceoff between cooks working with ribs, chicken, brisket, and pork, which will be evaluated by a panel of judges at 4 p.m. The public may, for a nominal fee, sample barbecue entries after the judging is complete, sometime after 5:30 p.m.

The chili competition is an open contest that anyone may enter, with the winner being determined by those in attendance. Chili cooking may be done offsite.

For more information about Cookin' at the Cottonwood, contact Don Rowilson, site administrator for Cottonwood Ranch State Historic Site, at 785-627-5866. The Cottonwood Ranch house will be open for tours during the event. There is no admission fees to attend the barbecue competition, other than the sampling fee.

The Cottonwood Ranch State Historic Site is a relatively unchanged rural ranch situated near the South Solomon River. Constructed from 1885 to 1896 by John Fenton Pratt, Cottonwood Ranch incorporates architectural elements from his English homeland. It was here that the Pratt family flourished and John Fenton became a successful sheep rancher and businessman. The site is located 17 miles west of Hill City and 15 miles east of Hoxie along U.S. Highway 24. The Cottonwood Ranch is one of 16 state historic sites operated by the Kansas Historical Society. For more information, visit kshs.org.

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