

Ron Wilson Biography

Ron Wilson is owner-operator of the historic Lazy T Ranch near Manhattan, Kansas and director of the Huck Boyd National Institute for Rural Development at Kansas State University. He has a B.S. in Agricultural Education and a Masters in Mass Communications from Kansas State. He became a legislative assistant to Senator Nancy Kassebaum in Washington D.C., a staff member for the U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry, and vice president of the National Council of Farmer Cooperatives. In 1985, he returned to Kansas to become a vice president of the Farm Credit Bank of Wichita and in 1990 became director of the Huck Boyd Institute.

He and his family live on the family ranch which is a commercial cow-calf operation and agritourism venue in the Flint Hills of Kansas. As a cowboy poet, he was proclaimed a “Poet Lariat” (not laureate) by the Kansas Governor of Kansas. He is the only cowboy poet in history to present a cowboy poem at a Kansas Governor’s inauguration. He produces a biweekly column called “Cowboy Up” for the Grass & Grain newspaper and appears regularly on the AG a.m. in Kansas television show. An official spokesperson for the National Day of the Cowboy organization, he hosted the television show “Cowboy Up” and currently hosts the monthly online video show called “Cattle Trails Showcase” plus a weekly Facebook Live series titled “Live at the Lazy T Ranch.”

Ron Wilson has written and produced more than 1,000 features about small town Kansas entrepreneurs and community leaders through his weekly radio program and news column called "Kansas Profile – Now, That’s Rural." He is national secretary of the Western Wordsmiths chapter and legislative chair for the International Chisholm Trail Association. A graduate of Leadership Kansas, he was named by Ingram’s Magazine as one of 50 Kansans You Should Know and also serves as Ambassador for the National Multicultural Western Heritage Museum in Fort Worth, Texas.