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**Kansas winery to feature local brewery, hot-air balloon rides, limited-edition wine at OZtoberFest 2009**

**WAMEGO, Kan.** – Celebrate local beer and local wine at this year’s annual OZtoberFest. The Oz Winery is sponsoring a beer garden featuring Manhattan’s Tallgrass Brewing Company, as well as providing free access to hot-air balloon rides (Kansas weather permitting), and a chance to own a collectible bottle of the OZtoberFest wine series.

**Tallgrass Beer Garden**

In true festival tradition, Wamego’s Oz Winery is proud to host the first-ever OZtoberFest Tallgrass Beer Garden Saturday through Sunday, October 3-4, 2009.

Come downtown, bring your friends, and enjoy the festival atmosphere complete with smoked turkey legs, live music, and the first lager to be added to Tallgrass Brewing Company's lineup: Köld - A crisp, easy-drinking lager with a traditional Pilsner malt aroma and subtle notes of honey and citrus. An OZtoberFest commemorative stein will be on sale for \$20, which includes one free beer, or beer can be purchased by the cup at \$5 each. The beer garden will be open from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday, October 3, and from Noon till supplies last on Sunday, October 4.

For winery owner Brooke Balderson and winemaker Noah Wright, being able to host a beer garden featuring a local brewery is what hometown festivals are all about. “We want the festival to get better every year, which is why it was so important to us to include a local beer garden in this year’s OZtoberFest events,” Noah says. “It allows us to mix in a bit of Oktoberfest, while honoring the tradition of the festival.”

“We want to throw a good party,” Brooke says. “And bringing in the beer garden helps make sure both locals and tourists have something they can look forward to during OZtoberFest.”

**Limited-Edition Collectible Wine**

This year also marks the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the MGM musical “The Wizard of Oz.” Along with area screenings of the digitally re-mastered 1939 film, Oz Winery is releasing a limited-edition OZtoberFest series wine – “Dorothy.” Second in our series of wines honoring the original W.W. Denslow illustrations, “Dorothy” is a light, semi-dry white table wine. Each label is individually numbered, while each bottle is hand-dipped in wax, and topped off with the OZ seal of authenticity.

Last year, the winery produced only 270 bottles of the OZtoberFest wine series first edition "The Wonderful Wizard of Oz." Except for three bottles kept on reserve, the first edition completely sold out in just a short amount of time."

“Dorothy” is officially available Friday, October 2, 2009, with the winery producing 500 bottles of the OZtoberFest wine this year - but when they're gone, they're gone. Wizard of Oz and wine fans alike can reserve their collectible bottle of wine today, and pick-up is available during OZtoberFest, October 2-4. The wine will remain on sale while supplies last. Oz Winery also is able to ship to some states – call Brooke Balderson at (785) 456-7417 for more details.

**OZtoberFest Weekend Events**

Families will find something for all ages. Events include the Yellow Brick Road Ride, an antique car show coordinated by Oz Winery, live bands, arts and crafts, museum tours, a free, tethered, hot-air balloon ride (Kansas weather permitting), a Munchkinland for kids and, of course, the beer garden for adults.

There will be autograph sessions with several of the original Munchkins, and The Columbian Theatre’s not-to-be-missed presentation of “The Wizard of Oz.” The 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary commemorative “Wizard of Oz” DVD is available at the Oz Museum in advance of its September 29, 2009 public release.