

# Down Home!

## Wills, Goans Set To Make Themselves At Home At WJ Ranch Concert

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Jan and Greg Schiferl will present their 12th year of live entertainment featuring country artists Mark Wills and Teea Goans at the WJ Ranch, located seven miles south of Yankton next Friday, Sept. 11 at 8 p.m.

For the past 11 years, the ranch has been the location of great entertainment each fall. The Schiferls transform their indoor riding arena into a concert hall which makes for a unique location as a music venue.

The WJ Ranch held its first concert in 2004 with headliner Baxter Black, the cowboy humorist.

"In the early days, we did a lot of cowboy type entertainment," Jan said. "But we have moved into more of the country realm, just to change it up a little bit."

Since then, the WJ Ranch has hosted many big-time performers such as Suzy Bogguss, Michael Martin Murphey and Riders in the Sky, and they plan to keep going.

"They have had a long list of great entertainers who have played there,"

said concert headliner and country artist, Mark Wills, in a phone interview with the *Press & Dakotan*. "For us to be incorporated into that is an honor. We are going to come in, have fun and do what we do."

The thing that seems to draw in potential performers is the cozy atmosphere. The family setting of performing on someone's ranch is very enticing to some performers, especially ones whose roots are in the Midwest.

"I'm originally from a farm town in Missouri," concert opener, country artist Teea Goans told the *Press & Dakotan*. "It is my kind of place because it's that close up feel where you can really get to know the audience and they can get to know you."

"I'm a country boy," Wills said. "Going to somebody's house is not a problem for me. For us, just to have the opportunity to go in and play in someone's barn – it will be a neat experience."

Wills and Goans will be sharing the stage next Friday, but this is not the first time they have worked together. Both artists have known each other for years and were featured on a Country's Family Reunion Cruise in February.



"We have known each other for a long time, but had never performed together," Goans said. "We got the opportunity to share the stage a little bit there and it was a perfect match. We are

looking forward to doing a full show with the two of us."

"When Teea used to work for WSM (radio station in Nashville), she was at the Grand Ole Opry all the time," Wills said. "So Teea is a good friend. I love her. I think she is an incredible singer."

Now that the ranch has a long history of bringing in entertainers, Jan Schiferl says people pass the word along and suggest artists that will fit the particular barn setting. She makes sure that performers know what the environment is like.

"They know when I talk to them, (I tell them) from the get-go that they are in a barn," Schiferl said. "They know that they become part of our family for the day. They use our house for their dressing room, we feed them a meal and the grandkids are running around. They just

know that they are a part of it and they have to be OK with that."

Both Wills and Goans welcome that atmosphere.

"I feel like my show translates itself much better to an intimate set-up than it does trying to do a big venue," Wills said. "If you have 10,000 people in a place, it's hard to talk to them individually. I like my shows to be smaller so I am directly relating to everyone in the room."

"That is actually my preference on types of places to perform," Goans said. "I think it makes for a more enjoyable experience – it's more like a group of friends sitting around at somebody's house playing music."

Teea describes her style as "classic country" that is not quite as prevalent in the music scene today. The '60s and '70s style of steel guitars and fiddles might not be what you'll hear from most country radio, but Goans knows that there is an audience for that sound.

"That has been my mission: to be the person that is still out there doing that type and also to introduce a new generation to the style as well – the kind of music that country music was really built on," she said. Wills is truly a "country boy," incorporating that atmosphere into his 20-year career.

"The music I put out revolves around the country lifestyle," Wills said. "It's a story-telling type of music that runs hand in hand with being in the country."

That dedication to the genre, along with her home-style performance surroundings, made Wills and Goans perfect candidates for the Schiferls' ranch.

"I have known of Teea's music for quite a few years," Schiferl said. "I thought that she has a phenomenal voice and was really impressed

with her. Mark was a recommendation from one of my other contacts who thought he would fit the venue well, too."

The WJ Ranch offers both general admission tickets and a VIP Wine Tasting Meet & Greet ticket for this concert.

The Meet & Greet will involve Hartington's Nissen Wines wine tasting, provided by KK93, an hour before the concert for fans to visit with the artist and VIP ticket holders are guaranteed a front-row seat to the performances.

"The best part is watching the people that come," Schiferl said. "It seems to make them smile and bring happiness. If we can provide that, that really makes us feel like we are using our resources well. It is something to offer that makes our community that much more unique."

See information at [www.schiferlswjranch.com](http://www.schiferlswjranch.com) or call (402) 357-2102 to order your tickets.

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