



Overcast Releases New CD

By Lois Kerr, Ag Roundup Editor

Ken Overcast, the Ag Roundup's favorite contributing writer, not only can spin a darn good yarn, but the man can also sing and put on a terrific concert performance as well. Overcast has recently released his 8th CD, "Montana in my Soul", which sums up the CD's contents. A little bit of Montana history, songs about a vanished way of life, tunes that bring contemporary real-world situations to vivid life, and just plain good cowboy country music about Montana and the cowboy way of life comprise the 13 selections on Overcast's 8th CD. He entertains, educates and inspires his listeners with his newest release.

"My passion is our country lifestyle," Overcast explains. "My wife, Dawn, and I both had great childhoods growing up in rural Montana. I want to try to preserve as much of that heritage for future generations as I can."

The CD contains original music written by Overcast as well as songs written by others. The mix on the album will please all cowboy country music lovers. He says of the song "Kid Curry". "Kid Curry robbed the train down the river from us in 1901. This song is pretty much historically accurate." Of the CD title song "Montana in my Soul", Overcast explains, "This is how I feel about where I live. The skeeters are big, the snow banks get deep, and the cold north wind will take your hide off. I wouldn't trade it for any place in the world."

Overcast began singing and writing music long before he put words on paper to create his Meadow Muffins column. "The music came first," he notes. "Besides ranching, I played in a dance band for years to help feed my family. I never traveled very far from home as we had the ranch to look after. Besides, traveling musicians don't have good track records for keeping a family together, and my family is more important to me than anything."

Singing led to his next venture, that of recording the music for others out-

little more," Overcast comments. "My daughter, Karlee, who recorded a duet album with me in 1997, and her husband, Lance, look after the ranch to free us up. I've performed in all but two or three states west of the Mississippi."

Six years ago, Overcast added writing to his list of accomplishments. He launched the very popular Meadow Muffins column and has two books out containing his observations and tall tales on the western lifestyle. "I started writing Meadow Muffins in 2000," Overcast comments. "My music and my writing aren't related, but both are an extension of who I am—just a Montana cowboy who enjoys a good song and a story now and then. Most of my stories are even the truth!"

He adds, "I like to write and perform, but everything I do relates back to my passion for the rural western lifestyle."

As Overcast likes to tell his audiences, "I grew up in Montana, I live 15 miles from where three generations of both sides of the family have lived and two more generations are following them, and the mailing address hasn't changed in 100 years."

Interested people may order the CD "Montana in my Soul" for \$14.95 plus shipping and handling by calling 1-888-753-7611 or through the web site www.kenovercast.com.



side his immediate area to enjoy. "I had a few gospel songs that I wanted to preserve for anyone who had an interest, so I recorded them on a cassette in 1993," Overcast remarks. "Since then, the cassette has been updated to a CD, and seven more recording projects have followed."

After Overcast's children grew up, he began to take his music on the road which really broadened his audience. "With the kids grown, Dawn was free to come along so I began to travel a



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