



Barry Ward is a western singer. Even more importantly, Barry Ward is a cowboy, who sings. Anyone can become a cowboy singer. Just get a pair of boots, a big hat and a guitar, and you're all set. If you're going to sing cowboy songs, it sure does help to know about what you sing. It's called "credibility."

Barry grew up on the western plains of Kansas, near the small town of Copeland, about 40 miles west of the famous cowtown, Dodge City. His great-grandparents settled the place in the late 1880s, shortly after the buffalo had been replaced by cattle. Barry, or "Bear" as he has come to be known by his friends, worked alongside his father and grandfather, working cattle and also doing farm work. To keep food on the table, many ranchers had to diversify and start raising crops. These rugged men of the land became equally at home in a saddle or on the seat of a tractor.

Some cowboys would shy away from letting people know they were also farmers. Perhaps the life of a farmer doesn't seem as romantic as that of a cowboy. Bear doesn't have a problem with it. In fact, he embraces it. He writes most of his own songs and those songs deal, not only with his experiences as a cowboy, but with his experiences as a farmer, such as driving a combine during the wheat harvest. *Add to that a strong faith and a love for his country and you've got a guy who's overflowing with credibility.*

So how does a guy from rural western Kansas become a successful western singer? Being a good singer and songwriter helps. But years of drought, the high cost of fuel and fertilizer, and government bureaucracy pushed things along. With sadness in their hearts and tears in their eyes, Barry Ward and his wife, Victoria, finally had to let go of the old homestead. However, you can't keep a good cowboy down for long. Bear grabbed his guitar and began singing for whoever would listen. At first it was at Farm Bureau meetings and livestock auction barns, but by 2003, he had performed at the Olympics and Carnegie Hall.

Highlights of Barry's Career

Awards:

- 2015 Western CD of the Year by the Rural Roots Music Commission
- 2014 Western Music Male Vocalist, Academy of Western Artists
- 2014 Kansas Cowboy Hall of Fame Inductee, Cowboy Artist/Entertainer
- 2014 Western CD of the Year, Rural Roots Music Commission
- 2013 Male Performer of the Year, Western Music Association
- 2012 Western Music Song of the Year, Academy of Western Artists
- 2008 Male Vocalist of the Year, Western Music Division of the Country Gospel Music Association

Special Honors:

"Harvest in the Fall" song featured in the documentary film 'The Great American Wheat Harvest'

Guest Co-host RFD-TV Cowboy Church with Susie McEntire

First Western music entertainer to perform in Cameroon, Africa 2010

Performed at the Cultural Olympiad 2002 Winter Olympics in Utah

'The Great American Cowboy Concert' at Carnegie Hall in New York City 2003)

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