



**Watermelon Slim**  
**Escape From the Chicken Coop**  
**Northernblues Music**

[www.northernblues.com](http://www.northernblues.com)

There is no huge surprise that a guy who was raised in North Carolina, for a time became a watermelon farmer in Oklahoma, plays lap slide guitar, spent years as a truck driver, and who has always incorporated diverse elements into his music would come out with an album of country music. In fact the surprise might just be that Oklahoma's Watermelon Slim became a blues man in the first place. As with Slim's three previous Northernblues CDs, **Escape From the Chicken Coop** is a great record. This time around though, it just isn't blues; it's pure Slim. Now I am not much of a fan of the heavy twang of country and western; of course, by today's standards, the Eagles might be considered a country band, and the Rolling Stones seminal **Exile On Main Street** might also be considered to be country. I found several tracks I really liked, such as "Should Have Done More," "Skinny Women and Fat Cigars," and "300 Miles." Label President Fred Litwin put together some of Nashville's best studio musicians in Nashville for this CD, so the band is tight. My main complaint is the lack of Slim's harp playing (only minimally on two tracks). Watermelon Slim always has some witty lyrics, and **Escape From the Chicken Coop** follows suit. Many of the songs understandably feature truck driving references – honoring Slim's other career - and the cover shot is Slim up in cab in an 18 wheeler. He's appropriately decked out in overalls and a ball cap, grinding the gears and talking on the CB, 10-4 Good Buddy! – **Malcolm Kennedy**