

COUNTRY

WEEKLY

who's new



Jason Aldean

ON THE CHARTS:

"Hicktown"

HOMETOWN:
Macon, Ga.

CURRENT RESIDENCE:
Nashville

FAVORITE ALBUMS:
Alabama's Mountain Music (1982),
Guns N' Roses' Appetite for Destruction (1987),
Tracy Lawrence's Sticks and Stones (1991)



► TOAST OF THE TOWN

Jason's rowdy debut hit, written by Vicki McGehee and Big & Rich's Big Kenny Alphin and John Rich, is about getting "buck wild" in the country. "It described my growing up," says Jason, 28. "That's what me and my friends used to do in high school." "Hicktown" will be on his debut album, due out in late summer.

► SOMEBODY'S GOTTA DO IT

Jason endured a frustrating series of near-misses before signing his record deal in January 2004. In the meantime, he held day jobs, from grocery-store bagboy to Pepsi delivery man. "The worst was working at Discovery Zone, which is basically like Chuck E. Cheese's on steroids," he chuckles. "Having to clean up some of the things the kids did, accidentwise, was pretty awful."

► HER FATHER'S VOICE

Jason married high-school sweetheart Jessica in 2001, and the couple have a 2-year-old daughter, Keeley. "She's starting to hear me on the radio now, which is cool," he says. "The single will come on when we're in the car and she's like, 'That's Daddy singing!'"