

Best & Worst Buys

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etc. Also, the pulley rubs on the barn floor unless we put blocks underneath it."

Victor G. Barrick, Carlisle, Pa.: "We're well pleased with our 1996 **Ford New Holland** 8670 Genesis tractor equipped with a front-end loader and Supersteer front wheel assist. The powerlift transmission works well for pushing silage into bunker silos. This is our first New Holland tractor after owning many White tractors, which are also good tractors. However, our closest White dealer is now 1 1/2 hours away.

"Our 1994 **Miller Pro** 12-ton wagon running gear is our worst buy. We used it for three years with a rear unload forage box mounted on it before the front end collapsed at the main pin that holds the tongue and steering mechanism to the frame. I told the dealer after the first and second year of use that the wagon was wearing prematurely, but they never checked it. When the factory rep finally came out four months later they gave us new parts."

Robert Allcock, Balgonie, Sask.: Robert nominates his 1997 **Ford** Supercab XLT 4-WD pickup as his "best buy". "I used it to pull a fertilizer cart loaded with 6,000 lbs. of product with no problem. In our snow and ice, 4-WD is the answer."

Stan Whiles, Maple Creek, Sask.: "My 1975 **Deere** 4430 tractor was a best buy. I sold it a year ago with 8,600 hours on it. It never used any oil. My **Deere** 4320 was an excellent tractor, too.

"My worst buy is my 1995 **Chevrolet** 1500 1/2-ton 2-WD pickup equipped with a 6.5-liter diesel engine. It gets about 18 mpg which is disappointing because I was told when I bought it that I could expect 25 to 30 mpg. Our 1995 **Ford** 3/4-ton 4-WD extended cab pickup equipped with a 7.3-liter Power Stroke diesel engine gets 16 to 20 mpg."

Gordon Bradley, Assiniboia, Sask.: "It's the best pickup I've ever owned," says Gordon about his 1993 **Dodge** 3/4-ton pickup equipped with a 5.9-liter Cummins diesel engine and automatic transmission. "It has more than 200,000 miles on it and I only recently had to repair the transmission for the first time. I use it to haul a fifth wheel trailer from Canada to Texas about four times a year, pulling a payload of 10,000 lbs. with no problems. It's very fuel efficient."

Bruce Kater, Fairbanks, Alaska: Bruce likes his "Big Stinky" fly traps (J.L. Price Products, Box 67, Wisconsin Rapids, Wis. 54495 ph 715 422-4750). "I was told they would catch a lot of flies, and boy do they ever. Within 15 minutes of putting up my Stinkies they were full of flies and there were

do without it. I drive it all year 'round. It can tow or haul just about anything. We don't go fast, but we get there. It never has broken down, even at 60 degrees below zero. I bought it used 12 years ago for only \$250.

"My 1940 **Farmall** "H" extra-wide tractor is a best buy. It's ugly but it always starts. In Alaska, reliability ranks very high and these two rigs get A pluses in my book."

James Ferguson, Canby, Minn.: James likes his 1997 **Deere** 9500 combine equipped with a 235 heavy duty engine and new 925 flex header. "This machine is equipped with Contour-Master, a lateral tilt system that keeps the flex head at the proper angle to the ground for uniform cutting and feeding of the crop. The combine is well built, reliable, and has good resale value.

"My wife's 1997 **Chevrolet** 4-WD S10 Blazer is a nice vehicle, but at 13,000 miles the transmission failed completely. The dealer installed a new transmission under warranty. Everything is working okay on it for now."

Eric Ablass, Moosomin, Sask.: "My 1990 **Dodge** Club D150 pickup has more than 150,000 miles on it. I change oil every 3,000 miles and never have to add oil. It rides perfect, and I haven't spent much on repairs."

Earl L. Martin, Lebanon, Pa.: "I installed a **Cummins** 5.9-liter turbocharged diesel engine in my Oliver 1755 tractor after the original engine blew up. It starts easy in cold weather and has lugging power that a lot of diesel engines don't have. I'm well pleased with the performance of both the tractor and the engine."

Bill Trexler, Candler, N.C.: "Five years ago I purchased a used **Hesston** 780 DT tractor equipped with a front-end loader. It had about 3,500 hours on it. I've changed the oil and filters regularly and have done regular maintenance. The only problems I've had were with the water pump and with two remote hydraulic hoses. I now have almost 3,900 hours on the tractor and am still well pleased with it. The only change I'd make is to mount a 4-in-1 bucket on the loader.

"My 1992 **Dodge** W-250 pickup equipped with a 5.9-liter Cummins diesel engine is a best buy. I bought it used four years ago with 32,000 miles, and the original owner said he hadn't had a minute of trouble with it. It now has 68,000 miles and still performs flawlessly. I occasionally use it to pull a 6,000-lb. gooseneck trailer carrying a 13,000 or 14,000-lb. load. That's just about all the automatic transmission can handle. My next pickup will be a Dodge, too."

Gene Smith, Alton, Mo.: Gene says his "best buys" are **Banana Cutter Blades** (T.H.E. Company, Mt. Pleasant, Iowa). "I use them on my Massey-Ferguson batwing rotary mower. Last year the dealer wanted \$240 for new blades. I paid \$100 for the Banana blades, with no charge for shipping and handling."

Norman Jantz, Oronogo, Mo.: Norman's disappointed with his **AGCO Allis** 5670 front wheel assist tractor equipped with a 63 hp engine and front-end loader. "It broke down with less than an hour on it when the rubber fuel line collapsed. After that the tractor broke down more than 20 times due to rubber fragments in the fuel system. Both the dealer and the company were willing to repair it each time we had a breakdown, rather than taking

it apart and solving the problem permanently. After the tractor had 60 hours I demanded my money back."

Bobby F. Nance, Seale, Ala.: "I've been well pleased with my 1998 **Deere** GT-275 lawn tractor equipped with a 48-in. mower deck. It starts every time, is quiet, and lets me mow my yard in about half the time that I could using other mowers. The hydrostatic transmission makes it a real pleasure to drive and also saves a lot of time. My only com-

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plaint is that the belt tension spring keeps breaking. The problem is that it isn't built heavy enough.

"I like my 1988 **Husqvarna** model 44 Rancher chain saw equipped with a 16-in. bar. It has been very dependable.

"My worst buy was my 1995 **Chevrolet** Caprice Classic car. The front end alignment shims fell out in my driveway when the car had less than 10,000 miles on it, and the seats were terrible. I asked the dealer to order Lumbar seats at my expense but was told that they weren't available for that model. I traded it for a new Buick Roadmaster, which had lumbar support seats as standard equipment. I'm well satisfied with it."

Charles Plocek, Spearfish, S. Dak.: "My best buy is my 1986 **Troy-Bilt** tiller. No problems or repairs in 12 years.

"My two **Snapper** mowers - one riding and one a self-propelled walk behind - are both best buys. No problems with either one.

"I'm well satisfied with my two **Dodge** Dakota pickups. One is a 1987 model and the other a 1989."

James Elliott, Orlando, Fla.: "My 1990 **Ford** Ranger Supercab pickup has 86,000 trouble-free miles on it. The 2.9-liter V-6 engine has a lot of power and gets 20 to 21 mpg. I'm waiting for the new 4-door Ranger to hit the sales lots. I won't even consider buying another brand.

"My **FARM SHOW** subscription is also a best buy."

Herman VanderVos, Bozeman, Mt.: "In the Vol. 21, No. 6 issue of **FARM SHOW** you published an owner's report on welders and welding accessories. There were some positive remarks made about auto-darkening helmets, which I had never heard of.

"After making several inquiries and receiving some catalogs, I bought a **Stricker Electronic** welding helmet for \$146.19 including shipping and handling (HTP America Inc., 3200 Nordic Rd., Arlington Heights, Ill. 60005). Now I can't imagine welding without it. Making precise welds is now much easier."

Bertram E. True, Urbana, Mo.: "My best buy is my 1997 **Ford** F-250 heavy duty 4-WD pickup equipped with a Power Stroke diesel engine and automatic transmission with overdrive. It drives excellent and handles a gooseneck trailer with ease. I've owned five Ford pickups equipped with diesel engines over the years and they've all been trouble-free."

C.J. Phillips, Bluemont, Va.: He's satisfied with his 1997 **Deere** 6400 MFWD tractor equipped with a cab. "I really appreciate the cab in the winter when feeding and in the summer when making hay. The Power-Quad transmission works great.

"My 1997 **Ford** F-350 pickup equipped with a Power Stroke diesel engine works good."

"My **Shaver** post driver has defects in the hydraulic leveling system that the company either will not or can not correct. The problem is with the quality of the Gresen valve - the company finally had to take it back."

Nicholas L. Sotiropoulos, Radom, Ill.: "My 1992 **Deere** 320 lawn tractor has 1,500 hours on it. My only cost so far is for belts and a couple of pulleys."

Earl Hiatt, Patterson, Calif.: Earl is a dealer (Earl Hiatt, 13507 Quince Ave., Patterson, Calif. 95363 ph 209 892-8170) for the **SureCharge** "chip" charger by VDC Electronics, Inc. "This little battery charger has a computer chip 'brain' that allows it to determine the condition of a battery and decide if it can be properly recharged and possibly reconditioned. It will then charge the battery to full capacity, while simultaneously beginning the reconditioning of the battery's plates using micro-second electrical pulses. Over time the pulses break down the tiny hardened crystals (sulfation), which can result in a much longer life for the battery. It sells for less than \$50 and is guaranteed for five years. It'll never overcharge the battery."

Lee Randall, Holgate, Ohio: Lee likes his **Ford Versatile** 946 tractor. "It's big, powerful, and built simple. Nothing beats it for real power. Who needs all the fancy power shift transmissions and gadgets and trinkets when you have real power under the hood?"

Moi M. Fussell, Polk City, Fla.: Moi likes his Hydra-Spear 3-pt. high-lift round bale spear that he read about in **FARM SHOW** (**M & H Metal Works, Inc.** 976 Ga. Hwy. 33 South, Moultrie, Ga. 31768 ph 912 985-7705 or 912 769-3702). "It has enough reach to stack bales three high on the ground or two high on a wagon, and can dump bales over a fence or into a feeder. The rig can also be equipped with a lift boom or forks. It's a well designed, quality product and is a simple and efficient alternative to a front-end loader."

Paul L. Borchelt, Batesville, Ind.: Paul's "worst buy" is **Regal** steel rib siding for buildings. "The siding is supposed to be guaranteed for 20 years. However, it started rusting after only about 14 years. The company came out and took photos, then notified me later that the siding has to rust all the way through before they'll replace it. Unfortunately I used it on all my buildings."

Greg Strausberg, Langdon, Kan.: "My best buy of all time is my 1965 **Minneapolis Moline** M5 tractor. It runs great and starts great. No repairs or expenses in the last two years."

He nominates his 1997 **Troy-Bilt** rototiller as his "worst buy". "I grow fresh produce and ordered the tiller from the factory. I was using it during the middle of the sweet corn planting season when the motor broke. I hauled it to the dealer who told me they'd have it ready in a week. About 30 days later I called and was told that it was ready. I went in to pick it up but discovered that it wouldn't start. They told me that it needed a new motor. All during this time I had tried to call the company and even wrote a letter asking them to take it back, but now because I've owned it for three months I'm stuck. Late last September the company finally called to tell me the machine was ready to go. But by that time the season was over and I was out \$3,000 for lost produce."

Mark Troyer, Fredericksburg, Ohio: "Our 1996 **Massey Ferguson** 390 front wheel assist tractor is a compact, powerful,

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none on my bison. These traps are low maintenance and do an outstanding job. I like them because I don't have to apply any sprays, dusts, or other chemicals around my bison.

"My best buy of all time is my 1958 **International** Travel-All 4-WD equipped with a 264 straight 6-cyl. engine, 4-speed transmission, and pto winch. I don't know what I'd