

Those problems have been fixed now, but I didn't expect this to happen on a new tractor.

"I bought a new 30-ft. **Deere** 455 press wheel drill and had to put two wide baler wheels and tires on it in order to keep it from sinking into the ground on turns. It should come from the factory with four large tires."

Richard Roth, Scott City, Mo.: A 1993 **Tye** series V 7-ft. Pasture Pleaser no-till grain drill equipped with 3/4-in., 13-wave coulters rates as Richard's "best buy". "I've used it to plant three wheat crops and had good stands each time. In corn ground I shred the stalks before planting. I've also used it to no-till soybeans and to double crop beans after wheat with good results. The only trouble I've had is with double crop beans if the ground is too dry. But if it's that dry I wouldn't get a stand if I worked the ground, either. It definitely reduces soil erosion."

Tom Johnson, Minatare, Neb.: "The **McCulloch** F1000 high pressure washer I bought 1 1/2 years ago is my best buy. It's easy to set up and has enough pressure to clean almost anything. The spray nozzle has four settings - one for applying soap, wax, or chemicals; a 1,000 psi vertical fan spray; a 1,000 psi jet spray (this setting will even remove paint); and a 1,000 psi jet horizontal fan spray."

David Snider, Minier, Ill.: David nominates his **Deere** 220 disk as his "best buy". "I use it with filler blades and a tine harrow and it leaves the field as level as any disk I've ever owned. It also does a good job of cutting into the soil."

Roger and Louise Linton, Terre Bonne, Ore.: "We installed our **Mirafount** energy-free waterer five years ago and haven't touched it since then. It serves about 150 cows and several horses. Works perfectly even in sub-zero weather. We've never had to clean it out."

"We also like our 1995 **Powder River** calving pen that's equipped with a self-catching headgate. It's a real handy for pulling calves and helping them to nurse, and for doing artificial insemination work."

Brian Litwiler, Delavan, Ill.: Brian's impressed with his **Ag Leader** Yield Monitor 2000 (Ag Leader Technology, 1201 Airport Road, Ames, Iowa 50010). "We installed it on our **Deere** 8820 combine two years ago. It came with everything we needed including detailed instructions, templates, a center punch, drill bits, and a file for squaring the holes. It can be recalibrated all season long and can adjust earlier harvest data for accuracy. The company has updated the computer chip three times in two years at no cost. I wouldn't want to harvest without the instant information on yield, moisture, and acres covered that it provides."

Steve Lacey, Wheaton, Mo.: Steve likes his 1994 **Taylor** outside wood-fired hot water furnace. "We use it to heat our house and milking parlor. It provides the economy of wood heat without the hazard of chimney fires. Also, it leaves no ashes or smoke in the house which my wife really likes because of her allergies."

James Nedrow, Ashton, Idaho: "My 1991 **Dodge** 250 pickup equipped with a 5-speed manual transmission and Cummins turbocharged engine is my best buy. I like being able to drive down the highway at 65 mph with the tachometer reading 1,800 rpm's. I get 20 to 25 mpg solo and 15 mpg pulling a fifth wheel recreational vehicle. I finally have the pickup I've always wanted."

Jim Butts, Westminster, S.C.: Jim's the

pleased owner of a 1986 **Massey-Ferguson** 270 tractor. "It's well-built and always ready to go. It's a real pleasure to use."

Sherri Huffman, East Jordan, Mich.: "Our 1994 **Ford** Splash Ranger extended cab 4-WD pickup has never let us down and can go almost anywhere. It always starts right up. No problems."

"Our 1993 **Chevrolet** 1-ton 4-WD, 4-door truck equipped with a 6.5-liter turbocharged diesel engine is our worst buy. We've had over 100 problems with it and it's been in the shop over 20 times. There have been problems with the engine, front end alignment, special options, etc. If it hadn't been for friends I'd have been stranded several times."

Brandon Toepfer, Lewellen, Neb.: "Our 1994 **Case-IH** 7130 Magnum tractor is our best buy. We bought it used with 300 hours and now it has over 2,000 hours with no problems. It's our most economical tractor."

"Our worst buy ever was a 1981 **Deere** 4440 tractor equipped with a powershift transmission. We had it for four years and put 1,500 hours on it. The biggest piece of equipment it pulled was a 21-ft. **Deere** disk, but it still went through five different transmissions."

Merwin Works, Big Sandy, Mont.: "We mounted a 60-ft. **Marflex** field sprayer on a 1-ton truck and it's our best buy. It literally floats down the field and is easy to maintain at a consistent height."

Merritt Broughton IV, Silver Springs, N.Y.: Merritt's impressed with his 1995 **Stihl** 026 chainsaw equipped with an 18-in. bar. "We bought this saw so that we'd have something lighter than our 041. It has a lot of power, is lightweight, and durable. We use it to cut wood to heat our large house as well as a 70 by 48-ft. shop. We also use it to cut logs for lumber. I'm so impressed with it that I may buy another one."

On the negative side, he lists his 1994 **Case-IH** 695 tractor equipped with a 2250 front-end loader. "It arrived at our farm with leaking hydraulic lines. The loader frame hits the front mounting bracket every time the loader is lowered to the ground. Another problem is that the engine is incredibly

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noisy. When cutting hay we can run it at 3/4 throttle for only a half hour before we'll be deaf for the rest of the day. We love red tractors but this is a case where we should have looked at some green paint."

William and Mary Gerst, Paso Robles, Calif.: They say their 1996 **Dodge** 1500 4-WD standard cab pickup is a "best buy". "It's a well-designed pickup that averages about 15 mpg. We like the front end suspension system."

Tim Jenkins, Quincy, Wash.: "It's fuel efficient, rides great, and has a lot of power," reports Tim, pleased with his 1995 **Ford** F-350 crew cab pickup equipped with a 7.3-liter powerstroke diesel engine. "We use it to pull a fifth wheel trailer with 14,000 lbs. on it and it handles it great."

Dayne Hill, Edinburg, Texas: "It's a real lemon," says Dayne about his 1994 **Chevrolet** S-10 4-door Blazer. "The engine quit running four times just like it does when you shut off the ignition key. I've taken it to two different dealers and every time I go in they find a new problem. The first time it

was a bare wire, the second time a bad computer chip, the third time a fuel pump. After a new fuel pump was installed I drove it only 12 miles before it quit running again. This time the problem was another bare wire. I'm just waiting for more problems."

Jerry D. Gibby, Sulphur Springs, Texas: "My best buy is my 1980 **Ford** 7700 tractor equipped with a cab and air conditioning. It has 7,300 hours with no problems. It uses very little oil and works great. I use it to make round bales. But then, my wife said that if she was going to continue helping me cut and rake hay she'd need a tractor with an air-conditioned cab. So we bought a **Ford** 7710 tractor equipped with a cab and air conditioning. It's also a best buy. It has 2,300 hours with no problems."

Bill Jeffries, Rockville, Ind.: Bill likes his **Hardy** outside woodburning furnace. "It can handle big logs. It heats our house and also provides hot water for laundry, baths, dishwashing, etc. All the mess of burning wood stays outside and it's easy to remove the ashes. Best of all, there's no danger of fire in the house which also lowers our cost for fire insurance."

Victor F. Pochop, Atwood, Kan.: Victor likes the information service offered by **FarmDayta**. "It's easy to use and can be custom tailored to fit my needs. Markets, news, weather, etc., are updated in a timely manner. The company also offers a wide choice of premium services."

Dale Pontius, Marshall, Mo.: "I'm well pleased with my 1993 **Miller** Millermatic 90 wire welder. It's a light duty, 115-volt MIG welder that works well on 20 ga. through 11 ga. or 1/8-in. thick steel. It also does a respectable job on 3/16 and 1/4-in. thick steel if it's grooved before welding. It's set up to use .023 in. LR708-6 wire and argon/CO2 shielding gas."

Charles Kretz, Defiance, Ohio: "It might be old fashioned these days to till the soil, but whenever I do I use my **International** 15-ft. culti-mulcher. It's easy to adjust depth of the spring teeth. It's built strong and heavy enough to crush clods, and the rear "crow feet" leave the soil level. I use my **International** 706 tractor to pull it. It has over 7,000 hours but it still can really snort."

David Brown, Gooding, Idaho: "My 1994 **Snapper** 22-in. riding mower is my worst buy. It was a piece of junk from the day I bought it. The engine burned oil and smoked like a diesel, then blew up after only one month of use. It never started reliably. I had the valves ground and the engine overhauled, but it was still difficult to start and would run only for about 10 minutes before quitting. The self-propel drive mechanism failed, too. I finally junked it and bought a no-name brand model that works perfect."

Gene Delap, Broughton, Ill.: Gene's the satisfied owner of a 1995 **Gleaner** R72 combine equipped with an 8-row corn head or 25-ft. reel. "One of the things I like best about it is the L10 611 cu. in., 300 hp Cummins diesel engine. It's very fuel efficient, has a lot of power, and is easy to maintain. It has tremendous capacity and has needed only minor repairs."

On the "worst buy" side are the **Yetter** heavy duty downpressure springs that he bought for his **Deere** 16-row front-fold planter. "I bought 64 springs - four for each row - but after only two seasons of use 17 of them were broken. I complained to my dealer and he replaced them but some of them broke. Finally he called the company and they gave me an entire set of new, improved springs. However, I had to person-

ally replace all of them which took a lot of time."

Karl Kahn, Belpre, Kan.: "My 1991 **Case-IH** 8840 self-propelled swather is my best buy. The 4-cyl. Cummins diesel engine works great and is fuel efficient. It has a lot of speed and drives comfortably."

On the minus side, Karl lists his 1994 **Dodge** 2500 4-WD V-10 pickup. "The day I bought it I didn't even make it home because the computer went out. The second day the windshield broke when I slammed the driver's door shut. It's gone through three steering boxes and three windshields and has had brake problems from day one. Also, the transmission leaks. But the worst problem is that the intake manifold gaskets are made from material that's too thin so

"The windshield broke when I slammed the driver's door shut."

dirt was getting sucked in."

David Woller, Montague, Mich.: "My **Deere** 348 twine-tie baler has tremendous capacity and is a best buy. I've used it to make at least 50,000 bales and it probably hasn't failed to tie more than 20 of them. I like the multi-luber for the bale knotters."

"My **Gehl** 2240 swing frame mower is my worst buy. It tends to plug up in heavy hay and doesn't raise up very high. Also, it doesn't seem to be built strong. The reel and push bar bent the first day we used it. Our dealer took good care of us, though, and replaced all the defective parts with new ones."

Kenneth Bentrup, Staunton, Ill.: "My 1990 **Massey-Ferguson** 3070 tractor is a pleasure to operate. It has a well-designed cab and controls that are easy to reach. They're placed right where they should be."

D. H. Miller, Chalmers, Ind.: "My best buy is my **Deere** 2940 MFW tractor equipped with a 260 front-end loader. It's been used hard for 10 years and nearly 7,000 hours on our hog operation where we've used it to grind over 3,000 tons of feed each year. It's equipped with an M & W Gear turbocharger and the fuel pump is set 25% over. As a reward for the tractor's trouble-free service we bought new seat cushions for it and turned up the fuel an additional 10%."

Wayne Grebinoski, Holdingford, Minn.: Wayne's the owner of a "best buy" 1994 **Bobcat** 753 skidsteer loader. "It's truly a well-built product. It's my second Bobcat and both have performed very well. They're easy to service and trouble-free. We use them every day to load manure, move round bales, haul silage, etc. They always start right up no matter what the conditions. I'd definitely buy another one."

"I like my 1993 **New Holland** 570 square baler. It has a lot of capacity and does a good job of tying bales."

On the minus side, he lists his **Gehl** 1060 forage harvester. "It seemed that I couldn't use it for even a single day without something going wrong on it. Soon after it was delivered to our farm the wheel bearings went out. The roller chains wore out fast and other bearings also went out. The blower bands lasted for only one season. It has a lot of capacity but requires a lot of power. Also,

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