

Best & Worst Buys

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enough cooling capacity. I didn't get any help from the dealer at all.

"I've also had problems with my **Gehl 6620** skid steer loader. The servo motors are junk, and the factory cylinder leaks at the welds. This machine just isn't built well."

Curtis Weaver, Nottingham, Penn.: "We're absolutely pleased with our **Massey Ferguson 390T** tractor. It has 1,800 trouble-free hours on it. Plenty of torque and it's fuel efficient."

"We also like our two **Claas** round balers, a 46 RotoCut and a 66 Rollant. They're built with the quality that all round balers should have and are tough, simple, and trouble-free to operate. We use the tractor and two balers for custom work. We made over 5,000 bales this year."

On the "worst buy" side, "Electrical and hydraulic leaks have plagued us almost from day one on our **Gehl 3610** skidsteer loader. It has only 1,900 hours on it."

Grant Campbell, Iona Station, Ontario: "I mounted **Salford** rolling harrows on my C-tine cultivator. It saves a trip across the field and makes a better seedbed. I no longer have to change cultivators the last time over."

"My 1993 **Delaware** pressure washer is a worst buy. The seal fell out of the motor, allowing water to get in and seize the motor. The company said the motor wasn't designed for water and wouldn't stand behind its warranty. A motor installed in a pressure washer should be able to handle water. The dealer loaned me a pressure washer for 13 months. He ended up paying for the motor out of his pocket - the manufacturer wouldn't help."

Glen Massey, Berlin, Md.: "I use it to mow several hundred acres each year, and it just keeps on going with no problems," says Glen, owner of a 1991 **Vicon** disc mower-conditioner. "Jobs that used to be a worry and aggravation with a sickle bar mower are now a piece of cake. I hope I never have to use a sicklebar mower again."

On the "worst buy" side, Glen lists his 1991 **Ford F-150** pickup. "Mechanically this pickup works great, but the paint job has been a disappointment. The company paid for one repaint job but the paint soon deteriorated. Now it looks as bad as the original paint."

Nelson Wedge, Earlville, N.Y.: Nelson nominates his 1993 **Case-IH 5240** 4-WD tractor as his "best buy". "There are no words to describe the quality of this tractor. It has plenty of power, is easy to drive, and starts easy. The mechanical front wheel drive gets me through the worst conditions. It's easy to change the oil and filters."

Ralph Brown, Edgewood, Iowa: "My 1993 **Ford 3/4-ton** turbocharged diesel pickup has a lot of power and performs well. I'm well pleased with it."

"My 1972 **Deere 4020** diesel tractor had over 9,000 hours before the engine had to be overhauled. It's a good all-around tractor."

Charles D. Corlew, Cunningham, Tenn.: Charles is impressed with his 1993 **Bush Hog 3126** 10-ft. brush cutter. "It's trouble-free and runs smooth. I can even mow the level parts of my yard with it. The double universal joint in front lets me turn

short.

"My 1992 **Bush Hog** isn't built well. The blades are mounted too high and have warped. I tried to remove them but couldn't because the bolts weren't anchored in so they just spun. The rear wheel bearings weren't greased during assembly so they wore out and had to be replaced. I sent a registered letter to the company and they signed for it but they never responded. The gearcase cover consistently shook loose, causing grease to leak out. I was constantly losing the blades on the right side of the machine."

Rudy Bahr, Gridley, Kan.: "My best buy is my 1993 **Dodge** Caravan equipped with a 6-cyl. engine. It's more fun to drive than anything I've owned ever since my first Model A Ford in the 1940's."

Lawrence E. Smith, Sand Lake, Mich.: Lawrence's all-time "best buys" are his three **Pro Quality** Hay Baskets (Pro Quality Corp., Box 6184, St. Cloud, Minn. 56302). "The self-loading Hay Basket (10 ft. wide, 12 ft. high and 12 1/2 ft. long) holds 100-plus small square bales. You hook it up to your baler and the baler does all the work, pushing the bales up the chute. When full, you pull the wagon up to the elevator, trip the lever and the bales fall out by themselves. I had been looking for a better way to handle small square bales efficiently when I read a story on the Hay Baskets in FARM SHOW. I got more information and promptly ordered three of them. They work excellent on my hilly ground and are built simple with no shear pins to break. I plan to buy two more next year. I understand some improvements have been made that will make it work even better."

"My **New Holland 316** baler has been steady and reliable. No major problems."

"My **New Holland 411** discbine is a rock solid performer. I love the way it cuts damp and tangled hay. It can mow where others can't go."

"My worst buy is a 1989 **New Holland 1003** automatic bale wagon. It looked pretty but that was about all. It worked slow, and when I used it to pick up second or third cutting bales it broke shear pin after shear pin. I parked it in a neighbor's barn for two years before I traded it in on the discbine. The dealer couldn't solve the problem, even though I paid for his service trips to the farm. Now he's out of business."

Don Hanson, Hamilton, Ill.: Don's pleased with his **Schaffert** furrow closer planter attachment, a small wheel disc that mounts off the side of the furrow behind the disc openers. "Once I adjusted it right, it provided better seed-to-soil contact resulting in a better stand of corn in no-till fields."

Tim Schnitker, Hoyleton, Ill.: Tim's impressed with his 1994 **Brillion 21-ft.** "X-wing" roller. "I like how it matches up behind my 21-ft. and 18-ft. International disks and my 19-ft. White field cultivator. It saves a trip because I don't have to follow up with a culti-mulcher. I also like the idea of getting more use out of old equipment that doesn't have much trade-in value."

Gabe Loeffelholz, Platteville, Wis.: "My 1986 **Honda** Big Red 3-wheeler is always reliable, winter and summer. It's been almost trouble-free over many hours of

work and play."

Oliver Grandalen, Portland, N. Dak.: "My best buy after 42 years of farming is my 1972 **Deere 4020** tractor. We resleeved it and put in new pistons two years ago with 8,000 hours on the tractor. It wasn't using any oil, but we thought the engine had to have some wear."

Gene Postupack, Lemoore, Calif.: Gene likes his 1991 **IMT 532** tractor. "It's a great tractor. Parts are readily available from the dealer, Massey Ferguson, or NAPA auto parts."

"Over the past several years I've had problems with **Briggs & Stratton** engines. I've bought mowers, log splitters, go-carts, spreaders, and various other machines equipped with Briggs & Stratton engines and have had problems with all but one of them. The main problem seems to be with valves sticking and burning."

Curtis Knapp, Cissna Park, Ill.: Curtis is the pleased owner of a **Bobcat 440** skidsteer loader. "It's easy to use, turns short, has a lot of safety features, and has been relatively trouble-free. It has plenty of power for its size. My wife even likes it."

Tim Hodges, Mansfield, Ga.: Tim's happy with his **Bead Buster** (Gans Tool Co., 730 Eastern Ave., P.O. Box 22, Malden, Ma. 02148). The tool is equipped with three metal "tongues" and a built-in striking plate. You use a hammer to drive the tongues, which serve as a wedge, between the bead and rim. You then lock the tool in position on the wheel and hand turn a built-in ratchet to apply up to 10 tons of pressure to break the bead and force it into the well so the tire can be easily dismounted. "It saves a lot of time and effort in changing tires and fixing flats. One of the main reasons we bought it was to fix large rear tractor tires so we don't have to remove them from the tractor. It works well with any size and kind of tire, from ATV size to large rear tractor tires."

Stewart Hammer, Eastend, Sask.: "I'm pleased with my 1993 **New Holland 660** autowrap round baler. I made almost 1,000 bales with it this year with few problems. It makes great bales in any size I want and is simple to operate. It has a declutching mechanism that eliminates the need to disengage the pto and the bale kicker eliminates the need to back up. It takes only about

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30 seconds to tie a bale."

Dennis J. Raisleger, Kewaunee, Wis.: Dennis's "best buy" is his 1987 **Chevrolet S10** extended cab pickup. "It has 126,000 miles and my only expense was for a blown intake manifold gasket. It doesn't use any oil. I've replaced the brakes, exhaust system, shocks, and a belt which I think is normal maintenance."

"My **Homelite** Mudbuster power washer is my worst buy. The first time I used it, the engine cut out as soon as I pulled the trigger and had to be repaired. The second time I used it the recoil rope broke and had to be repaired. The third time, the engine started 'galloping' after about 2 minutes and then stalled. I took it back to the store I bought it from, but by that time they had quit selling that brand. I called the company

to complain and they refunded my money."

Peter Steranko, Stenen, Sask.: "My 1981 **Massey-Ferguson 4840** 4-WD tractor has 5,000 trouble-free hours."

"I'm well satisfied with my 1985 **Deere 2750** MFWD tractor. It has a lot of power and traction and is easy to maneuver in corals. It's also fuel efficient. I use it with my 245 quick-tach loader which comes off easily and quickly. I also like the self-leveling quick-tach bucket and the bale fork. I don't think they could do much to improve this loader. I have 9,000 hours on the tractor and loader and they've both performed great."

Gary Eichhorn, Parkersburg, W. Va.: "My best buy is my 1992 **Roof VP-75** self-propelled lawn mower equipped with a 30-in. deck and a 26-in. semi-open deck (Roof Equipment Mfg. Co., 11660 Sterling Ave., Riverside, Calif. 92503). The 30-in. deck has caster wheels on front and will mow 2-ft. tall grass without plugging up. I also use it to cut light brush on rough terrain. The caster wheels allow me to turn on a dime using only one hand. The semi-open deck will cut brush over 6 ft. tall and up to 1 in. thick. I use it in the fall when the brush is beginning to die."

"It has 26-in. drive wheels so it has enough clearance to go through or over almost anything including ditches, ruts, groundhog holes, small stumps, rocks, and 7 to 8-in. dia. logs. The 8 hp engine has plenty of power, and the round deck lets me cut up to 12 in. tall grass and blow the clippings onto uncut grass without plugging up. The only time I ever stall the engine by cutting this way is when the clippings are about 8 in. deep and have the consistency of mud."

Jimmy Powell, Medford, Okla.: A 1993 **Rhino 15-ft.** flex mower rates as Jimmy's "best buy". "The first day I used it, a hydraulic cylinder leaked. I called the dealer and in two days had a complete new cylinder direct from the factory. I use it on roadsides, waterways, pastures, and CRP acres. It's an excellent mower and does a nice level job. The entire mower raises up at the same time and has four gearboxes."

"I also like my **DTN 6001** color computer data system. The information and weather programs offered are invaluable."

"I looked at a lot of other pressure washers before I bought my **Alkota 4182**. It's well-built and is made with metal and stainless steel instead of plastic like some other models. I highly recommend it."

"My **Brent 670** grain cart empties out almost completely. Coupled with a **Shur-Lock** roll-over tarp and my **Deere 9600** combine, my harvest speed has increased greatly."

David Luscomb, Clear Lake, Iowa: "It has great power and fuel economy for a 65 hp tractor," says David about his 1991 **Deere 2555**. "Handles my grinder-mixer just as well as my Deere 4240."

Lowell Raymer, Bellflower, Ill.: Lowell's had good luck with his 1991 **Deutz Allis 1920** mower. "I like the high capacity 5-ft. deck and short turning radius. I also like the differential lock when mowing on slopes. My wife likes the power steering."

Royce Kraft, Normal, Ill.: "My 1992 **Case-IH 900** 12-row, pull-type planter is my worst buy. As many as six rows come out of the ground as I go through the field, leaving corn planted too shallow to germinate properly. This planter has cost me \$70,000 to \$80,000 in lost production."