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**James E. Baltzly, Beach City, Ohio:** James like his 1996 **Brent C.P.C.** sub-tiller. "It's equipped with deep till, narrow tooth shanks and does an excellent job of mulching corn stalks and cutting trash. I can adjust the depth of the 26-in. blades to leave very little trash, or all of it, on top of the soil. It leaves a nice seedbed the following spring."

**Carl Peterson, Columbus, Ohio:** "My 1993 **Ford F-150 1/2-ton** pickup has about 282,000 miles on it and is a best buy. I had to grind the valves on the engine. Otherwise, it has required only normal maintenance to wear parts such as belts, brakes, and tires."

**John F. Stoops, Auburn, Ind.:** John's happy with his 1993 **Great Plains 10-ft.** no-till drill. "I have a small farm and this drill lets me try no-fill at a reasonable price. Many of my fields are small with limited space to enter them. This size drill works great for me and for the tractor horsepower that I have. No problems."

**Roger Snyder, Delta, Ohio:** "I like my **Mayrath 10-in. dia., 62-ft.** long swing away auger. I had been using a grain leg to unload wet corn and it took one hour to unload 1,300 bu. With this auger I can unload the same amount in only 18 minutes. I had a couple of problems with the universal joint and with the gearbox. However, the dealer and the company took care of the problems."

On the "worst buy" side are the replacement discs he bought for his **Deere 750** grain drill. "After I put them on I planted just a few acres of wheat when I noticed that the blades were getting all nicked up - and we have very few rocks. I double checked to make sure I had put the discs on right. Then I mentioned the problem to my dealer and he said there were problems with some 'soft' blades and that he would replace them free. But what made me mad was that I had to take the discs off and replace them myself. It's not a pleasant job."

**David Lagos, Cass City, Mich.:** David's "best buys" are his two **Morton** machine sheds. "I had one built in 1998 and another in 1978. The older one was showing a little rust on the roof and the company paid for half the cost of the paint needed to fix it. The sheet metal on the building also had some dings in it so when they put up the new building they replaced the sheet metal."

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"My worst buy is my 1985 **Noble** row crop cultivator. It wouldn't dig in hard ground. I finally extended the row units by 143 in. for more trash clearance and I also made the back leg adjustable for depth. Now it works good."

**Bibb G. Mims, Uriah, Ala.:** "My **Deere 9976** 6-row cotton picker is my best buy. It's the fastest cleanest picker I've used in the 45 years I've harvested cotton. I've had very few problems with it."

"We have three **Deere 4960** tractors with a lot of hours and no problems. They're very economical to run. They have a lot of power and handle with ease."

"My **Bush Hog 4214** pull-type cutter

equipped with an offset center gearbox is my worst buy. It leaves strips of uncut grass or weeds. The company wouldn't listen when we complained about the problems. I won't buy any more **Bush Hog** products."

**Dean Madigan, Towanda, Pa.:** "My **H & S** deluxe bi-fold rake works great even on uneven ground and leaves a uniform, fluffy windrow. It doesn't rope hay like side delivery rakes. I can adjust the windrow width to match up with my round baler and make perfect bales every time."

**Art Thomas, Stryker, Ohio:** "My 1998 **Ford Ranger Super Cab** pickup has a 4-liter engine and automatic transmission. It's a good pickup but we had a vibration problem at 55 to 60 mph. The dealer tried his best to help. He checked everything and balanced the tires three or four times. I think the problem is with the tires. I still feel the vibration on real smooth roads. The pickup has a lot of power but could use a higher rear end for better fuel efficiency."

**Elmer B. Junge, Napoleon, Ohio:** Elmer nominates his 1994 **Kubota M9580 DTC 90** hp tractor as his "best buy". "It has 800 hours on it with no problems. When I bought it I had a creeper gear installed for making ditches and I really like it. Lets me run the tractor wide open in low gear. I can get out and walk around the tractor four times and barely see it move. I think it's the best tractor on the market for its size. I've owned three other Kubotas and all have been dependable."

"My 1997 **Case-IH 4210** tractor is my worst buy. I bought it to mow along township roads. The front wheels kept coming loose and the wiring to the 4-WD shorted out. Also, the shift lever kept locking up."

**Charles Huegel, Venus, Pa.:** "I like my 1989 **Ford F-150 2-WD** pickup equipped with a 300 cu. in. engine and 5-speed transmission. I bought it as a demonstrator model with 5,000 miles on it. Now it has about 148,000 miles and still works like it did when I first bought it. I've spent a total of less than \$1,000 on it over the years, which comes out to less than \$100 per year."

**Bill Finkbone, Clarksville, Ohio:** "My **Dolmar 115** chain saw is my best buy. I've used most brands of professional saws and I like the weight, power, and balance of this one. It starts easy and will sit and idle until you need it. The only thing I've had to repair on it were the rubber motor mounts. Ever since Makita bought the company parts for it have been a lot easier to get."

**Eldon C. Williams, Dansville, Mich.:** "We read the story in the last issue of **FARM SHOW** about the new-style **Staber System 2000** clothes washing machine (Staber Industries Inc., 4411 Marketing Place, Groveport, Ohio 43125 ph 800 848-6200 or 614 836-5995; fax 9524; Website: www.staber.com). It uses much less water and detergent than conventional machines. After contacting the company we decided to buy one and really like it. It's much faster and cheaper to operate than others on the market, and it's well built."

**Marv Boehm, Sherwood, Ohio:** "Marv says his **Tecumseh 8** hp gas engine, which he purchased in August 1998, is his "worst buy". "It worked fine in warm weather, but in winter it refuses to start unless I use WD-40 as a starting fluid. I called the company and was told they knew the engine wouldn't start in cold weather because the EPA mandated that they drill a hole in the choke plate. They suggested that I use a rivet to plug up

## Preventive Maintenance Keeps Old Combine Looking Like New

It's far from new, but Ray and James Haddinger's 1966 model 45 **Deere** self-propelled combine looks close to it.

Haddinger bought the combine the year it came out. It came with a 10-ft. grain platform and 2-row corn head. He figures it's one of the best machinery investments he ever made.

It was big enough for us at the time," says the Monroe, Wisconsin farmer. His son, James, has since taken over the business and even though he expanded the cropping side of their diversified farm, the old 45 served as the only bean and corn harvest machine they needed until just last year.

We decided we needed to go to 4 rows to harvest corn, so we bought a used combine to replace the old 45," Ray says.

I always liked the way the 45 worked. It does a good job of threshing both corn and beans," he continues. "We put it over 200 to 300 acres a year every year we ran it. It never let us down, but we took good care of it, too. The worst that ever happened while we were running was breaking and having to repair sickle



sections. We kept it greased, kept the oil changed, and replaced the filters regularly. It was always shedded when it wasn't being used."

The original 4-cylinder **Deere** gasoline engine still puts out plenty of horses. Ray figures in total, it has a couple of thousand hours on it. The tires on it are the ones it came with, both front and back. Ray doesn't like the idea of the old machine just sitting in the shed, especially since it's still in good working order. "It's a great combine for a small farm. You can't buy one this size any more," he says. He'd sell the machine for \$3,500.

Contact: **FARM SHOW Followup, Ray Haddinger, 917 4th Street, Monroe, Wis. 53566** (ph 608 325-4886).

this hole. Upon disassembly I found three areas cut away on the choke. I made a new choke plate with no holes and it now starts on the first or second pull all year long."

**Allen Brokaw, Cardington, Ohio:** "The best welding helmet I've ever used is the **Speedglas** which is equipped with a built-in auto-darkening lens by Hornell of Sweden (Hornell Speedglas Inc., 2374 Edison Blvd., Twinsburg, Ohio 44087 ph 216 425-8880; fax 4529). I work as a welder in a truck body

## "It's the best welding helmet I've ever used."

plant. A co-worker loaned me his **Speedglas** and after I had used it for only about 20 minutes, I was sold on it. It weighs only half as much as the Jackson HT-100 I had been using. The auto-darkening lens has sensors that react to ultraviolet light and it darkens the lens so quick you don't even realize it. It automatically turns off after 15 minutes of non-use."

**Gene Nance, Chesapeake, Ohio:** "Since 1985 I've owned three **Ford** pickups and they're all best buys. The most recent is a 1996 **F-350** equipped with a **Power Stroke** diesel engine. It has almost unbelievable power. I use it to haul shelled corn on a dump trailer and normally have a gross weight of 32,000 to 40,000 lbs. It has required only routine maintenance. I also had a 1985 model with a 6.9-liter engine. I installed a **Banks turbocharger** on it at 80,000 miles. I also had a 1992 model with a 7.3-liter engine."

**Jack R. Kiser, Fremont, Ohio:** "I'm pleased with a portable spot welder made by **Telwin** of Italy and sold by Harbor Freight Tools in California. It's easy to use and operates on 110 volts A.C. The only drawback is that it's limited to three welds per minute and has very short 3 1/4-in. electrode arms. Also, it's a bit on the heavy side."

**Mike Krajacic, Avella, Pa.:** "I like my

2000 **Dodge 3500 3/4-ton** pickup equipped with a **Cummins** diesel engine. It has power to burn and rides great. Nice style and handles great. It's a joy to drive."

"My worst buy is my **Case-IH 5830** self-propelled haybine. It's totally ill-designed from front to back. The cab rattles like it was made from pop cans. You have to use belt dressing on the belts just to keep them from slipping. I wouldn't buy another one."

**Mike Ruppert, Wapakoneta, Ohio:** "My best buy has been our six **Bacon Brute** hog feeders (Prairie Pride Enterprises, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada ph 204 488-6077). They're made of poly/plastic and have a steel frame. Our oldest ones are more than six years old and look and work as well as our 2-year-old ones. I like not having to make any adjustments to them depending on the size of hogs. Also, there's very little feed loss."

**Tom Fullwood, Rushville, N.Y.:** "I've read the recent reports in **FARM SHOW** about farmers who've had trouble with **Red Wing** shoes. I'd like to add my two cents. I, too, bought **Red Wings** a year or so ago. I've worn them for years because they're made in America and I like to support our country's industries. However, in less than six months, the tops came loose over my toes and the soles split apart. I took them back to the dealer who sent them back to the company, but **Red Wing** refused to do anything about them. So I'm stuck with a worthless pair of shoes. Needless to say, I will never buy **Red Wings** again."

**Ray Miller, Goshen, Ind.:** "It easily outperforms any chainsaw I've used before," says Ray, pleased with his 1995 **Jonsered 535** chainsaw. "I use it every winter to cut firewood for four households. It has a 24-in. Oregon bar and a carbide chain that I bought from Cutter's Choice (ph toll-free 888 288-8371 - parts for most chainsaws). This chain stays sharp much longer and lasts longer than a standard chain."