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**Robert Geer, Jr., Ledyard, Conn.:** He thinks the Massey Ferguson 263 tractor he bought just over a year ago is the best buy he's made in quite a while. "We keep it busy all the time, mowing hay, bush hogging, running the rock rake I made, moving snow, and the like. It's just the right size for us and it gets around good, too. The Perkins diesel is really easy on the fuel. I think it's a great tractor."

**Jim Clemson, Frederick, Md.:** "I bought Meg-Mo blades for my riding mower from Megli Lawn Care. This replacement blade system consists of a central steel disk with four pivoting blades."

"The first set I received lost their edge after a couple uses so I sent them back to the company. The owner stated that they may have been a part of a bad batch of steel so they sent me another set. I had the same problem and also felt that rather than using less power than conventional blades, they seemed to use more. I returned that set also and asked for a refund. They refused, even though the blades came with a money-back guarantee. When I called, they hung up on me. I contacted FARM SHOW and they called for me. The owner said they would refund my money so now I'm waiting for it to arrive."

**Mark Hurd, Aitkin, Minn.:** "I recently bought a used 1992 Dodge 1-ton pickup equipped with a Cummins diesel engine. It had about 300,000 miles on it and the transmission had been rebuilt but the engine had never been touched. So far I've put on an additional 10,000 miles with no problems. It gets more than 20 mpg. The engine still doesn't use any oil and it runs really strong."

**Michael M. Wiener, Brush, Colo.:** Michael likes his 1953 Deere 40 tractor. "I bought it in 1994 with 1,960 hours on the meter. It has been very economical and a pleasure to operate on my small acreage. It has a touch-a-matic 3-pt. hitch that works great with all my Cat. I implements. I haven't had any problems with this tractor and it's easy to operate. Considering it's a 1953 model, I think it's amazing it has a state-of-the-art 3-pt. hitch."

If I were in the market for a new tractor, I'd buy a Deere 4300 with a 430 front-end loader. I think it would be a perfect all-around tractor for my small acreage. It has all the user-friendly options I like to see in a small tractor."

**Warren Lathe, Guilford, Vt.:** "My DeWalt 998 cordless 1/2-in. drill is my best buy. I like not having to drag a long extension cord up into all the locations I have to drill, and it's a well-built tool."

"I'm happy with my four Morton buildings including a 42 by 98-ft. one that I purchased in 1984. It did have one problem - the roof panels started to peel. Morton's source for these panels evidently had used a bad mix of paint. The company replaced the complete roof panels, skylights, and trim at no cost, which I really appreciated. This company provides excellent service and doesn't hide behind the fine print. Also, their construction crews are well trained."

**Watt Mullins, Shelbyville, Tenn.:** Watt nominates his 2001 Kubota 6800 tractor as his "best buy". "It's big enough to do what we need and has sufficient power. As far as comfort goes, you can't get any better. It has a flat floorboard which I really like, and it rides smooth. It's also reasonably fuel effi-

cient and made entirely from steel instead of fiberglass, so it's really strong. The only improvement I'd like to see is the ability to shift without clutching. Also, I bought two weights for the front end of the tractor."

**Claude M. Conley, Alamo, Tenn.:** "My Deere 5410 equipped with a front-end loader is a great tractor. I've used three other Deere 5400 series tractors and they've all worked good. The 5410 has great resale value has not required a lot of repair work."

**Paul Johanns, Paulding, Ohio:** Paul says the Goodyear tires on his Oldsmobile Intrigue are his "worst buy". "I bought the car new last February. It had less than 4,000 miles on it when one of the tires blew out. I filed a complaint with the company but they claimed it was a "road hazard" and wouldn't do anything about it. I reminded them that the warranty is supposed to cover tires, but they still refused to help."

**Curtis Copeland, Sparta, Tenn.:** Curtis likes his 2001 Deere 6410 4-WD tractor. "I really enjoy driving and working with this tractor although I do wish it was more fuel efficient. I had a companion seat put in the cab, and my three grandsons really enjoy riding in it."

**Tom Wilson, Lamona, Wash.:** Tom's "best buy" is his Deere 9650 STS rotary combine equipped with a Deere 925D 25-ft. draper header. "It's a high performance machine with virtually no grain loss and the draper header does an excellent job cutting grain. The automatic header height control

**"It's a high performance machine with virtually no grain loss."**

system is a real plus for harvesting short grain. I've been operating combines for 49 years, and this one outperforms them all."

**Franklin H. Knapp, Milton, Fla.:** "My worst buy ever was a 1998 Sears Craftsman garden tractor equipped with a 42-in. mower deck and powered by a 15 1/2 hp Briggs & Stratton single cylinder gas engine. Two weeks after I bought it all the tires started losing air. Rather than traveling 45 miles one way to take the mower back to Sears, I installed tubes in all the tires. Then three weeks later the bracket that holds the bagger started to bend backward, which caused the bags to fall off the rear. I had to weld on a triangulated brace to fix it."

"The carburetor slowly leaked gas past the float valve and into the combustion chamber, which caused a hydrostatic lock. I had to remove the spark plug to drain the gas out so I could start it again. I also had to change the oil often because it was diluted with gas. I solved this problem by installing a fuel shut-off valve in the line."

"As for Briggs & Stratton engines, they're among my worst buys, too. They used to be pretty good but not any more. I have a pressure washer equipped with an 11 hp Briggs & Stratton engine and a generator with an 8 hp Briggs & Stratton engine. On both machines, after the engines run for a few minutes the recoil starters lock up and rip the ropes right out of the housings."

**Sam C. Parsons, Sugar Grove, Va.:** Sam likes his 2000 Zetor 6341 4-WD Super tractor. "This tractor is reasonably priced with a



Smoke from stove exits through a steel chimney that extends through shop's metal roof. Switzer mounted a metal catch pan at ceiling level to serve as a rain-proof seal.

## He Uses "Outside" Wood Stove Inside His Shop

Aqua-Therm woodburning stoves are designed to go outside but Keith Switzer decided to put one inside his 60 by 45-ft. shop and use the heat that radiates from the stove to heat the building. He ordered the stove without an insulation jacket around it. Otherwise, the stove operates normally, pumping hot water to the house through an underground pipe.

"The Aqua-Therm stove has no trouble heating this big shop. As long as the outside temperature is above zero the temperature inside the shop will be at least 58 degrees. If the outside temperature goes below zero the inside temperature will still stay in the 40's," says Switzer.

One problem Switzer had was getting a rain-proof seal where the chimney I used goes through the metal roof. "The problem was

lot of power. It has a smooth-operating shuttle shift transmission, which makes the very strong Zetor quick-tach front-end loader a pleasure to use."

**Don Skinner, Pawnee, Ill.:** "I suffered the loss of my legs as a result of a fall from a grain bin more than 20 years ago. My 3-wheel Ventrac truckster really helps me get around the farm and is my best buy (Steiner Ag Products, Inc., 12657 Church Rd., Box 148,



Orville, Ohio 44667 ph 330 683-0075). I can drive right onto the tractor with my wheelchair or riding mower, and then go virtually anywhere on the farm."

**Lester M. Weaver, Quarryville, Pa.:** "I bought a used Case 1845B skid steer loader in 1988. It still works good and we like it a lot. It has a total of about 5,500 hours on it and has required very little maintenance."

**Tony Wilson, Statesville, N.C.:** "I like my 1976 Ford 5600 which I bought used. I traded

that the 12-in. dia. steel chimney expands and contracts every time the stove cycles on and off. That made it very difficult to get a rain proof seal at the roof level. I couldn't find a heat-resistant product on the market to do the job, so I made my own metal catch pan and mounted it at ceiling level. I let the water leak from the roof level down to the ceiling level where the pan catches it."

"We drilled a hole into the lowest spot in the catch pan and welded an elbow pipe fitting into it to make a drain. A length of rubber hose is attached to the elbow and exits out the wall."

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my Massey Ferguson 135 in for it because the Massey was too light to handle round bales. The Ford model had water seeping through the head gasket, but the dealer repaired it before delivery. This tractor has performed great. It's the best trade I ever made."

**Irving B. Stanton, Jr., Bedford, Va.:** "My Sears electric chain saw equipped with a 14-in. bar is my best buy. I bought it new in 1971 for \$42.79. I heat much of my home with wood, using four to five cords a year, and I've used this little saw to cut all the wood. In 30 years I've replaced the bar once, the on-off switch twice, the manual oiler lever twice, and the brushes once. I've gone through about a dozen chains, and recently I've been using a carbide chain. It's a pleasure to use this little chain saw."

**Joseph deNatale, Pittsfield, Maine:** "I recently bought a Deere 272 rear deck mower equipped with solid rubber rear caster wheels, the edge of which had a sharp angle. The problem was that whenever the caster wheels oscillated they dug up the grass. I previously owned a Deere 270 rear deck mower equipped with pneumatic, smooth tread tires that had a generous radius at the edge, and it didn't have this problem. I finally convinced the company and my local dealer to replace the rigid, square-edged tires with the pneumatic, smooth tread ones. That solved the problem."