

Farmers Nominate Best & Worst Buys

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now there's not a dealer within 120 miles of me. I have three Ford tractors and the nearest dealer doesn't stock parts for any of them. I have to order the parts and wait for them."

Rodney Dezwarde, Knoxville, Iowa: "We're mostly satisfied with our 1982 **Massey Ferguson 2640** tractor. However, we don't really care for the hydraulic clutch and brakes. They tend not to work in very cold weather or after long periods of no use. We like the way this tractor's controls are set up. Also, this tractor is easy on fuel. I don't think any tractor brand out there is built any stronger."

"They tend not to work in cold weather or after long periods of use."

Morton McBride, Ainsworth, Neb.: "Our family has had good luck with **Chevrolet S-10 Blazers**. We're on our third one now and are well satisfied with it. Over the years we've had hardly any problems with these vehicles. The V-6 engine is our favorite."

Bruce L. Terry, Hillsboro, Alabama: Bruce nominates his 1998 **New Holland 1510** compact tractor equipped with a diesel engine as his "best buy". "I use it with a 5-ft. Bush Hog finishing mower to mow my 3-acre yard. It reduced my mowing time from a half day to two hours. I've had 10 to 12 tractors over the years, but this one is the best one yet and the most fun to operate."

Collin G. Laper, Stanton, Mich.: A 1993 **Dodge** heavy-duty 3/4-ton, 4-WD pickup equipped with a Cummins diesel engine rates as Collin's "best buy". "This pickup is rugged and well-built, yet still has a good ride. The diesel engine has a lot of power and excellent fuel economy for a 3/4-ton, 4-WD pickup. I couldn't be happier with this pickup and wouldn't hesitate to buy another one."

"My 1999 **McCullough** chain saw is my worst buy. The problem is that the saw doesn't run at high enough rpm's. Also, the chain oiler plugs up at least twice per tank of fuel, which caused the chain to heat up and tighten up on the bar. It was more work to keep repairing this saw than it was to cut wood."

Raymond A. Miettinen, Republic, Mich.: "My 1996 **Ford Aerostar** extended length, 4-WD van is my best buy. Even when I'm driving it in snow or on rough roads it never spins a wheel. If I fold the seats down I can fit big 4 by 8-ft. sheets of plywood inside it. It has a front and back heater and air conditioning and is a very practical all-around van. Over the years I've owned three Aerostar models. I wish the company would start making them again."

John Rigenbach, New Martinsville, W.Va.: "I'm well pleased with my **Kuhn** disc mower. I like three things about it. One, I don't have to stop for a clogged cutterbar. Two, I don't have to wait until it's dry to mow. Three, I don't have to mow at slow speeds. Also, this mower performs perfectly on our steep hills."

Wendell Kenison, Jr., West Lebanon, N.H.: Wendell's pleased with his 2001 **Ford F-250 Super Duty** extended cab pickup. "I like the ride and also the V-10 engine, which has a lot of get-up-and-go. I've put more than

5,000 miles on this pickup, and about 4,000 of those miles have been spent pulling a 16-ft. trailer loaded with a tractor and Bush Hog mower. It's a good pickup."

Michael Atherton, Wheeler, Texas: Michael's the proud owner of a 1990 **Ford F-150** pickup. "I bought this vehicle three years ago with 150,000 miles on it and have put on another 100,000 miles. It still runs great and doesn't use any oil. I haven't had to do anything to it except for normal maintenance. I change the oil every 3,000 miles."

Mark Coulston, Eau Claire, Mich.: "My **Husqvarna 36** chain saw runs great and is my best buy. It's lightweight, starts easy, and has a lot of power. The chain goes on and off easily, and the carburetor is easy to adjust. It's my favorite saw for trimming and felling smaller trees."

Brian Saylor, Leonard, Mich.: Brian's had good luck with his 2001 **Cub Cadet 1180** tractor equipped with a V twin 18 hp Vanguard engine and a 3-blade mower deck. "The engine has a lot of power and runs smooth, and the mower cuts evenly without leaving any unmowed grass."

"My 2001 **Cub Cadet 1170** tractor equipped with a 42-in. mower deck is my worst buy. The mower did a poor job and had to be returned to the dealer four times. The deck missed a 3-in. wide path of grass about 16 in. from the right discharge side of the deck."

Larry Hein, Osceola, Iowa: "My 2000 **DESA International** Redely propane heater is my best buy. I use it to thaw frozen water lines during the winter. I had been using a kerosene model which had no temperature control and always left an odor. This propane model is equipped with a high and low temperature control. It doesn't leave an odor, burns clean, and is smaller in size. It always starts up the first time. I can use a small 20-lb. gas bottle or a bigger one. If this heater was used in a closed building I'd recommend using a carbon monoxide monitor."

Wimpy Schmidt, Marietta, Minn.: "I'm well into my 80's so I've had a lot of best buys over the past 60 years. My first new vehicle was a 1947 **Studebaker** pickup that looked much like the restored one shown in



the photo. Over the years I owned several Studebaker pickups and put more than 200,000 miles on many of them.

"My 1947 **Case VAC** tractor has had a couple of valve jobs but has never been



overhauled. I still use it a lot. My 1954 **Ford Major** diesel tractor from England has more than 20,000 hours on it and ran like new until a few weeks ago, when a crankshaft broke. My 1949 **Chevrolet** light duty pickup has more than 450,000 miles on it. My 1956

Corn Champ Credits "Mini Moldboards"

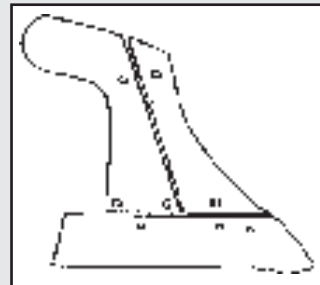
After once again winning the national corn growing contest with 408 bu. per acre, Francis Childs, Manchester, Iowa, said fighting soil compaction is a main ingredient in his recipe for success. He told the weekly farm newspaper, *Agri-View*, that one thing that helps fight compaction are "mini moldboard" plows made by Wiese Corp. (1501 5th St., Box 39, Perry, Iowa 50220 ph 800 568-4391).

"Mini moldboards" replace the existing moldboards on a moldboard plow. Francis describes the mini moldboard bottoms as looking like regular bottoms, but with two-thirds of each moldboard missing.

Mini moldboards leave 40 to 50 percent crop residue on the soil surface, which Childs resides on some of his ground because it's classed as highly erodible. He plows 12 to 14 in. deep.

"The first year where I plowed deep with the mini moldboard, the corn yielded 45 bushels higher than anyplace else. That same year, one of my plots for the Iowa Masters corn growers contest yielded 33 bushels higher."

Wiese company spokesman Gary Becker says mini moldboards have been on the market for about 10 years, and interest has picked up in recent years. "They retain the advantages of conventional moldboard plows, but leave more trash on top to help stop water and wind erosion. One big



"Mini moldboards" leave more trash on top than conventional moldboards, helping to reduce water and wind erosion.

advantage is that it loosens and fractures soil for easier water penetration. It also allows deeper penetration into the hardpan. It penetrates about 14 in. deep into the soil compared to 10 in. for most moldboard plows. It tills deeper and fractures the soil better than a chisel plow, and it mixes soil better than a deep ripper.

"Unlike a conventional moldboard, our mini moldboards don't turn over all the soil, which is why 40 to 50 percent of the residue is left on the surface. We offer models designed to fit most major brands of moldboard plows."

The company says it costs about \$375 to retrofit a 7-bottom plow with the mini moldboards.

International 2 1/2-ton truck has about 654,000 miles on it but the engine still runs good. I used this truck for many years to deliver newspapers. Now I'm driving a little **Audi** diesel car with more than 300,000 miles on it.

"I think one reason my vehicles last so long is that I use only 10 weight oil in all of them. My theory is that as long as an engine runs tight it doesn't need any heavier oil. Also, whenever I start an engine I always let it warm up slowly. If you start an engine up and put it under heavy pressure right away, the pistons will expand faster than the block and things will run a little too tight. Before I shut an engine off I let it run a while so the engine cools equally between the pistons and walls."

Norman W. Loy, Cottonwood, Ala.: Norman's happy with his 1991 **Chevrolet S-10** pickup equipped with a 2.8-liter, V-6 engine. "This pickup has more than 237,000 miles on it. I've used it to haul large loads of firewood and to haul produce from Alabama to Michigan and back. I've also used it to pull a 17-ft. boat trailer, and have done numerous other chores with it. It has never needed a front-end alignment, and the engine still doesn't use any oil. It gets 33 mpg on trips pulling a load. The only repairs I've had to make were to replace a clutch and a water pump."

Johnny Sanders, Lampasas, Texas: "My 2000 **DeWalt** sliding miter saw is an excellent product. It operates smooth, has a lot of power for cutting through hard wood, and cuts angles accurately."

Melvin E. Brown, Haviland, Kansas: "I'm satisfied with my 1993 **Deere 4960** tractor. It has 7,960 hours on it and has required few repairs."

Herman Thomason, Collinsville, Okla.: Herman's impressed with his **New Idea 5410** disc mower. "It'll cut right through grass so

rank and thick that I can hardly tell where to drive, even when the grass is damp from dew. It has no trouble cutting through Bermudagrass. I haven't had any problems with it."

Larry L. Feese, Kincaid, Kansas: Larry bought a 1982 **Deere 4640** tractor used with 2,500 hours on it and says it's his "best buy". "It has a lot of power and is easy to service. This tractor doesn't have a lot of electronic gadgets on it, and I like that."

David A. Surprenant, Manteno, Ill.: "It's the toughest, easiest handling utility tractor I've ever owned," says David about his 1999 **Massey Ferguson 4245** tractor equipped with front wheel assist and a **Massey Ferguson 1038** front-end loader. "This tractor has a high visibility hood that works great for loader work. The loader is built like a Sherman tank and is easy to remove. All controls on this tractor are within easy reach. Also, it's fuel efficient."

Anthony Thilmoney, Valley City, N. Dak.: Anthony nominates his **MacDon 972** header as his "best buy". "I use it to harvest small grains and soybeans and it has performed beyond my expectations. It makes harvesting crops an enjoyable experience. The only problem I had was with the float optimizer or header height control. I contacted the company and they sent three people down from Winnipeg. They spent an entire morning working on the problem until they got it fixed. I wish all equipment companies would stand behind their equipment like this one does."

Mark Alberts, Gothenburg, Neb.: "Our two **Demco 550** gravity wagons are our best buys. These wagons allow us to dump grain into an auger or pit.

"Our **Westfield 71** by 10-ft. grain auger equipped with a swingaway hopper and hydraulic lift is a best buy. It's a nice machine."

Mark says he's disappointed with the