

Farmers Nominate Best & Worst Buys

(Continued from previous page)

tor equipped with a 30 hp engine and power steering (O' Bryan Implement Sales, 5th St. and Crabtree Ave., Owensboro, Ky. 42301 ph 800 427-3299 or 270 684-1741 or 1749). I don't know why these tractors aren't more popular."

Marvin Steffen, White Lake, S. Dak.: Marvin says his 1999 **Kawasaki** Prairie 300 ATV is his "best buy". "I like the automatic transmission for doing spot spraying and for driving cattle."

Ernie J. Mertz, Bowdle, S. Dak.: "My 1999 **Haybuster** bale processor is easy to operate and requires little maintenance. It really does a good job of processing hay. The cows clean it all up.

"My 1999 **Case-IH** 1590 mower conditioner is my worst buy. The auger was too small to move heavy hay crops across the platform, which caused the machine to plug up a lot."

Glen Schnegg, Powhatan Point, Ohio: "It's one of the best purchases I've ever made," says Glen, happy with his 2000 **Honda** 450S ATV. "It takes most of the work out of routine farm chores and even makes me look forward to doing them. No problems so far. I've even used it to pull 24-in. dia., 7-ft. logs."

Brian I. Lesiuk, Gilbert Plains, Manitoba: "My 1993 **Case-IH** 7130 Magnum is a great tractor. It has a lot of power and a great all-around view from the seat. It's also fuel efficient - I can work more than 220 acres on a tank of fuel while pulling a 32-ft. air seeder equipped with a 155-bu. seed tank and going 5 1/2 mph. It has been in the shop only once for a factory recall on the pto."

Larry Poole, Summerfield, N.C.: "My 1994 **Kubota** 7030 4-WD tractor is my best buy. Not a single breakdown after 1,800 hours of hard use."

Gene D. Zimmerman, Fox Lake, Wis.: "My **Deutz** 7206 and 7085 tractors are dependable and easy to operate. They're also super fuel efficient.

"My **Krone** 125 round baler is easy to use and makes great bales. It can bale just about anything including wheat straw, bean straw, and corn stalks without missing a beat.

"My **Deere** F525 front-mount lawn mower is a big disappointment. It looks like a Deere but runs like a John. It was worn out after

"Three different dealers tried to fix it without success. We finally traded it in."

only one year, even though we use it on less than a half acre of grass. It was difficult and expensive to fix. Three different dealers tried to fix it without success. We finally traded it in.

"My **FarmWork** computer software was a nightmare to install and technical support from the company was poor. It was a real disappointment."

Donald Klein, Liberty, Ind.: "My 2000 **Chevrolet** Silverado 1500 4-WD handles well and has a good ride. It's been trouble-free. I like the roomy cab. I installed running boards on it as well as a spray-on bed liner.

"I like my **Great Bend** front-end loader,

which I use on my **Deere** 2750 tractor equipped with a cab."

Allen Derrer, Lanark, Ill.: "I bought my 1978 **Deere** 4240 tractor used when it was seven years old and it's my best buy. It has more than 9,200 hours on it. The only major repairs have been to the crank bearings and ring pump. This tractor seems to have more power now than when it was new.

"My 1978 **Ford** F-250 4-WD pickup equipped with a 351 cu. in. engine is a best buy. I bought it used when it was two years old. It has more than 210,000 hard miles on it and the engine has never been overhauled.

"I bought my 1990 **Ford** F-150 4-WD pickup used when it was six years old and it's my worst buy. The pickup's 302 cu. in. engine is underpowered, even though it has electronic fuel injection and this a lighter truck. It used more fuel and had more problems than my 1978 Ford F-250. I finally replaced it with a 1994 **Chevrolet** equipped with a 350 cu. in. engine. This model has much better performance and economy."

Lloyd Kentner, Rossville, Ill.: "My 2000 **Homelite** 145 string trimmer is lightweight, dependable, and does a good job of mowing. The price was right and it has a good warranty. It comes with a double string head that also works good."

Miles Filer, Vandalia, Ill.: "My 1994 **Woods** 5200 zero turn lawn mower equipped with a 20 hp Kohler engine is my best buy. I bought it used two years ago when I traded in a 10-year-old Woods mower that had only 250 hours on it. The front-mount zero turn feature on this model is much more maneuverable than on other zero turn models."

John A. Ochs, Newton, Ill.: "I'm happy with my two **International** tractors - an 826 and a 1086. The 826 has about 8,000 hours on it but still has the original rear wheel bearings and clutch. The 1086 had the clutch and rear wheel bearings replaced when the tractor had less than 2,700 hours."

Lloyd Conrad, Greenfield, Wis.: "We had **U.S. Steel** siding and insulation installed in 1982 over our home, which had clapboard siding. During the summer of 1998 the steel siding began to flake and chip in certain areas, which seemed to indicate an area of one bundle or square. We were told to contact a company called Alside as they had taken over the company that manufactured the steel siding. We inquired of this company as to what we should do to try and keep the problem from spreading. A number of form letters went back and forth to this company as to cost, date of installation, position of the home as to facing north, south, east or west. We also sent them 10 photos taken from all angles of the structure.

"The original contractor was no longer in business. Our inquiry evidently never got past the office help. We weren't trying to get them to replace the siding, but wanted information on what we could do to correct the problem. All they did was express their regrets.

"We purchased a **Snapper** 30-in. riding mower in 1967 to mow our 3-acre orchard. We were limited in height and width dimensions so we had to settle for the 30-in. mowing width. Over the years we've installed three engines, but the mower is still going strong. We prefer to operate this old mower over a newly purchased one because it lets us go from forward to reverse with no problems.

"Once we got all the bugs out of our 1987

Chevrolet 1500 pickup it turned out to be a strong, dependable vehicle. The problem was a missing lock washer on the part that connects the steering rod to the gear that turns the steering arm. It was one of the models that GM tried to build without putting any grease fittings on the suspension ball joints."

Doyal Wynn, Rutledge, Tenn.: "My 1999 **Vermeer** 504-I round baler makes good, tight bales that are easy to start."

Don Siefert, Bennet, Neb.: Don's impressed with his 1998 **Gleaner** R5 combine equipped with a liquid-cooled engine. "It has excellent capacity for a mid-sized combine and does a good job threshing and separating corn, beans, and grain sorghum. The only problem we had was when a pin fell out of a

"It has excellent capacity for a mid-sized combine and does a good job of threshing and separating."

connecting link in the clean grain elevator chain. The engine has a lot of power and runs cool.

"We use a **Crary** air reel on the combine when harvesting soybeans and it works great. It blows air onto the sickle bar and sends shattered beans into the machine, keeping any short beans from bunching up over the sicklebar. As a result, the crop feeds in evenly."

Owen Matt, Charlo, Montana: "My 2000 **Remington** electric chainsaw is my worst buy. After one hour of light use the plastic case broke into three pieces. We plan to replace it with another saw this summer, probably a Sears Craftsman."

Harley Green, Ulen, Minn.: Harley says his best buy of all time is his 1956 **Allis-Chalmers** WD-45 tractor which he bought used 15 years ago. "I think it has more than 15,000 hours on it. It never fails to start and hasn't required any repairs. It's made simple and is easy to maintain. I use mounted implements with it including a sickle mower, loader, rear blade, cultivator, side delivery rake, plow, etc."

Milton Nesiba, Ravenna, Neb.: "We like the **Morton** building we put up in 1992.

"Also, our **Makita** 4-in. grinder is handy to use and built tough and is a best buy."

Paul J. Bennett, Sr., Toddville, Iowa: Paul's the owner of a 2001 **Dodge** Ram 1500 4-WD Quad Cab pickup. "I ordered a 2000 model but they sent me a 2001 model. I ordered it December 3, 1999 and received it January 21, 2000. I didn't know pickup manufacturers introduced new models a year ahead of time. I've driven it a little more than 12,000 miles and I like it a lot. The Quad Cab leather seats and 4-WD are nice. No problems."

Mahlon Nepp, Lake Wilson, Minn.: Mahlon likes the long-lasting sickle sections he purchased from **S.I. Distributing, Inc.**, (03221 Barber-Werner Road, St. Marys, Ohio 45885). The sections are hardened all the way through, not just on the surface. "We've totally replaced the sections on our self-propelled swather (four years ago), 8-ft. bean head (three years ago), and 7-ft. International mower (two years ago). They cut well and are built tough. So far we've had to replace only one guard and two sections.

They cost more than conventional sickles but the extra cost is well worth it."

Marilyn Hefti, Marshall, Minn.: "My best buy is my 1999 **Plymouth** Voyager car. I have more than 20,000 miles on it with no problems. This car is easy to get in and out of and is a pleasure to drive."

Leon C. Regier, Grant, Neb.: Leon nominates his 2000 **Besler** Stalker stalk cutter as his "best buy". "The machine quickly prepares ridges for planting by cutting the root crowns at ground level for easy, smooth planting on the ridge. I can often use it at 8 mph. On any 70 degree day I can do 130 acres in an afternoon before the rush of planting, and it still uses very little fuel."

Ed Staudt, Vibank, Sask.: "One of our best buys was a used 1979 **GM** Brigadier tandem diesel truck equipped with an automatic transmission and 20-ft. grain box. It's easy to operate - anyone can drive it.

"Our worst buy was a **Flexi-Coil** 820 cultivator. We bought the cultivator new along with a new Flexi-Coil 1720 air tank in the fall of 1994 for use in seeding the following year. We traded in an Eclipse 700 cultivator equipped with a 1110 air tank.

"When we started seeding peas with the unit, we found right away that the machine wasn't planting at a uniform depth. Seed depth ranged from 0 to 5 in. all across the machine. We stopped seeding and contacted our dealer, who in turn contacted the company. After numerous attempts over a 4-year period by the combined forces of the specialists of both New Holland and Flexi-Coil, the machine was finally made to seed fairly level. However, due to the uneven seeding depth of the machine, we suffered a tremendous crop loss and consequently a large financial loss as well, on 200 plus seeded acreage.

"Rather than taking responsibility for the loss we suffered, the company chooses to attack my farming practices and my own lack of ability to level the machine, even though the specialists of both the dealer and manufacturer were unable to do so. The company also stated that if the machine wasn't satisfactory I should have bought a replacement machine.

"We feel it's the responsibility of the dealer and manufacturer to be sure that the machines they sell do the job that it was meant to do, and that the responsibility of making the initial settings should be done by the dealer and manufacturer experts. We also feel that it's very unfair to expect us to do things that the specialized factory and dealer personnel can't do. I'd like to hear from anyone with a similar experience or any comments regarding our situation."

James Thomas, Lacey's Spring, Alabama: "My **Massey Ferguson** 362 tractor and front-end loader is my best buy. It's versatile and comfortable to use. No problems after 500 hours of use. It does a lot of work without using a lot of fuel.

"My **Long** 2610 tractor is my worst buy. The first month the alternator and voltage regulator had to be replaced. Then four months later a noise developed in the rear end. When I drained the gearcase to look for metal particulates, the pin that retrains the spider gear assembly fell out. It was in the shop for 30 more days. The dealer wanted to charge for warranted repairs since I had not purchased the tractor from him."

Marlin Wahrman, Atwood, Kansas: "It's the best pickup I've ever owned," says