

Farmers Nominate Best & Worst Buys

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with more than 2,200 hours on it. It now has about 6,700 hours on it with virtually no major repairs - just routine maintenance. It doesn't use any oil and is one of the most dependable tractors we own."

James Skelton, Wauneta, Neb.: James likes his 1992 **Honda** Fourtrax 300 ATV which he bought used. "We put over 8,000 miles per year on our ATV's and this one is tough - tougher than my Yamaha. It does leak some oil, but it has stood up well."

On the "worst buy" side, he lists his 1999 **Crustbuster** 4000 All-Plant grain drill. "We used it to plant corn in narrow rows and had problems getting the population set right. The factory rep couldn't help, and no one seemed to have any answers to our questions. It has a totally inadequate fertilizer application system. It's hard being the first one to try to perfect something."

Donald E. Hoffart, Plainview, Neb.: "My 1999 **New Holland** 1530 loader tractor is my best buy. The power steering works great, even with a load in the bucket. It has a 3-speed hydrostatic transmission which works good for my tiling business. It's equipped with a rocker front axle so it turns very short."

Allyn Warkentin, McLoud, Okla.: Allyn says he's "generally satisfied" with his 1991 **GM** Sonoma extended cab pickup equipped with a 4.3-liter V-6 engine and 5-speed transmission. "It has adequate power and is reasonably fuel efficient. I do have a few complaints. The instrument and control layout is poorly designed. For example, the fuel gauge swings right toward empty, you have to put the heater control in the down position to turn it off, and the hood pull and brake release knobs are both horizontal and located too close to each other. It has Firestone air-adjustable helper springs from J.C. Whitney, which caused such a rough ride - even without any air in them - that we had to remove them."

Paul Bamesberger, Twin Falls, Idaho: "I like my **Miller** 300/200 AC/DC welder. It has more DC power than others in its class and performs well."

"My **Delta** crossbed toolbox is my worst buy. The latch on it broke after about two weeks and the dealer wouldn't do anything about it. I e-mailed the company but got no response."

"**Farm Works** software is also a worst buy. It's expensive and hard to set up. Once you've made a mistake there's no way to correct it."

Larry Don Dewey, Medford, Okla.: Larry's impressed with his 1999 **Ford** F-250 Super Duty extended cab, shortbed pickup equipped with a diesel engine and 6-speed manual transmission. "I like the way it handles. The diesel engine has a lot of power and is economical to operate. The cab offers a good view and the four doors are handy for passengers. However, I'm disappointed with all the wind noise in the cab. My 1992 **Ford** pickup is much quieter."

"My worst buy is my 2000 **Miller**matic 250X wire welder equipped with gauges. I'm very disappointed with it. We have an old **Miller**matic 200 that has been trouble-free. The spool of wire on the 250 won't turn freely. The problem is that it catches on a bolt head that should have been countersunk. The factory sent me a kit to correct the problem. The voltage varies whenever I try to weld. It's either hot or cold and won't hold an arc. The voltage and wire feed charts are

located on the inside of the door so every time you want to check the settings you have to open the door. The charts should be on the outside of the door. Also, the 200 model does a much smoother job of welding than this one."

Leo Horn, Weeping Water, Neb.: "My 1998 **Deere** 8300 and 7410 tractors are both a pleasure to operate."

"I'm disappointed with all the wind noise in the cab."

Edward Ketter, Tipton, Kan.: "I like my 1998 **Honda** Foreman 4-wheel ATV. I use it for spraying crops, checking on cattle, and driving and feeding them. It'll go practically anywhere and has been trouble-free. I've already put 3,000 miles on it."

David Yocom, Walnut Grove, Mo.: "Our worst buy is our 1998 **Tree Terminator** tree cutter designed to mount on front of a skid steer loader. We used it only a few months before we had to take it back for repairs on the bushings. The problem was that the blades weren't matching up. After we got it back we used it only for a few hours before the same problem happened again. After several attempts at correcting the problem they finally just welded the pins solid. Now the warranty has expired and we're still having problems."

"My 1996 **Bush Hog** 2615 Legend mower is my best buy. I use it to do more than 500 hours of custom work every summer and haven't had any problems with it at all. I liked it so well I bought my wife a 9-ft. **Bush Hog** 3209 model so she can help me. I'd recommend this company's products to anyone."

Bill Dykes, Granton, Ontario: A mid 1990's **Haybuster** Rock-Eze rock picker rates as Bill's "best buy". "This machine runs off tractor hydraulics and works great behind a small tractor. I use a series IV D17 **Allis-Chalmers** tractor to pull it. I use it mostly to 'spot pick' rocks in the field. It combs the surface without tearing the seeds out of the ground so we can use it after the crop is planted. I wouldn't want to farm without it."

"We're well pleased with our 1997 **Ford** F-150 4-WD pickup. It rides good and handles great and has been trouble-free. It rides so nice that my wife and kids often drive it instead of our car. We especially like the 'shift-on-the-fly' 4-WD engagement option."

Ed Bleam, Leavenworth, Kan.: "My **Ford New Holland** TS 110 4-WD tractor equipped with a front-end loader works well. It'll go almost anywhere with all four wheels pulling. In the past, we usually had to mount chains on our tractor tires in the winter just to get anywhere. It rides easy and the hydraulic brakes and clutch work great."

Myles Elsberry, Wausau, Neb.: Myles is the satisfied owner of a **Dixon** 427 zero turn riding mower equipped with a 42-in. deck. "We've used it to mow lawns on two farm places for the last five years and also to mow six lots in town for the last seven years. All we've had to do is change the oil, put in new spark plugs, and replace one battery. We also put in new blades. It's still going strong."

"I own a pickup that's made to burn E-85 fuel. The nearest place to purchase it is 70 miles away, even though I live right in the heart of corn country and there are ethanol

plants in our area. We're not out in the sticks - we live 30 miles from two cities and travel to them three or four times a week. Yet no one in either city sells E-85 fuel."

Wilbur Larason, Mercer, Mo.: Wilbur owns a 2001 **Polaris** 4-WD Sportsman 500 ATV equipped with 'super swamper' Vampire tires. "I really like this machine. The tires are super. It rides good and is easy to maneuver. It's a good all-around machine."

Stanley Greathouse, Johnsonville, Ill.: "I'm pleased with my **Case-IH** 3594 front wheel assist tractor. It has a lot of power and has been an excellent tractor."

"I like my **Gravelly** Promaster 260 riding mower. It's equipped with a 60-in. deck and is powered by a 25 hp Kohler gas engine. It's a great mower."

Jerry L. Berry, Chadron, Neb.: "I like my **New Holland** 664 round baler. All I have to do is put twine in and start baling."

Gene Rupp, Mountainburg, Ark.: "A 1987 **Kubota** B-8200 4-WD tractor rates as Gene's "best buy". "It's an excellent tractor that now has more than 2,700 hours on it. I've only replaced a fan belt and two sets of front tires. I wouldn't trade it for a brand new one."

"My **Troy-Bilt** rear-tined tiller is my worst buy. It works good in sand or fine soil, but if there are any rocks in the soil it's dangerous to operate. A **Mantis** tiller will outperform it 10 to 1 and is also safer to use."

B.N. Stovall, Pampa, Texas: "My 1996 **Case-IH** 7220 is the best tractor I've owned yet. It has more than 2,500 trouble-free hours on it. It has a lot of power and is economical to operate and comfortable to drive."

Haskell W. Carr, Twin Falls, Idaho: "My 1991 **Kawasaki** 250 Bayou ATV, which I bought used, is my best buy. I use it for checking on our irrigation system and for repairing fences, spraying crops, and a lot of other farm jobs. It's dependable and starts easy. I'm 77 years old and ride it side saddle, which makes it easy to get on and off."

Mark Lamon, La Coste, Texas: Mark nominates his 1997 **Deere** 7610 MFWD tractor as his "best buy". "It has a quiet cab, is easy on fuel, and pulls well for a 115 hp tractor. It has high capacity hydraulics and is a good all-around tractor for our row crop operation. It replaced a **Deere** 4240 which lasted 10,000 hours and was also a best buy."

Lewellen Nielsen, Osceola, Neb.: Lewellen's happy with his 1981 **International** 1460 Axial Flow combine. "This combine is well designed and easy to set for a clean threshing sample. It's also easy to work on. It has very few moving parts on it compared to other makes. It has an excellent cab. There's never any dust coming out of the cylinder down to the feederhouse."

On the "worst buy" side, "I had part ownership in a **Deere** 7720 combine. There's not enough pages in **FARM SHOW** to tell your readers about all the problems and headaches this machine caused me. My repair bills ran \$3,000 to \$7,000 a year. The **International** combine we own now has only cost \$400 to \$700 a year in repairs."

Rudy Neubauer, Chapman, Kan.: "I bought my 1988 **Ford** F-150 4-WD pickup used. I had to make some repairs to the engine and front end. Otherwise, this pickup has worked great. It has well more than 100,000 miles on it."

Ralph Riemensnider, Iberia, Mo.: "I bought my 1994 **Deere** 7200 tractor used two years ago with 2,000 hours on it and have

since put 800 trouble-free hours on it. The cab offers a great view and is roomy and soundproof. The tractor has great hydraulics and the Power Quad transmission is a pleasure to use. Also, the air seat is really comfortable."

Walter D. Graham, Pella, Iowa: "I like my **E-Z Trail** gravity wagon. It pulls easy in the field, trails nice down the road, and is easy to unload. I wish I had two more wagons just like it. It holds 230 bu. of shelled corn."

"I'm happy with my **Deere** four-section harrow. I like the way it harrows plowed ground and bean ground. I use my old **International** Farmall M tractor to pull it at about 6 mph. It has nice long teeth on it."

"Another best buy is my 1948 **Farmall** M tractor equipped with a diesel engine. I bought it in 1994 and completely restored it. It has been in many parades and shows. I demonstrated it with an old Bear Cat grinder at the World Expo of antique machinery last year in Ankeny, Iowa. I've had many offers from people who want to buy it, but it's not for sale."

Rick Danielson, Boardman, Ore.: "It's the most powerful and economical pickup I've ever owned," says Rick about his 1996 **Ford** F-350 crew cab 4-WD pickup. It's equipped with a turbocharged diesel engine and 5-speed transmission. "It averages 17 mpg and can get up to 20 mpg. I owned a 1989 **Ford** F-250 equipped with a diesel engine that had no turbocharger, and it had far less power than this model. The only thing I don't like about this truck is that it's fitted with Firestone tires. We had four or five flat tires during the first 16,000 miles alone."

Alexander L. Thomson, Woodbury, Ct.: "My 1975 **Deere** 336 small square baler, which I bought used, is my best buy. It combines excellent capacity with low horsepower requirements. Although the

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pickup on this baler isn't as wide as on newer machines, it can fit through narrow gate openings and shop doors, etc. I bought the baler when it was just a year old. The first year I made 6,000 bales and every one was tied right."

Lee Vander Velden, Suamico, Wis.: "I bought my 1991 **Gehl** 4610 skid steer loader equipped with a diesel engine just six months ago and it's my best buy. It starts great in cold weather. The hand controls are easy to operate once you get used to them. I like the controls better than the ones on the **Bobcat** I used to have. It has standard self-leveling which works great for pallet work. The only negative is that I've been told that engine parts for it will be expensive."

"My 1995 **Brillion** field cultivator is my worst buy. So far I've only used it on seven acres but it seems to pull harder than the **Deere** model it replaced, which was 2 ft. wider. Resetting the depth is more of a pain, with four settings instead of one on the **Deere** model I had been using. However, it handles trash well so I may learn to like it."

James Wiltshire, Baskin, La.: "I like my 1998 **Dodge** 2500 pickup equipped with a 360 cu. in. engine and automatic