

Farmers Nominate Best & Worst Buys

transmission. It gets 19 mpg and has a quiet, comfortable cab. It can pull a cotton trailer weighing 34,000 lbs. when loaded. Not a single problem of any kind."

Alvin Wagler, Millbank, Ontario: "I bought my **Massey Ferguson 8160 4-WD** tractor two years ago with 80 hours on it. It's my best buy. It has a lot of power, handles nice, and is fuel efficient. The 32-speed Dyna Shift transmission offers a lot of speed ranges, which really works great when pulling pto-operated forage harvesters, etc. Also, this tractor has good hydraulics and a good 3-pt. system.

"I'm happy with my **Case-IH 2500 6-shank Eco-Til** deep ripper. I use it to open up the soil and break up hard pan."

George Pot, Smithville, Ontario: "It's a good looking tractor with a roomy cab and good visibility," says George, pleased with his 1998 **Zetor 105-40** tractor. "It rides nice and handles like a Cadillac. It's a no gimmicks, straight forward tractor with a 3-speed power shift transmission. It's also fuel efficient and uses only two gallons per hour while pulling a 5-bottom plow. I was so impressed with it that I recently bought a second model.

"My worst buy is the **Deere** harrow attachment I mounted on my disk. The problem was that the teeth kept breaking. I used it for only one spring. I finally took it off the disk and threw it away.

"I've been using my **Deere 165** riding mower for 14 years and it still looks like new. No problems."

W.B. Bill Harney, Jr., Robstown, Texas: He's the satisfied owner of a 1994 **GM 1500** pickup equipped with a V-6 engine and 5-speed manual transmission. "I bought it used with 23,000 miles on it and it now has more than 88,000 miles. It's a 'plain vanilla' pickup, but it runs good and is fuel efficient. I can pull a 1,000-gal. nurse tank with it. I replaced the battery and relined the brakes and also put on new tires at 80,000 miles. Otherwise it has required only routine maintenance.

"My 1991 **Chevrolet** Caprice Classic 4-door sedan has had a lot of problems. The Bose radio system quit and no one was able to fix it. The rear electric windows won't stay up. The fuel tank broke. The speedometer had to be replaced and then the fuel gauge and odometer became inaccurate. The windshield cracked twice while I was crossing uneven ground, and the alternator had to be replaced. Also, whenever I turn sharp the tires raise the car body up."

"The windshield cracked twice when I was crossing uneven ground."

Robert Collins, Tillsonburg, Ontario: "I'm well satisfied with my 1997 **Chevrolet** Silverado extended cab pickup. It performs good and is fuel efficient. The extended cab is really handy for our family."

J.D. Fisher, Dauphin, Manitoba: "I'm well pleased with my **Ariens** riding mower equipped with an 8 hp Briggs & Stratton electric start gas engine. I can mow about twice as fast with it as I could with my previous model and use it about an hour a day during the spring and summer. The only

problems I've had were due to sloppy assembly rather than bad design. The bearing on the blade spindle failed after about a year. However, I was able to find what was wrong and fix it.

"This mower has a variable drive transmission which allows me to go from a crawl to faster than I'd want to mow. Most of the time I run it at about mid range. Both sides of the deck have a spring-loaded, flip-up deflector which I can hold up with my foot in order to mow close to trees and shrubs, etc. It greatly reduces the need for trimming."

David Vlietstra, Kalamazoo, Mich.: "My 1973 **Deere 4430** tractor has almost 10,000 hours on it, and the only repair we've had to make was 10 years ago when we replaced a gear on the injector pump. We use it every day and it still has as much power as when it was new. My only complaint is that it starts hard in cold weather.

"Our 1998 **Deere 945 13-ft. disc** mower does a beautiful job of mowing. We average 60 acres a day with it and it requires very little maintenance. One complaint - I wish the company would stick with either American or metric bolts - not both."

W.R. Greear, Riner, Va.: "My 1979 **Ford F-350** pickup has more than 240,000 miles on it and is my best buy. I've used it to pull a gooseneck stock trailer and to slip a sprayer on the bed so I could spray corn and alfalfa. I also use it for day-to-day chores around the farm. We repowered it with a 460 cu. in. engine. Now it has a lot of power but isn't real fuel efficient. We made our own flatbed after the original one rusted out. It works good."

Jack Rudolph, Grafton, Ill.: "I like my 1991 **Ford** Ranger pickup equipped with a 4.0-liter, V-6 engine and 5-speed transmission. It has more than 157,000 miles and has required very little maintenance. I use it often to pull a 16-ft. trailer loaded with antique gas engines. No problems."

James M. Goodwin, New Hill, N.C.: "My 1999 **Land Pride 3-pt.** mounted, 6-ft. finishing mower is my best buy. It's an 'air tunnel' model that has a lot of suction at the blades. It really cuts good and blows cut grass out from the deck. It's well made. A single belt drives all three blades.

"My 2000 **Land Pride 6-ft. box** blade is also well made. It has seven adjustable ripping shanks. It has an optional hinged backfill blade that does a good job of leveling dirt and really digs into the soil. I like this company's equipment."

Ohol Bros, Lockport, N.Y.: "We're well pleased with our 1999 **Knight 8024** Slinger manure spreader. We can control how thick the manure gets spread just by opening or closing the gate. There are no apron chains to break.

"We're disappointed with our 1996 **Deere 1600A** haybine. It doesn't seem to have as much capacity as it should. Also, the roller chain that drives the auger and crimping rollers keeps breaking."

Gary G. Schave, Port Hope, Mich.: Gary nominates his **AGCO 5650** Allis Chalmers tractor equipped with a **Quicke 310** front-end loader as his "best buy". It has been trouble-free and is a pleasure to drive and operate. It's a much better tractor than the **Deere 2240** it replaced."

On the "worst buy" side, he lists his **Belarus 925** tractor. "We bought it used in 1998 with only 243 hours on it. It has had a lot of minor breakdowns. It isn't a very

dependable tractor."

Louis Klusinske, Wild Rose, Wis.: Louis is impressed with his 1993 **Murray 38-in.** riding mower equipped with a 12 hp Briggs & Stratton electric start gas engine. "It's been the most trouble-free mower I've ever owned. It always starts. I have a large 1 1/2-acre lawn so I use it a lot. My only maintenance costs have been for new blades and a new battery. The only problem is that it's a bit noisy. I have to wear ear protection."

Jim Hulbert, Iroquois, S. Dak.: "The biggest time saver I've purchased recently is my **Lincoln 12-volt** battery-powered grease gun. It has plenty of power for handling hard-to-grease zerks. It doesn't weigh much so it's easy to handle, and the long hose can easily reach high places."

Wayne Newbill, Meridian, Idaho: "I'm not in the market for a new pickup. I think this one should last another 40 years or so," says Wayne, still happy with his 1957 **Chevrolet 3100** pickup. "I farm full time and this is my daily ride. It's very reliable and



handles everything from checking irrigation to hauling seed. I replaced the original rear end with one from a Camaro to run better at highway speeds. I also installed an electric windshield wiper motor to replace the vacuum-operated wipers and installed a diamond plate bed floor because I got tired of replacing the wood. I also added a sliding rear window from Vintage Auto."

Charles L. Krieg, Shelby, Mo.: "My best buy is my 1998 **Deere 1560** grain drill. It works great in no-till or conventional tillage. This drill is easy to adjust and places seed at a uniform depth. I like the 50-bu. seed box. No problems."

Bill Albert, Smithboro, Ill.: "I'm well satisfied with my 1998 **Deere 455** riding mower. My wife loves to mow the lawn and won't use anything other than Deere."

Larry Harr, Stuttgart, Ark.: "My best buy is my 1999 **Yamaha** Grizzly 4-wheel ATV. It turns short and handles better than a lot of smaller 4-wheelers on the market. It has high ground clearance so it'll really go through mud. I really like being able to kick into 4-WD at the push of a button. However, the automatic transmission is what really sold me on this machine. It has been trouble-free during the 1,300 miles I've driven the machine. The gearshift works easy so my wife can drive it, too.

"My all-time best buy is my 1979 **International 1460** rice combine. It has been almost trouble-free and is a pleasure to operate. It does a good job on our rice, wheat, and soybeans. Every year after we're done combining we go through the machine so we seldom have breakdowns during harvest. The best features of this machine are that it doesn't have many parts to replace and it's easy to work on."

J.W. Moretz, Abingdon, Va.: A 1999 **Kubota 4700** tractor equipped with a Bush Hog front-end loader rates as his "best buy". "It outperforms any tractor I've ever owned. The hydraulics work great. Also, it's fuel efficient. It has a 5-cyl. diesel engine that has

a lot of power."

Charles Bury, Milbank, S. Dak.: "We bought our 1995 **Deere 8770** tractor used last year, and so far it's worked out great. It's comfortable to drive, although we've had some problems with wheel hop. The air conditioner didn't work properly but the dealer promptly took care of the problem."

Dorse Childers, Esbon, Kan.: Dorse is impressed with his 1982 **New Holland 851** baler which he bought used 1 1/2 years ago. "I like the automatic tie system and how it starts the bale without any problems. I can see inside the baler when it's baling so he can drive to make a full bale on both ends."

Tim Bishop, Queenstown, Md.: Tim likes his 2000 **GM 2500 4-WD 4-door** extended cab pickup. "I really like the cab. It offers great access for extra passengers and is handy for keeping things inside out of the rain or snow. The engine has a lot of power and is fuel efficient. It has a push button 4-WD engagement switch which has saved me more than once in off-road conditions.

"My **Computrol II** planter monitor with hydraulic seed drive is a best buy (Fulk Planting Services, Platte City, Mo. ph 816 858-5836). I installed it on my **Deere 1750** vacuum corn planter and got the best seed spacing I've ever had. The push button-operated, hydraulic population control is a great feature for varying soil types and for contest fields. I like how it displays the actual - not average - seed spacing to within 1/4 in. on the monitor screen. It's a must if you plant corn and soybeans because it lets you adjust the planter to get the correct spacing before the crop emerges."

Clarence Davenport, Callaway, Neb.: "I'm happy with my 2000 **Lilliston** row crop cultivator. It has two gangs of rotating spiders that run on an angle, tearing the weeds out by the roots and feathering the soil gently in around the plants. It works better than wide sweep cultivators which often let the weeds regrow. However, the spiders can plug up if you have muddy areas in heavy soils."

George Schneider, Oakland, Calif.: "My 1985 **Toyota 4-WD** longbed pickup equipped with a standard cab is my best buy. It went 200,000 miles on the same engine, which was never overhauled. I've changed the oil myself every 3,000 miles using Pennzoil 15/40W Fleet oil. I use this same oil in all my equipment, both gas and diesel-powered. My dealer did all the scheduled maintenance and repair work. The pickup only broke down twice on the road - once when a generator went out and once when a radiator broke.

"I recently sold the pickup for \$3,000 with 200,005 miles on it. I totaled all my operating costs including gas, tires, batteries, air filters and accessories and licenses. My total operating cost over the 200,000 miles was .186 cents per mile, excluding insurance since I can't separate the blanket policy. I was so impressed with the pickup that I went out and bought a new Toyota Tundra longbed model equipped with a standard cab. If I can ever get one of those Toyota Landcruiser pickups out of Africa that FARM SHOW wrote about a few issues ago, I'd buy one in a second."

Ronnie Vaught, Eubank, Ky.: "My 1988 **Wheelhorse 312** garden tractor is my best buy. It has been trouble-free and is still going strong. I use it to mow 1 1/2 acres every week."