

## Farmers Nominate Best & Worst Buys

The only money I've spent on it was for paint and tune up parts. It always starts and never gets hot. It's not a big tractor but it has enough power for my small operation and doesn't burn oil to this day. I did have to put in a new flywheel seat last spring, but it cost me only about three dollars.

"My **Remington** chainsaw is my worst buy. I found out that when it needed repair work there was only one place in the entire state where I could get parts for it, and that was a small engine repair shop. It took forever to get it repaired and the parts were very expensive."

**Marlin H. Yoder, Fayetteville, Ark.:** "For the difference in price, it's a lot better than a

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Deere or International of the same size," says Marlin about his 1996 **Massey Ferguson 383** tractor equipped with a front-end loader. "What I like best is that it has plenty of power."

**Terry DeBock, Hennessey, Okla.:** Terry's "best buy" is a 1997 **GM 1/2-ton** extended cab, 3-door, shortbed pickup equipped with a Vortec 350 cu. in. engine. "It's an absolute pleasure to drive and runs great. It has a lot of power and is reasonably fuel efficient, especially considering the available power. It has more than 51,000 miles on it with only routine maintenance."

**Ralph P. Edwards, Efland, N.C.:** Ralph likes his 1992 **Gehl 1470** round baler. "It has made thousands of bales and is still going strong. It has needed only minimal repairs."

**Dave Hill, La Junta, Colo.:** Dave's impressed with a kit from **Luke's Link** that allows you to repair tie rods, drag links, and steering cylinders on tractors, trucks and pickups. It can also be used to repair the tracking bar on 1994 - 1998 Dodge 4-WD trucks (P.O. Box 466, La Junta, Colo. 81050 ph 800 962-4090; Website: [www.lukeslink.com](http://www.lukeslink.com)).

"My brother had a 1994 Dodge 3/4-ton 4-WD pickup and we had to replace the tracking bar on it three times in just two years. We read the ad in **FARM SHOW** for the Luke's Link repair kit and called the company. We installed it and two years later when we traded the pickup, the link was still tight. Replacement tracking bars would have cost \$2,500 each, while the Luke's Link kit cost only \$36. That's a big savings."

**Rudolph Schroeder, Hillsboro, Kan.:** "My best buy is my 1993 **Allis-Chalmers 6080** tractor which was a leftover 1992 model. After 4,000 hours, the fuel injector pump and injector were repaired. At 7,000 hours the rear tires and fan belt were replaced. It has 11,500 hours on it now but still runs like new. We change the oil every 100 hours and always install a new filter."

**Dave Welling, Ridgeway, Ohio:** "My 1988 **Ford Festiva** car has more than 195,000 miles on it but still uses very little oil and has a good-looking body. It gets about 40 mpg.

"**Snap-On** tools and toolboxes are also best buys for me. They hold their value just like Deere tractors."

**Walter Falk, Ellsworth, Kan.:** "My best

buy is the **AC Delco** battery installed in my 1958 Dodge truck. The battery is more than 10 years old. This truck sometimes will sit in the shed for three or four months at a time. Sitting that long the carburetor will go dry and I'll have to crank over the engine sometimes but, thanks to this battery it always starts."

**J. Larry Jackson, Augusta, Kan.:** "My best buy ever is my 1971 **Deere 4020** tractor which I bought used. It has been totally reliable with no problems. I had a local Deere dealer check out this tractor before I bought it."

On the minus side, he lists his 1997 **General Electric** washing machine. "I've had to replace the motor twice and the water pump once."

**Ben C. Boston, Happy, Texas:** Ben's "best buy" is his 1990 **Mazda 1/2-ton 2-WD "cab plus"** pickup equipped with a 4-cyl. gas engine. "It has more than 101,000 miles on it. I change the oil every 4,000 highway miles and the check oil stick is always on the full mark. The 4-cyl. gas engine is very peppy. I had to install a cruise control on it to keep it under 80 mph."

**Zachary Zimmerman, Mohrsville, Pa.:** "My grandfather bought our **White 2-150** tractor in the late 1980's or early 1990's. It worked great for hauling manure and also for pulling our forage harvester. It was tough enough to pull our 5-bottom plow."

**Gordon Brevik, Mena, Ark.:** Gordon likes his 1999 **Dodge 3500** pickup equipped with a flatbed and powered by a diesel engine. "It'll carry any load that I put on it. Chrysler stands behind its trucks."

"My 1995 **Belarus 572 4-WD** tractor equipped with a cab and air conditioning is also a best buy. I haven't had any problems with it and haven't found any job that was too tough for it. It can go right through places where most other tractors can't go."

**Wade Berlier, Lakin, Kan.:** Wade likes his **Palmer Cap-Chur** livestock medication pistol (Douglasville, Ga.). "It's a carbon dioxide-powered pistol which allows medication to be administered to animals as far as 100 yards away. It lets me take care of sick cattle without extra handling and stress."

"My **Polaris 2000 Trail Boss 325** ATV is my worst buy. I've owned more than 20 different 4-wheelers in the last ten years but this one is absolutely the worst. It has no power at all and has a top speed of only about 25 mph. It also has a rough choppy ride and fights you when you want to turn. It vibrates violently at top speed and also had major

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clutch problems."

**Raymond Hockemeyer, Monroeville, Ind.:** "Two years ago I bought a new **Makita** chop saw which is my best buy. I've used it hard and it has done a very good job.

"We bought a plastic bottom for the underfeed auger on our **Deere 6620** combine. After only one year of use it wouldn't stay in place. The dealer wouldn't do anything about it."

**Wilbur L. Jensen, Avoca, Texas:** Wilbur says his 1969 **Farmall 756** is his "best buy" of all time. "It has more than 7,700 hours on



**Walter Fifelski, Wayland, Mich.:** "If you think you're safe because your car has an air bag, think again. Recently, my wife was in an accident that totally demolished the front end of her 1998 Chrysler Concord. There was \$11,000 worth of damage but neither air bag deployed.

"She sustained serious injuries to her chest from the seat belt. We feel a deployed air bag might have prevented these injuries.

"Now, I'm sure we paid plenty to have it but has never been overhauled. It has gone through only one clutch."

**James L. Bryant, Camden, Ark.:** James says he's generally satisfied with his 1998 **Deere 5410** tractor but that it could use a few improvements. "The company needs to fix the parking gear. Whenever you park the tractor on a hill and put it in parking gear, you can't get it back out of gear when you want to move. You have to use another tractor to push or pull it a little in order to get it out of parking gear."

**Dale Wrosch, Onaga, Kan.:** "One of my best buys is my **Deere 318** garden tractor. I love the power steering and hydrostatic transmission on it."

**Jonathan L. Musch, Brighton, Mich.:** "Two years ago I bought a 1983 **Kubota** front wheel assist, 75 hp tractor. It's my best buy. It's a compact, solidly built tractor that's easy to maintain, and the front wheel assist really comes in handy. I mounted a snowplow on front of the tractor for winter use. The heater inside the cab is so good that I can take off my jacket even during winter."

**Lamar Shaffer, Seven Valleys, Pa.:** "I've used it to do a lot of different jobs," says Lamar about his "best buy" 1996 **Melroe Bobcat 853** skid steer loader. "It works like a small bulldozer when it's equipped with a tooth bucket and metal tracks. I can also use it with forks to move pallets of seed or fertilizer or to move round bales, and with a backhoe to dig footers for buildings. It's a money making machine."

**Thomas G. Lewis, Atoka, Okla.:** "I liked my 1998 **Chevrolet 3/4-ton** extended cab pickup equipped with a 454 cu. in. engine and automatic transmission. It was the ideal pickup and did everything I expected it to. It was economical, comfortable, and trouble-free. When it had 42,000 miles on it, I traded for a 1999 **Chevrolet Silverado Z-71** longbed pickup. Mechanically it's a good pickup. The engine has excellent snap and it performs well when empty. However, it can't handle towing or hauling because of the soft suspension. If you haul more than 500 lbs., it sags badly. The seat is another problem. I've

those air bags in the car but Chrysler tells me the hit wasn't direct enough to activate them. I told Chrysler they should install gun sights on the hoods of their cars so drivers could line up their crashes just right.

"The body shop that repaired the car told me it's not unusual for air bags not to deploy. Sort of like a doctor telling you that medicine is not an exact science.

"Chrysler did send out one of their experts to view the car but, after two months, not one word from the company."

driven Chevrolet trucks since 1948 and this model has the sorriest driver's seat of them all - and it's supposed to be the company's best seat.

"My 1993 **Deere 3255** MFWD tractor is a best buy. It has more than 2,500 hours on it with no problems at all. It has terrific pulling ability for a 100 hp tractor."

**Troy Kunkel, Paige, Texas:** "I recently purchased a used 1979 **Deere 346** small square baler through an ad in a local magazine. After making minor adjustments, I used it last summer to make about 1,200 bales. Only one bale broke and that happened when I started a new box of wire. I wouldn't be afraid to put this machine in the field against a brand new unit."

**C.J. Strausbaugh, Glenmont, Ohio:** "My best buy of all time is my 1967 **Deere 50** tractor equipped with an aftermarket wide front end and power steering. It has more than 9,000 hours on it but still works good and starts easily. The wide front end has a low center of gravity which is great on rolling ground. The tractor is also comfortable to drive. We use it to pull a 7-ft. sicklebar mower most of the summer."

**Gordon Lawson, Houston, Texas:** Gordon likes his **Porter Cable** air-operated nail gun. "Other than air wrenches and bead breakers, I had never used an air tool before I bought this gun. I bought it after watching it demonstrated year after year on 'This Old House' on public television. It's just as easy to use as it looks on TV. Now I don't need a helper to do those jobs that require 'three' hands. I can use one hand to hold the object I want to nail in place and the other hand to do the nailing.

"My **Black & Decker** drill/hammer is a worst buy. The company says it will drill holes in concrete, but when I tried to do this I burned out the motor even though I was using the proper bit. Fortunately my dealer gave me a full refund."

**Warner McCray, Sherman, N.Y.:** A 1999 **Ford F-250** super duty pickup equipped with

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