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a Powerstroke engine rates as Warner's "worst buy". "At 300 miles the engine had to be removed to repair a leak in the oil pan. The cruise control failed as did the daytime running lights. The fit and finish on the cab was subpar. And at 14,000 miles the transmission had to be removed to repair oil leaks at the rear of the engine. All of these happened within the first 15,000 miles. I expect no defects at all on a \$35,000 pickup. Ford has a long way to improve quality control. Fortunately I have a good dealer."

Robert M. Hancock, Terre Haute, Ind.: "My best buy ever is my 1953 **General Electric** freezer. It has never broken down and still runs like a top.

"My **Milwaukee** super sawzall and **Milwaukee** 14-in. cut-off saw are also good buys.

"My worst buy is my 1997 **Weed Eater** gas-powered line trimmer. The problem is that the carburetor wasn't machined all the way which caused it to shut down whenever it got warm. I had to get a new carburetor."

Daniel L. Dadisman, Nevada, Iowa: "My **Dodge Ram** 1500 4-WD, extended cab pickup equipped with a V-8 engine and short bed is our best buy. We bought it last April and it's everything we wanted in a pickup. We think it'll have a good resale value later on which is important because we're about to retire."

Craig Richlen, Lockhart, Texas: "I like my 1998 **Ford F-150** extended cab pickup which is equipped with a 6-cylinder engine and 4-speed transmission with overdrive. It runs great and averages 18 to 19 mpg. I use it to pull my livestock trailer and to haul stuff around my ranch."

Tim Payne, Calhoun, Ga.: "My best buy is my **Booster Pac** 12-volt DC power supply which I bought at our local NAPA store. I use it around our place to start just about anything with a battery, including tractors, trucks, mowers, and boats. It's great for working on trailer lights, operating my dump trailer, or checking out radios in the shop. One charge goes a long way. The LED indicator provides a quick power level check. The case is tough, and the cables and clamps are heavy duty. It's a 'must have'."

Paul Erickson, Roseau, Minn.: "It has unbelievable pulling power and fuel

"I use it around our place to start just about anything with a battery. It's a 'must have'."

economy and is like having three vehicles in one," says Paul, impressed with his 1998 **Dodge** 2500 4-WD pickup equipped with a Cummins diesel engine and 5-speed transmission. "It's an excellent starter. No problems so far. I understand the company plans to introduce a quad cab pickup which will be equipped with a 24-valve Cummins diesel engine and 6-speed transmission. I'm looking forward to it."

On the "worst buy" side, "I've had problems with my 1964 **Deere** 4020 tractor which I bought used with 7,000 hours. It has had a lot of electrical problems, and a hydraulic pump went out. Also, a spindle on the front

axle broke. I replaced the axle with one off a 30 series tractor. I think the 4020 is a very overrated tractor. Later models were built better."

Jimmy Weisinger, Grapeland, Texas: "My best buy is my 1997 **Massey-Ferguson** 4225 tractor. It has a high visibility hood which provides the driver with a great view. The cab is very quiet and the air conditioner works good. I wouldn't trade this tractor for any other brand."

Forest Kline, Barry, Ill.: Forest likes his 1998 **Ford F-150** 4-WD pickup with **Goodyear** tires. "I do a lot of driving and already have 60,000 miles on the pickup. I'm impressed with the Goodyear tires - they're still holding up well. My other three pickups had **General** tires which generally weren't good for more than about 12,000 miles.

"My 1966 **Deere** 4020 tractor equipped with a diesel engine is a best buy. It has a whopping 23,000 hours on it. I overhauled the engine at 7,000 hours and again at 16,000 hours. Two years ago I bought a 20-ft. **Bush Hog** mower to use with it. I'm well pleased with both the mower and the tractor. Even though the tractor is 34 years old, it pulls the mower very well. I mow 800 to 1,000 acres every year."

Edward E. Humpal, Tabor, S. Dak.: "I like **Ford** products in general. On any given weekend, when our family gets together, you'll see at least 10 or 12 **Ford** vehicles sitting in our yard. My folks bought a 1949 **Ford** brand new and we still have it."

Jack A. Fils, Creston, Iowa: "My 1998 **Case-IH** MX 120 2-WD tractor is a gutty, well-balanced, fuel efficient tractor. It worked so well I bought a second model. Both tractors have been trouble-free and are a joy to operate.

"My **Case-IH** DC 515 disc conditioner is a best buy. It's the hungriest windrowing machine I've ever used and has needed only an occasional blade replacement. It's built rugged. Good job, **Case-IH**.

"After I'm done reading **FARM SHOW**, I take it down to my local tractor dealer. All the personnel there enjoy reading it. Great magazine - keep up the good work."

Luke Earley, Broadus, Mont.: "My **Massey Ferguson** 6150 front wheel assist tractor is a best buy. It had a few minor problems which were promptly taken care of in the field by the dealer. The 32-speed Dynashift transmission with shuttle makes it a very effective utility tractor. It's rated at 86 horsepower but I think that's too low.

"My 1996 **Dodge** 3/4-ton pickup, equipped with a Cummins diesel engine, is a best buy. It has tons of power for towing but still gets more than 20 mpg empty. It has more than 50,000 miles with no problems."

Buddy Dotson, Bullard, Texas: Buddy bought his "best buy" 1994 **Dodge** 3/4-ton 4-WD pickup used. It's equipped with a Cummins diesel engine and automatic transmission. "It had almost 100,000 miles on it when I bought it. It gets 16 to 17 mpg and pulls great. No problems."

Phil Adkisson, Antioch, Tenn.: Phil's impressed with his 1996 **Krone** 8-ft. disc mower. "I've used it to cut thousands of acres of hay and it even accidentally cut through a 6-in. steel reinforced concrete post. All I ever have to do is change the blades and keep on mowing."

Jay Longstrith, Melvern, Kan.: "I like my **Bobcat** 743 skid steer loader equipped with a diesel engine. I use a post hole auger

with it and also a big bale spear. I also use the loader to pull steel posts or push them into the ground. Very useful all over the farm."

Donald Lippelt, Geneseo, Ill.: "My 1998 **Deere** 6310 MFWD tractor equipped with a cab and **Deere** 640 front-end loader is my best buy. Both the tractor and the loader have been trouble-free. The cab is really comfortable. Overall this tractor is a pleasure to drive."

Donald R. Miller, Dongola, Ill.: "My three 1966 **Allis-Chalmers** D-17 tractors are all best buys. They still start and run like new.

"My 1998 **Homelite** E-Z chainsaw starts and runs good. I've owned three of them over the years.

"My 1994 **Chevrolet** pickup equipped with a 4.3-liter engine is a best buy. This is my second Chevy pickup. I still have the first one, a 1988 model, which runs and drives perfect."

Alan Wenisch, Springfield, Minn.: "My best buy is **FARM SHOW** magazine."

Robert Horack, Watertown, Wis.: "It's the most dependable ATV I've ever owned," reports Robert, impressed with his 1992 **Kawasaki** ATV equipped with a 300 cc engine. "We use it almost every day and it just keeps on running. It's been trouble-free."

Glen Schmit, Jordan, Minn.: "I have two **Deere** tractors which my dealer seems unable to fix properly. He had one of the tractors longer than I've had it and returned it to me with more oil leaks than it had when I sent it to him.

"My all-time worst buy is the **Carrier** heat pump system I recently installed at my house. It makes so much noise it scares wild turkeys away from our house and it doesn't pump much heat. Neither the installer nor

"It makes so much noise it scares wild turkeys away from our house."

the company seems able to do anything about it. It's a \$9,000 lemon."

Tom Gray, Cambridge, Ohio: "Our 1994 **Chevrolet** 4-WD extended cab pickup is a best buy. It's easy on fuel and has enough power to pull a trailer with a load.

"Our 1990 **Wheel Horse** 20 hp garden tractor is a best buy. It has more than 600 hours on it with only routine maintenance."

Ralph Farnsworth, New Haven, Vt.: "My best buys are **Plymouth** rear wheel drive cars equipped with 318 cu. in., V-8 engines. Over the years I've owned a 1974 **Fury**, a 1985 **Grand Fury**, and a 1988 **Grand Fury**. The 1988 model has only 50,000 miles on it. The other two models have more than 150,000 miles on them. I also have a 1968 **Valiant** equipped with a slant 225 cu. in. engine that has more than 150,000 miles on it. These cars have not had any major repairs - only mufflers, brakes, oil changes, etc. I hardly ever have to add oil between changes."

Robert J. Meredith, Elburn, Ill.: "My **Echo** 302 chainsaw is a best buy. It was one of the first ones used in this area. I've used it a lot and have worn out at least two sprockets and more than 10 chains. Yet it still starts good and does a great job of sawing.

"My worst buy is another **Echo** model, the

C9-4600. I bought it because I wanted a bigger saw and had such good luck with my 302 model. However, this model is a dog. It's a high speed unit with no lugging power. If the chain isn't very sharp or I 'crowd' it, it won't cut."

Mark O' Brien, Grafton, Neb.: Mark likes his 1994 **Case-IH** 1644 Axial Flow combine. "My brothers and I bought it new. It's our second Axial Flow model - the other one was a 1620. The 1644 is very dependable and has a lot more capacity than most people think. We live in an area where the general thinking of farmers is that 'bigger is better'. But we get along great with this smaller combine and use it to harvest 1,400 acres every year with ease.

"Our two **Sukup** 9400 12-row, 30-in. row crop cultivators are both best buys. One is a 1997 model and the other a 1998 model. They adjust quickly and easily and are built rugged, yet our two **Deere** 4640 tractors can easily handle them. They do a great job in our corn, beans, and milo."

Dan Kerslake, Corbett, Ore.: "We like our three **Ford** **New Holland** tractors - a 1991 7710, 1995 6640, and 1999 TS 110. They get a lot of use and never let me down."

Josiah Blocki, Jordan, Minn.: Josiah nominates his 1986 **Deere** 318 garden tractor as his "best buy". "It has more than 8,000 hours on it but still runs great. We use it to mow grass, to till our large garden with a 42-in. hydraulic tiller, and to pull a 6 by 4-ft. trailer. It had some problems at first but our dealer got the kinks worked out.

"Our worst buys are three **Sears Craftsman** 2-cycle gas engine-powered line trimmers. The first model developed engine problems after only two months. Fortunately it was still under warranty so we had it repaired. Then the mounting hardware for the plastic string guard came loose and when we tightened it the string guard broke. When we removed the spool to put on more line, the driveshaft, also made of plastic, totally fell out.

"When we took the trimmer back to the company they were out of stock on the model we had previously owned so they gave us a heavier-duty model. It worked better for a while, but then the stop switch broke and we had to choke the engine in order to stop it."

Roger Lee, Petersburg, Neb.: Roger says his "best buy" is his 1984 **Morton** 54 by 99-ft. building. "After about eight years the brown paint was faded. I talked to the Morton dealer and they sent out someone to look at it. The next year they repainted the building at no charge. It still looks great. Terrific service from a good company."

Jim Wilkinson, Reva, S. Dak.: "I'm well pleased with my 1994 **Ford** 9030 Bi-Directional tractor. I use it to do everything from cutting hay to hauling manure and also to feed livestock during winter.

"My 1994 **Belarus** 825 tractor was a real lemon. I put only about 100 hours on it, and it was broke down most of the time. One time some wires burned off under the dash so it wouldn't start. Later, a fuel injector went bad and an air conditioning hose blew. There were also numerous other problems. I finally traded it off.

"My reconditioned **Makita** 14.4-volt 3/8-in. cordless drill is a really handy tool for doing everything from household repairs to driving screws on a tin roof. It has a lot of power, and the battery runs a long time on a single charge."