

900 acres for the past three seasons with hardly any trouble at all," says Bruce, happy with his 1994 **Massey Ferguson** 8570 rotary combine. "It has a lot of capacity, does an excellent job cleaning grain and saves a lot of grain. It has only needed minor repairs, such as repairing two bearings and a couple of hydraulic leaks. Also, the rotating fan screen was replaced under warranty."

Dale Nixon, Stetler, Alberta: Dale's all-time "best buy" was a 1971 **Case** 970 demo tractor he purchased in 1974. "It still runs great and has approximately 13,000 hours on it. The original engine has never been touched."

On the negative side, a 1979 **Case** 2290 was one of Dale's worst buys ever. "The tractor is grossly overpowered for its transmission and rear end. We spent nearly \$18,000 to fix it but it isn't right."

Alan Lucas, Marion, Mich.: Alan nominates his 1997 **Tubeline** 500 bale wrapper as

"The tractor is grossly overpowered for its transmission and rear end."

a "best buy" (R.R. 3, Listowel, Ont., Canada N4W 3G8; ph 519 291-4162). "The Tubeline lets us bale hay from 30 to 70 percent moisture. The feed is excellent and the cost is low. It's fast to load and easy and convenient to feed from."

A 1996 **Highline** 1400 bale hauler is another of Alan's "best buys" (Box 307, Vonda, Sask., Canada S0K 4N0; ph 306 258-2233). "This bale hauler, which I pull behind my Deere 4630, holds sixteen 4 by 5-ft. bales averaging 1,800 lbs. I can pick up a load of bales in five to 10 minutes and unload them in two minutes or less."

"The only complaint I have is that it's too wide for our back roads. I plan to cut 2 ft. out of the middle so it's more 'street legal.'"

Frank Dougema, Shelbyville, Mich.: "Our 1985 **International** 800 Cyclo Early Riser 12-row (30-in.) planter has performed very well since it was new," says Frank. "It produces a uniform stand in both conventional and no-till situations."

"However, we no longer use the seed monitors because they never worked very well. One modification we made was to apply liquid fertilizer with an electric pump."

Leon E. Allison, Doylestown, Ohio: "I bought my **Bobcat** skid steer loader used 13 years ago and have had absolutely no problems with it. It was the smallest model they made, just 36 in. wide. It fits through the narrow gates and doors in my barn. I have a bad back and without this loader, I'd have to hire barn cleaning or be out of business."

Mike Graham, Edison, Ohio: Mike's been cutting his own firewood for 18 years and says he's never had a chain saw as dependable as the 1996 **Stihl** 044 he's using now. "I've always come back from the woods fully loaded, unlike some of the times I came back empty with other brand chain saws. It's a very aggressive cutter and is easy on gas. It's needed no repairs."

Mike also likes his 1995 **Deere** 425 lawn tractor but he's had trouble with the mower's 54-in. deck. "In heavy or high grass, it discharges poorly. The company has tried to correct the problem and offered to buy it back from me so I can upgrade to a 60-in. deck. Unfortunately, the bigger deck is too wide for my property."

Richard Spaulding, Waldport, Ore.: "I've had no problems at all in the 40,000 miles I've driven it," says Richard, pleased with his 1996 **Chevy** C2500 HD Silverado pickup. "The 5.7-liter Vortec engine has plenty of power, performs well and gets 17 to 18 mpg."

On the negative side, Richard's "not impressed" with his 1996 **Husqvarna** 41 chain saw. "From day one, it's leaked fuel. Plus, the electronic ignition failed within the first three hours of use."

Don McEvoy, Omaha, Neb.: One of Don's "best buys" is his **DeWalt** 14.4-volt 3/8-in. cordless drill. "It has plenty of power and runs a long time between charges. The battery recharges quickly."

John Dodds, St. Mary's, Ohio: "It pays to buy good, brand name tools," says John. "I learned that lesson from buying a 20-ton **Harbor Freight** hydraulic drill press. It leaks oil and the ram sticks. The company sent the wrong replacement parts for the original assembly."

On the positive side, he's happy with a 1984 **Deere** 850 lawn tractor equipped with a 72-in. belly-mounted deck. "It's very economical, uses less fuel than a 12 hp. lawn tractor, and I've had absolutely no mechanical problems in the 3,000 hours I've used it. The battery lasted 10 years. We bought a new Deere 870 last year but kept the 850 because we like it so much."

John Wicht, Osseo, Minn.: John's **Deere** 7810 is a "best buy." "It's a great tractor, with a lot of power and good fuel economy. It's the best tractor I've ever owned for operator comfort."

Wesley Jones, Jonesboro, Texas: "One of my best buys ever is **FARM SHOW** magazine. I read it from cover to cover and admire the ingenuity of people who have the ability to convert an old piece of machinery into something more useful instead of toting it off to the dump. Keep up the good work."

Donald E. Worden, Kerkhoven, Minn.: Donald's "best buy" is a **D.R. Trimmer** mower equipped with 5 hp engine with electric start (Country Home Products, Meigs Road, P.O. Box 25, Vergennes, Vt. 05491; ph 800 376-9637). "Electric start makes it a dream to use. It rides on wheels so there's no vibration, as on conventional hand-held string trimmers. I have a brush blade for that cuts down small trees and brush with ease."

John Bahl, Sherrill, Iowa: "I've had no major problems in the first year," says John, "generally satisfied" with his 1998 **Deere** 4-row 1750 planter. "However, seed spacing could be better and it needs grease zerks on the hydraulic lift linkage to extend life."

John removed the original tongue from the planter and replaced it with a bridge hitch so he can mount a Roterra on his 3-pt., between the tractor and planter. "By pulling the planter behind the Roterra we are able to do final tillage, spray and plant in one pass," he says.

Wayne C. North, Pawnee City, Neb.: One of Wayne's "best buys" is a 1997 **Ford** F-150 pickup equipped with 5.4-liter engine, 4-speed automatic transmission and limited slip 3:55 rear end. "It has the horsepower to run at interstate speeds and still provide great gas mileage. When you step on the gas, it really rocks. Few cars I've owned have the kind of pickup this truck does. It's a real pleasure to ride and drive."

On the negative side, he's unhappy with his 1992 **Bush Hog** 2512 shredder. "I hadn't run it more than 20 hours when the center gear box gave out. After a year's worth of phone calls and talks with the company, they agreed to replace it if I paid the freight. The

replacement only ran about 20 hours before it went out. I waited two years before replacing it and now I've run the new one about 20 hours and it smells like it's ready to fail at any time. In my opinion, the company needs to make the center gear box heavier than the outside gear boxes."

Donald R. Nutt, Center, Mo.: "I had virtually no problems making 1,200 bales last season," says Donald, pleased owner of a 1998 **Vermeer** L big round baler. "I traded a 1993 Super J for it. The Super J was a good baler but the L makes heavier bales with less stress on the operator. That's important to me because I do custom baling and my baler has to run."

Donald's worst buy is a 1987 **Ford** Ranger pickup equipped with a 4-cyl. 2-liter engine and 5-speed transmission. The first year, mileage was a fair 20 to 24 mpg. Then it dropped to 16 to 18 and had no power. I ran it to 113,000 miles and traded it for a 1980 **Chevy** 1/2-ton Scottsdale just to be rid of it."

Melvin Theisen, Blackduck, Minn.: Melvin's had good luck with both of the **Gehl** discblines he's owned. "I bought a new one in 1994 and cut 800 acres of undesirable, rough, rocky ground every year for three years. I didn't spend a dollar in repairs on it other than to replace the blades. So I bought a new 2360 in 1998 and it's just as good as the old one. It's the best new piece of equipment I've ever purchased."

Clifford Scott, Didsbury, Alberta: Two of Clifford's "best buys" are a **Honda** Foreman 400 ATV and a **Deines** 1800 KT lawn



mower. "The Honda is the best little work-horse on the place. It'll pull a flatbed trailer with about 30 bales on it. The Deines mower is easy to operate and turns on a dime. It's also easy to maintain and clean because the deck tips up in front. It cuts our mowing time by two-thirds and it cost two-thirds less than comparable models and makes."

Clifford's "worst buy" was a **Troy** 352 Garden Way Speedy Hoe. "If you run the gas tank dry, you'll have problems. It loses power and will not run until you take the carburetor off and clean it."

Allan Foster, Mountain Grove, Mo.: "One of my best buys is a 1960 **Oliver** tractor I purchased from Barr B Tractor in Cabool, Mo., ten years ago. This old tractor has been trouble-free and is still going strong. It still uses no oil."

Orrin Strand, Albion, Neb.: "My worst buy is the **Revere** steel siding I put on my house in 1981. About five years ago the paint started to peel off and I now have large areas with no paint."

"I bought the siding from Modern Improvement Corp. of Iowa. Revere is owned by Gentek Corp. of New Jersey. Their offer was to repaint the siding at about the same cost to me as the original job, or \$200 cash to forget the whole thing. I don't plan on doing either."

Charlie Bratten, Albuquerque, N.M.: "Location of the brake and clutch pedals could be improved. They're too high," says Charlie, who's otherwise happy with his 1990 **Massey Ferguson** 231 utility tractor. "The Perkins 3-cyl. AD3 engine delivers plenty of power and it starts easily on cold mornings."

On the negative side, he's unhappy with

his **Craftsman** 4 1/2-in. angle grinder and **Craftsman** 3/8-in. electric drill "Both are equipped with Unity motors that burned up after a few hours use. Rather than return them under warranty, I tossed them and purchased DeWalt replacements which are much better built."

Jay L. Smith, Immokalee, Fla.: "I've put over 250,000 trouble-free miles on it," says Jay about the 1994 **Chevy** 271 pickup he nominates as "best buy." "I've used it for hauling, hunting and heavy loads and have had it stuck more times than I care to remember. I'm abusive but it's never let me down."

Orin Rush, Deer Creek, Ill.: "It's well-built and a great complement to my Bobcat," says Orin who bought a 1998 **Lackender** backhoe attachment for his skid steer loader (Lackender Fabrication, 4661 Dane Road S.W., Iowa City, Iowa 52240; ph 800 498-8032 or 319 338-4114; website: www.lackender-fab.com). "It digs an 8 in. deep trench and quick-tatches in place of the bucket. It worked really well even in last summer's dry conditions."

Orin also likes his 1996 **Better Bilt** hydraulic hog cart manufactured Waste Control Corp. "You pull the 16-ft. walk-on trailer behind your tractor to load hogs. Really works slick."

Victor E. Janz, Cupar, Sask.: "It's the best tractor I've ever owned," says Victor, pleased with a 1976 **Case** 970 diesel he bought used 20 years ago. "It had 1,200 hours on it when I bought it and now has 6,800. It's never been touched."

He's also pleased with his 1987 **Ford** pickup equipped with 6-cyl. engine and 4-speed transmission. "I put nearly 100,000 trouble-free miles on it. It still has plenty of power and runs great."

Terry Heeke, Dubois, Ind.: Two of Terry's "best buys" are his 1997 **Deere** 270 disc mower and his 1997 **Deere** 752 hay tedder. "The mower doesn't clog and cuts twice as fast as the Deere 1209 mower-conditioner I used before. The tedder fluffs and dries hay as fast as a conditioner."

Terry also says he couldn't do without his **Makita** cordless driver. "It comes in real handy for fixing feeders and other work in my livestock barns."

Gary Fesmire, Dyer, Tenn.: One of Gary's "best buys" is a 1994 **Ford** F-250 turbo-diesel pickup. "I've put 125,000 miles on it with no problems. It still looks new and starts and runs like new. I think more of it every time I price a new one."

On the negative side, he's had bad luck with his **Delco** power washer. "It didn't work right when it was new and nobody would fix it. I'd ask dealers at farm shows to fix the washer and they said they'd be out next week, but 'next week' never came. Finally, I bought a Panther washer that's excellent."

Lawrence Caley, Bloomington, Wis.: "The best tractor I've ever owned is a **Farmall** C I bought new in 1950. I've only had to grind the valves twice and just replaced the rear tires for the first time two years ago."

"The best pickup I ever owned is a **Toyota** 4-WD I bought new in 1987. It has almost 200,000 miles on it and runs like new without using any oil. The Dunlap tires it was originally fitted with lasted 88,000 miles."

Ken Brown, Elrose, Sask.: "One of the handiest livestock tools we've ever found is the Calf Tape featured in **FARM SHOW** a couple years ago (Vol. 20, No. 4)," says Ken. "I bought two of them and I want to buy a couple more because my first ones have been

(Continued on next page)