

spent two days trying to adjust it, but I still couldn't get it to penetrate untilled winter wheat stubble ground. My neighbor has a 36-ft. model that has no trouble penetrating the ground, even when the sweeps are set at their maximum penetration angle."

Edsel Salo, Watton, Mich.: "My best buy is my 1992 **Dodge Ram 250** pickup equipped with a Cummins diesel engine. It has plenty of power to pull my 26-ft. trailer and rides and handles great.

"My 1977 **Dodge 150** pickup equipped with a 318 cu. in. engine has been a trouble-free workhorse. I use it to pull the trailer, haul wood, and plow snow."

Clarence Davenport, Callaway, Neb.: A 1997 **Sunflower 42-ft.**, 4-section disk rates as Clarence's "best buy". "It's equipped with oscillating tandem axles that allow it to work smooth both in the field and in transport. It's built heavy enough to stay in the ground where other disks would float up out of the ground, and it leaves the field level. It's equipped with a convenient one-hand screw adjustment device on front for raising or lowering the disk, at 1/2 inch per turn. I've used it on 4,000 acres with no problems. Excellent workmanship. One disadvantage is that the transport width is 22 ft."

Don Berry, Spencer, Ind.: Don's pleased with his **Deere 1219** mower-conditioner. "It does a good job. Excellent overall performance in a variety of forage crops and under some diverse and difficult conditions.

"My 1993 **Dodge Ram 250** pickup equipped with a V-8 engine and 5-speed manual transmission is my worst buy. It has weak springs at the front and rear and can haul only a half ton of feed. The rear end ratio is so high that I can't even use it to pull my 16-ft. stock trailer. The dealer said he could correct these problems 'at my expense'. What I wanted was a farm work truck - what I got is a toy that's capable of an 85 mph high-

"The rear end ratio is so high that I can't even use it to pull my 16-ft. stock trailer."

way speed while carrying two fishing poles and a small can of worms. I'll probably buy another Dodge, but I'll buy from a dealer who knows farm trucks."

Don Scharff, Hartney, Manitoba: "My 1975 **Vermeer** round baler is my best buy. It was almost trouble-free and is still being used by another owner. I used it to make about 2,000 bales a year when I had it.

"My 1996 worst buy is my **Cannon BJC 4100** printer. It quit working last June after it had printed only about 80 pages. It has a defective print head which the company won't replace."

Jimmy Alford, Commerce, Ga.: Jimmy nominates his 1995 **Deere Gator 4** by 2 as his best buy. "I'm well satisfied with it. I bought my wife one this year because she was always using mine."

Lou Kocou, Jr., Oak Ridge, N.J.: "My best buy is my 30-ft. wide, 55-ft. long, 12-ft. high **Morton** storage building. I can't say enough good things about it or about the company people who sold it to me and put it up for me. I've had nothing but great service from everyone involved. The quality of the product, the workmanship that went into the construction, and the followup visit and inspection after construction was completed

was nothing less than 'top of the line'. I was so impressed that I've already had the company back to put an addition on this building, and in the near future I'll put up a second Morton building which will be used as a workshop."

H.M. Roy, Middlebury, Ind.: "My 1995 **Chevrolet S-10** extended cab pickup is the best I've ever owned. It has 31,000 trouble-free miles. The 4.3-liter, 200 hp Vortec engine is very responsive and gets 22 to 24 mpg on the highway which I think is very good for a 4-WD.

"I have a 1951 **Deere A** tractor that I bought 25 years ago and it still runs great. I think that with a little tender loving care these old tractors would last forever."

Pete Lamp, Fort Wayne, Ind.: "I've been leasing my **DTN** computer system for four months and love it (ph 800 485-2238). It operates off a 30-in. satellite dish and has up-to-the-minute farm prices and information as well as futures prices. It also has up-to-the-minute weather information."

James Vaught, Norman, Okla.: James is happy with his 1995 **Ford 1-ton 4-door** pickup equipped with a 460 cu. in. gas engine and 5-speed manual transmission with overdrive. "It has ample power for pulling heavy loads and a lot of cab room, and the two extra doors make it nice for transporting my crew. But what I like best is that it has a really smooth ride due to the extra long frame. No problems."

Lewis Crocker, Mattawa, Wash.: Lewis owns a "best buy" 1995 **Dodge Supercab 3/4-ton** pickup equipped with a 360 cu. in. gas engine. "It's a nice pickup. I previously owned a **Chevrolet** diesel pickup which had a lot of trouble pulling a 24-ft. fifth wheel camper trailer. My Dodge is a pleasure to drive and has plenty of power."

William O. Parsell, Dover, N.H.: William's disappointed with his 1996 **Deere 348** square baler. "I've had nothing but trouble with it since the third day after I bought it. It took more than one year and a lot of headaches to finally get it repaired. We got very little help from the company until we threatened to sue both the dealer and the company. It was finally repaired late last year."

On the "best buy" side, he lists his 1985 **Ford TW5 4-WD** tractor equipped with a cab, air conditioning, and heater. "It does everything we ask of it and is easy on fuel, easy to handle, and a joy to drive. It has a lot of power and the cab has good visibility."

Gary V. Koehler, Upper Sandusky, Ohio: Gary's satisfied with his 1997 **Deere 8200** tractor. "I like everything about it except for the transmission which is a little jerky compared to the transmission on a Case-IH. Otherwise, it's a joy to drive.

"Our 1994 1-ton **Chevrolet** dually pickup is a joke. It doesn't have enough power and gets only about 8 mpg. My semi truck gets better mileage than that."

Boyd Cable, McAlester, Okla.: "My 1992 **Case-IH 5140** tractor is easy to operate and is my best buy. Everything on it works good. No problems.

"Our best buy is my 1996 **New Holland DMG 700** rotary mower. When a bearing went out the dealer put a new one in, but the same thing happened two more times."

Donald Albright, Perkins, Okla.: Donald's likes his **DeWalt 15** amp, 10-in. chop saw and 1997 **DeWalt 3/8-in.** heavy duty, variable speed, reversing drill. "I purchased the chop saw in 1996 and was so pleased with its performance that when I needed a hand drill I bought from DeWalt

again. It works smooth and has a level built into the top of the handle which makes it easy to drill straight holes."

Milton Licht, Humboldt, Iowa: "Our 1997 **Chevrolet 1/2-ton** extended cab pickup rides like a car and is fuel efficient. It's much easier to get in and out of than a car. In fact, my car sits in the garage most of the time.

"My **Dixon** riding lawn mower is a best buy. It reduces my mowing time by half."

John Lawless, Albany, Ga.: "My worst buy was my 1994 **Snapper** walk behind, self-propelled 5 hp lawn mower. I special ordered the mower because I wanted one with a blade clutch. The dealer was great but he had a bad product. The blade 'scalped' at any height, and the main frame flexed up and down like the old Kitty Hawk airplane. Also, the bagger would plug up whenever the humidity got above 50 percent. The dealer had to replace

"The blade 'scalped' at any height, and the main frame flexed up and down like the old Kitty Hawk airplane."

two engines, three bearings in the blade clutch, one catcher bag, and one gas tank."

C.E. Kimble, Adrian, Mo.: "My 1997 **Vermeer 505** Super baler works great. The only difficulty I experienced with it last year involved the twine, and it wasn't the baler's fault.

"My 1997 **Troy-Bilt 16** hp lawn tractor equipped with a 2-cyl. Briggs & Stratton gas engine is a pleasure to operate."

Dennis Huff, Donnybrook, N. Dak.: A 1995 **Polaris 300 4-WD** ATV rates as Dennis's "best buy". "This machine hasn't missed a beat since we bought it. We've already put 2,200 miles on it. We use it to fix fence, chase cattle, spray weed patches, and check grain fields. We use it every day for something. It's the last piece of equipment I'd part with."

Chris McCormick, Pleasantville, Iowa: "I'm pleased with my 1997 **Dodge 3500** extended cab 4-WD pickup equipped with a 5-speed transmission. It gets 14 mpg pulling a trailer and 20 mpg empty. It has a lock rear end so it can go places in 2-WD that the Fords we previously had would never go. It rides better than our car and has a lot of power. It's an excellent pickup."

On the "worst buy" side, he lists his 1993 **Belarus 925** front wheel assist tractor. "Whenever I tried using it to mow the pto went out. The first one went out at 50 hours, and we replaced a total of three pto's before we finally gave up. The air conditioner worked for only about 100 hours before it quit. The electrical system went bad, but luckily the local automotive electric shop had worked on other Belarus tractors with the same problem and was able to repair it. Now no one even wants to drive this tractor so it just sits. The only good thing about it is that we can pull start it when it's cold."

Richard Harris, Hillsboro, Tenn.: "My best buy is my 1997 **International Cub Cadet 2140** riding mower equipped with a grass bagger. "It does a first class job of mowing our 2-acre yard, even in tall, damp grass. If I ever need another mower I'll buy a Cub Cadet again.

"My worst buy is my 1997 **Simplicity** riding mower equipped with a 14 hp Briggs & Stratton gas engine. It's built too light and

the engine uses a lot of oil. The dealer worked on the engine under warranty, but it still uses oil."

George Branscom, Queen City, Mo.: George likes his two **Stihl** chain saws - a 1989 012 model equipped with a 14-in. bar and a 1991 026 model equipped with an 18-in. bar. "These chain saws can't be beat for cleaning out fence rows, cutting firewood, or logging. I can use them all day without killing myself. They still have the original spark plugs. Even though they're both several years old I wouldn't sell them for what I paid for them."

Robert Mollenhauer, Bison, Okla.: "My 1997 **Buick LeSabre** full-size car handles and rides well. It gets 26 to 29 mpg locally and 31 mpg on long distance trips."

Harry J. Griesemer, Bridgeport, Ill.: Harry's unhappy with his 1997 **Chevrolet 1500** pickup. "When starting from the 'stop' position the pickup would shake and vibrate. The problem got so bad with a trailer behind that cups in the cab would shake right out of their holders. The dealer worked on it for three weeks but couldn't solve the problem. He finally replaced the pickup with a 1998 model but it had problems, too. He had to install a new driveshaft because the original one was vibrating. I don't think I want any more Chevrolets."

Donald R. Miller, Dongola, Ill.: "My 1991 **Mercury** Marquis is a good car.

"My 1985 **Hesston 5510** big square baler is the most trouble-free piece of machinery I've ever owned.

"My 1972 **Chevrolet** pickup is still going strong after 25 years. My 1988 **Chevrolet** pickup equipped with a 4.3 V-6 engine also works good.

"Other best buys include my **Homelite XL12** chain saw, **New Holland 273** small square baler, and 1964 **Allis-Chalmers D17** tractor."

Donald D. Whitehill, Elmo, Mo.: "I like my 1994 **Ford New Holland 8670** front wheel assist tractor. The powershift transmission really works well with a front-end loader. The tractor handles well in soft ground and starts right up in cold weather. The cab is tight so it stays warm in winter and cool in summer."

Daryl Dirks, Scott City, Kan.: "Everything on it is well designed," says Daryl about his 1996 **Deere** Max-Emerge II 8-row planter. "It does an excellent job of planting. It spaces seeds so evenly that at low dryland populations it looks like the corn rows run in two directions."

Mitchell Hovell, Seymour, Wis.: Mitchell likes his 1995 **Agco White 6065** tractor. "It's a handy loader tractor, and we also use it for planting, cutting hay, and blower work. It's fun to drive and we haven't had any problems with it."

Dan Tysichney, Edinboro, Penn.: Dan nominates his 1996 **Wheelhorse 520H** garden tractor as his "best buy". "It has about 200 hours on it with no major problems. I use it to mow about six acres of grass each week. It's a high value product."

Harold E. Johnson, Dupree, S. Dak.: Harold owns a 1996 **Vermeer 5051** baler. "It makes good bales and operates okay. However, it does have some 'bugs' in it that we don't like. We bought it equipped with an optional ramp that's supposed to roll the bale backward during unloading, eliminating the need for the tractor driver to back up. However, we found it didn't work well and was a nuisance so we removed it. Another problem is that there's no way to release belt tension."

(Continued on next page)