

Jim Donald, Woodland, Wash.: "My **Clean-Burn** 140,000 btu waste oil heater works great. It runs off a thermostat and keeps our shop warm without any space heater fumes. It can burn almost anything - used motor oil, gear lube, transmission fluid, diesel fuel, kerosene, etc. No smoke comes out of the outside stack. The best thing is that the fuel is 'free'."

Ray Cook, Seymour, Iowa: Ray nominates his 1996 **Dodge** D1500 extended cab, shortbed pickup equipped with a 360 cu. in. engine as his "best buy". "I'm very happy with the ride, pulling power, and appearance."

Milo C. Rifenberg, Hillsboro, W.Va.: "It's a nearly perfect piece of machinery," says Milo about his 1992 **Breezewood** B-2000 band mill equipped with a 23 hp Kohler

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gas engine. "It does a smooth job of producing lumber and can easily be operated by one man. I've used it to cut logs up to 22 ft. long."

Willard M. Stoll, Orrville, Ohio: Willard's the satisfied owner of a **New Holland** 304 side discharge manure spreader. "We had been using a web-type spreader equipped with an endgate. However, the gate leaked before we got to the field and then it took forever to unload sloppy manure. With this spreader the manure is gone in a couple of minutes and is spread much more evenly. Makes it almost fun to haul sloppy manure. No problems at all."

Norman Pohler, Spalding, Sask.: "It has a quiet cab and gets almost 24 mpg," reports Norman about his 1996 **Dodge** SLE 1/2-ton 2-WD extended cab pickup. "It handles well on gravel and rough roads. No problems."

"I'm also well pleased with the **Honda** 13 hp engine I bought two years ago. It's very quiet, always starts, and has a lot of power."

On the "worst buy" side, he lists his 1993 **Ford** Explorer XLT. "It gets only 22 mpg on the highway. The wheel bearings went out at 70,000 miles and the starter went out at 50,000 miles. The muffler rusted out at 55,000 miles."

Cletus Arnold, Roodhouse, Ill.: "My **Grasshopper** 612 riding mower does a good job and the 12 1/2 hp Briggs & Stratton gas engine has a lot of power. It cuts my mowing time in half and requires very little trimming afterward."

"My 1997 **Holiday Rambler** motorhome is mounted on a Chevrolet chassis and powered by a 7.4-liter Vortec engine that gets 10 mpg. It performs well, has a lot of power, and is easy on fuel."

Henry Schmitt, Elkhorn, Wis.: "My best buy is my **Drive-Alert** alarm system which I purchased in 1983 (Kramer Enterprises, 498 190th St., Dakota City, Neb. 68731 ph 402 987-3560). It lets you know when someone drives into your driveway. The buzzer is located in the house and sounds whenever a vehicle drives in or out. You bury a sensor along your driveway and run a wire to the house where you attach the master control with an electronic whistle plug-in into a 110-volt outlet. I was so pleased that I became a dealer (ph 414 742-2176)."

Vernon Davidson, Portland, N. Dak.: Vernon nominates his 1989 **Dodge** Dakota pickup equipped with a 4-cyl. engine and limited slip rear end as his "best buy". "It doesn't have power steering or air conditioning.

However, it gets 30 mpg and has 52,000 miles with no problems."

Donald Burton, Glen Arm, Md.: "My 1996 **Porter Cable** reciprocating saw is my best buy. It'll cut wood, metal, etc., and start blind cuts. The 'quick change' blade chuck is fast and convenient and has been trouble-free. It's a good feature."

Dean Hertzler, Veteran, Wyo.: Dean's impressed with his 1995 **Polaris** 425 Magnum 4-WD ATV. "It has a lot of power and is well built and has grease zerks at all the linkage joints. The automatic transmission lets me concentrate on other things instead of shifting gears. I also like the automatic 4-WD which kicks in at the touch of a button. It's a great feature."

Richard Jacobs, Vernon, Texas: Richard's had trouble with his 1995 **Deere** 8300 tractor. "Everything that could go wrong with it, did go wrong. I traded it for a 2-year-old **Versatile** 946 tractor which is my best buy ever. I love it."

Ray Yablonski, Clair, Sask.: "There's a fight in our house between my husband and our 7-year-old son Cody over who's going to read **FARM SHOW** first. Then for a week after that we take turns reading it as bed time stories to Cody. He just loves it and at the same time we learn a lot of new things. In fact, everyone in our family reads it from cover to cover. We don't miss a thing."

William Kohl, Kimberly, Wis.: "My **Ariens** snowblower is trouble-free and reliable no matter how hard I operate it. We had a couple of bad snowstorms last winter but even they couldn't stop it."

"I like my 1988 **Chevrolet** K1500 4-WD pickup equipped with a 350 cu. in. engine and 4-speed automatic transmission with overdrive. I bought it when it was three years old and now it has more than 138,000 miles on it. I use **B.F. Goodrich** 235 R85 16-in. tires and got more than 80,000 miles on the first set. I do all of the general maintenance on the pickup and have had to replace only the starter and water pump. It's dependable and always starts even in the coldest weather. My next model will have an extended cab."

Jason Swartz, Richwood, Ohio: "One of our best buys ever is our **Versatile** 895 tractor. It's been trouble-free and has a simple design."

"Our worst buy is our **Case-IH** 895 utility tractor equipped with a 2250 front-end loader. The hydraulics work too slow and the loader isn't built as heavy as the company's older models."

Maurice Kostichuk, Insinger, Sask.: Maurice likes his 1995 **Bourgault** 3195 air seeder which he uses with a 1989 **Bourgault** 536-40 field cultivator. "The air seeder has performed well and the tank is easy to clean out; however, setting and verifying the seeding rate is a bit time consuming. The cultivator has good trash clearance and few parts that can wear out."

"My 1996 **GM** K1500 4-WD extended cab pickup equipped with a 350 cu. in. Vortec engine is a fine truck except that it has a real thirst for gas. It averages only 18 to 19 mpg. I think it should get 22 mpg."

"Our 1987 **Versatile** 2000 pull-type combine does a good job. It has a lot of capacity and is easy to set except in flax. The company had the right idea as far as combine design goes, but they should have beefed up the machine so that it would stand up better. We use a 165 hp tractor to pull it and haven't had any serious problems. However, other farmers who use higher horsepower tractors to pull the same combine have had considerable problems. Deere is now making a com-

bine similar in design to this one."

Charles R. Beaver, Millerstown, Pa.: "My **Ford-New Holland** 8240 Power Star tractor starts easy in cold weather, shifts smooth, and has great hydraulics. In cold weather the engine warms up quickly to heat the cab. I liked this tractor so much that I bought the company's new Gemini 8360 model. This tractor should easily match the competition, feature for feature."

"My **Demco** field sprayer equipped with hydraulic fold booms is my worst buy. The booms aren't built heavy enough and had to be reinforced. Also, the booms have to be pinned in order to transfer spray so you still have to climb out of the cab. This takes away the advantage of having hydraulic fold booms."

K. Lowell Allison, Delburne, Alberta: "I'm impressed with my 1996 **Spray-Air** sprayer equipped with an 80-ft. boom and 600-gal. tank. It allows us to use only 75 percent of the recommended amount of chemical per acre with excellent results. It didn't leave any missed strips in the field and used only 2 1/2 gal. of water per acre. We had no problems with spray drift."

Marvin L. Boehm, Sherwood, Ohio: "My 1996 **Case-IH** 2144 combine is my best buy. It has a roomy, comfortable, quiet cab and enough power to handle soybeans at any speed. It has long screens that allow only a minimum of grain to go out the back of the combine. This combine was a great replacement for my 20-year-old **Case-IH** 915 model which was still a good machine when I traded it."

"My worst buy is the 1996 **Ag Leader** 2000 yield monitor that I use on the combine. I spent a lot of time calibrating it but it still doesn't measure yields accurately. The moisture sensor is a joke - it plugs up constantly and jumps from 30 percent to 6 percent. The dealer offered to buy it back and I'll probably accept his offer."

Paul A. McKie, North Augusta, S.C.: Paul's happy with his 1996 **Case-IH** 8840 self-propelled windrower. "It's well designed

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and built heavy. It does an excellent job and is easy to maintain. Operator comfort is also excellent."

Lloyd E. Gates, Mohall, N. Dak.: "My 1995 **Schweiss** M72 zero turn riding mower is equipped with a Yanmar diesel engine that has a lot of power and is fuel efficient. It has a single lever steer and will mow at 6 mph even in rain or on wet grass without plugging or windrowing. It's the best mower I've ever used. I liked it so much that I became a dealer."

Jackson Sisson, Hearne, Texas: Jackson likes his 1997 **Honda** TRX400 Foreman ATV. "I'm completely satisfied with it. It has more than 600 miles and 69 hours of use with no problems."

"I'm also well pleased with my 1996 **K & M Mfg.** 6-shank Hayking pasture renovator."

Jim Ferguson, Canby, Minn.: Jim's the satisfied owner of a 1996 **Deere** 693 6-row corn head. "It's an excellent piece of equipment that's easy to service. The knife stalk rolls work well. It's equipped with remote

hydraulic adjustable deck plates which is an excellent option. The only problem with the head is the indicator which shows the relative position of the adjustable deck plates. It's located too close to the feederhouse and under very dry conditions quickly becomes covered with leaves. It should be moved farther out toward the end of the head so that the operator can see it at all times."

W. Jarrell Young, Reidsville, N.C.: "My 1996 **Bush Hog** 2615 15-ft. Batwing mower equipped with puncture-proof tires is my best buy. I like having four wheels on the main deck because it adds stability. I also like the way the wings can flex almost to a 90 degree angle and still cut. However, in that position it'll throw debris at you. I used it 300 hours last year with no problems."

Al Nowjack, Cadiz, Ohio: "After reading about **Bale Skis** in **FARM SHOW**, I installed a set in my Oliver baler. The 'skis' are actually a molded plastic bale chamber liner made from high-tech plastic. It greatly improves the performance of small and large square balers and allow them to produce more uniform bales while reducing leaf loss, horsepower, fuel consumption, knoter problems, and breakdowns. As a result the bales were more uniform in size, shape, and weight." (Leland Driggs, L.D. Ag Machinery, 2547 Burma Road, Eureka, Mont. 59917, ph 406 889-3846).

William R. Christensen, Philipsburg, Mt.: William's disappointed with his 1985 **Ford** F-250 4-WD pickup. "It rides rough and literally beats itself apart, with the bed and fenders falling off. The tailgate is flimsy and gets broken and bent."

Arvin Larson, Ray, N. Dak.: "My **Case-IH** 5800 chisel plow pulls easy and has a new shank design that results in good trash clearance. The plow's design allows it to follow the ground contour very well."

Robert L. Burdick, Shawnee, Kan.: "It does an outstanding job of planting in all tillage conditions, from conventional to no till," says Robert, pleased with his 1996 **Deere** 750 no-till drill. "We used it for soybeans, grain sorghum, and wheat. It's a typical Deere piece of equipment because it does the job, just like our **Deere** 7810 and 7410 tractors."

Daniel N. Wilson, Dansville, N.Y.: "My 1995 **Black & Decker** Versa Pak drill and 1996 **Black & Decker** Versa Pak snake light are both best buys. The drill works well for small and medium size jobs. I like having only one battery charger and multiple batteries because I can use the batteries in more than one tool."

Stan Penke, Craig, Neb.: "It has a lot of power and a nice cab with a good view, and it's easy to shift," says Stan about his 1989 **Case-IH** 7130 tractor.

"My 1995 **Great Plains** air drill with cart doesn't have the depth control or seed placement that I'd like, but it works okay."

Kenneth G. Zylstra, Lynden, Wash.: Kenneth likes his 1994 **Case-IH** 5240 4-WD tractor equipped with a cab and 520 front-end loader. "It has a lot of torque and power and shifts smooth. No problems after 1,900 hours except that I had to replace the joy stick for the loader. The first one wore out."

Gordon Siert, Brighton, Colo.: "I like my 1997 **Ford** F-150 Super Cab pickup. The 4.6-liter, V-8 engine has a lot of power and the third door makes access to the rear seat much easier. Even though it has a long bed it rides softer than most cars I've owned. No problems so far."

Henry F. Heagley, Heagley Harvesting,

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