

Best & Worst Buys

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Westport, S. Dak.: "I love my two 1988 **Deere** 8820 combines. They're reliable and rebuildable and aren't as heavy as the new models. I harvest a lot of seed grain down south so the sample has to be clean with minimal kernal damage. These combines deliver on both counts. I'm also satisfied with the new 930 series headers. The old 230 models had a skip feed problem about 4 ft. in from the right side."

Elwin Schneikart, Crane Valley, Sask.: "My **Concord** air drill equipped with a hydraulic rod works 110 percent. It seeds accurately without plugging up and does a good job of seeding, fertilizing, and packing in one pass. It saves time and fuel and does an excellent job of seed placement from lentils to canary seed. I'd recommend it to anyone."

"My **Homelite** gas-powered weed trimmer is my worst buy. It's hard to start and I had to take it back to the dealer several times. All he does is tell me there's nothing wrong with it as he's writing me out another bill."

Eugene Gaman, Schuylkill Ave., Pa.: Eugene likes his 1991 **Case-IH** 1845C skidsteer loader. "My 12-year-old son or I use it every day. The only problem was when a side hydro pump went out right after the warranty had expired. However, the dealer repaired it in only three days. I bought it used when it was 1 1/2 years old with 600 hours on it. Even though it's six years old and has almost 3,000 hours on it, it has the same resale value as when I bought it."

Guido Felici, Waterford, Ontario: "We had problems with the steering on our Massey-Ferguson 165 tractor for years and spent a pile of money with poor results. Two years ago we installed an anti shimmy kit on the front wheels after the kit was featured in FARM SHOW (Joe Staadegaard, Lynnville Farm Equipment, Rt. 1, Windham Centre, Ontario, Canada ph 519 426-4416). I couldn't believe we could solve our problem for less than \$200, but it worked and still does like the day it was installed. Two automotive shocks are installed under the front axle, with one end of each shock attached to the front axle and the other to the center steering pivot. It will prevent shimmying and also prevents the tire rod ends and other steering parts from wearing out as fast. A lot of other people in our area have had them installed, too. It's the best money I ever spent."

Delbert Marquardt, Julesburg, Colo.: Delbert owns a "best buy" 1996 **Ford** F-250 4-WD Super Cab pickup equipped with a short bed. "With an extended cab and short bed it turns short and has good towing qualities."

Leonard J. Juhnke, Sedgwick, Kan.: "My 1995 **Sunflower** 30-ft. disk is both a primary tillage and finishing tool and is my best buy. It's well built and does an excellent job. Also, the company backs up its product."

Stuart Starr, Brechin, Ontario: Stuart's not happy with the "holemaker" for hay bales made by **F.B. Recker Co.** It bolts to the baler plunger to create a 2-in. dia. hole through the bale center. The manufacturer claims it will virtually eliminate mold and mildew problems, even at high moisture, so that you can bale hay 12 to 24 hours after you cut it. "I couldn't see that it made the least bit of difference in the quality of my hay," says Starr.

"If the hay was baled tough it got just as musty as it would have without the holemaker. I leave my bales in the field for a few days so they had time to dry out either with or without the holemaker."

Paul R. Anderson, Coleharbor, N.Dak.: "My **Deere** 7800 tractor is comfortable and easy to operate."

"My **Spray-air** 2272 72-ft. pull-type sprayer is a best buy. It lets me kill weeds with half rates of chemical and paid for itself the first year."

"My worst buy is my 1992 **Flexi-Coil** 130-ft. shielded sprayer. It was so wide that one end drooped down. As a result the shields would hang low and were always getting knocked down into the spray pattern. Perhaps a model less than 100 ft. wide would work better."

Leonard Kalvzny, Franklinville, N.Y.: "In the spring of 1995 I erected a new 60 by 80 by 14-ft. **Stockade** building as an addition to my existing barns. This barn has been nothing but trouble from the start. The roof is made from galvanized steel which was upgraded at an additional cost. However, within six to seven months some roof panels

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were rusted and discolored. After many calls to the dealer and then to the company, the panels were finally replaced. The roof has leaked from the day it was finished and the dealer is very slow to do warranty work. At the rate the dealer works, the warranty will have expired before the roof is fixed. The building was erected with red panel sides but screwed together with galvanized screws that weren't red. For the price I paid it was a very poor buy. I'll never buy a building from the company again."

Robert W. Roseberry, Purvis, Miss.: Robert likes his **Deere** 7200 tractor equipped with a cab, air conditioning, and power shift quad transmission. "It's rated at 92 hp but out-performs other 100 plus hp tractors I've used in the past. It has 1,000 hours on it with no problems. The cab is very comfortable."

Terry Baker, Woodlake, Calif.: He's impressed with his 1997 **Waco** MT50 forklift (Western Attachment Co., 4112 B West 11th, Eugene, Ore. 97402 ph 800 497-1704). "It's well built and designed. It handles well and turns shorter than any other forklift I've ever used. It has excellent visibility out front and is easy to maintain. I've called the factory several times for information and they've been accommodating and friendly. I can't say enough good things about it."

Denny Roth, Richland, Ind.: "My 1995 **Case-IH** 7220 front wheel assist tractor has 1,030 hours on it with no problems. It's quiet and comfortable. My only complaint is that it turns wide when the wheels are set for 30-in. rows."

"My worst buy is my 1996 **Kinze** 2600 twin-line 16-row planter equipped with interplanter row units. In 1985 I purchased the original twin-line planter which was a 12-row unit with interplanter units. It was an excel-

lent planter, heavily built and dependable. However, this model is built much lighter. After 300 acres the row units on back were twisting. I also had several bearings go out and had to replace the two outside transport wheels on the wings. The company made a name for itself with its original twin-line planter, but this planter isn't built with the same quality."

Harry McMillan, Campobelle, S.C.: Harry's happy with his 1996 **Deere** 6300 tractor equipped with a cab and 620 front-end loader. "It has a lot of power and a roomy cab. I'm 6 ft. 4 in. and my son is 6 ft. 9 in. but our height is no problem. The loader is operated by a single joystick control which works great for moving hay and for cleaning our barn lot."

Chester Crane, Bangor, Pa.: Chester's had problems with his **Morton** 60-ft. long, 54-ft. wide pole-type building built in 1987. "The roof truss materials were measured by a state licensed engineer and it was determined that some of the truss material was 17 percent smaller than plans called for. The roof sags visibly between the eave and peak, and none of the columns have the proper number of galvanized nails. Another problem is that the paint is peeling from all the roof metal. I sent a letter and photos to the company and got a letter back from a local manager indicating that there is no warranty on the building. Maybe there's just too much wrong with it. The company furnished all the materials and a company crew erected it."

Jimmie Carter, Tyler, Texas: "My 1994 **Ford New Holland** 6640 tractor equipped with a cab is a pleasure to operate in our hay fields. It rides good, has a lot of power, and steers great. It's a good piece of machinery."

"Besides being a farmer I'm also a service manager for an electrical power generating contractor that has been renting three 1995 **Ford New Holland** 4630 tractors. There's not a straight piece of sheet metal on them but they've had no mechanical problems whatsoever."

R. B. Anderson, Amboy, Ill.: He's had problems with the 7.3-liter diesel engine in his 1989 **Ford** F-250 pickup. "The pickup had just under 125,000 miles on it when the engine broke down. The mechanics found that the cylinder walls were full of sand holes. To have the engine torn apart, the cylinders bored out and sleeved, and the engine put back together cost me just over \$5,000. Through research I've found that this problem is happening all over the country. The

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shop where my engine was repaired also repaired two other diesel engines the week before mine. Both were on newer pickups that had less mileage than mine. The problem is that the engine blocks were cast poorly."

"I bought this pickup because I thought it would last 250,000 to 300,000 miles. If anyone has any information about these diesel engines please contact me (833 Rockyford Rd., Amboy, Ill. 61310)."

Richard J. Noel, Highgate Center, Vt.: Richard's had good luck with his 1989 **Deere** 1360 mower conditioner. "I use it in all types of grass and alfalfa to mow 120 acres three times a year and haven't had any downtime. It'll mow even 6-ft. tall reed canary grass

along my ditches. I use an International 784 75 hp tractor to pull it. I've had to buy only about \$30 worth of knives a year."

"My 1994 **Stihl** 036 chain saw is my worst buy. I like everything about it for a poorly located switch that controls the choke runoff. When you're notching a tree and have gloves on, it's easy to accidentally hit the switch with your thumb which shuts off the saw. That's not too handy when you're almost ready to fell a tree and your saw shuts off while cutting the notch."

Terry J. Glasheen, Oshkosh, Wis.: "It makes welding sheet metal really easy and also does a good job on heavier pieces," says Terry, pleased with his **Millermatic** 200 wirefeed welder."

Wayne Arnold, Gansevoort, N.Y.: Wayne likes his 1988 **Deere** 2755 MFWD tractor and **Deere** 245 front-end loader but says it has nevertheless had some problems. "It has more than 5,700 hours but ever since the warranty expired all I've had to replace or repair was the clutch at 4,960 hours. It's a real best buy. However, like the **Deere** 2030 and 2640 tractors that I owned before, it's noisy due to fuel injectors and hydraulic pumps, etc., so I always try to wear hearing protection. The hand parking brake won't hold back any more than just the tractor itself. The loader's self-leveling fork and 7-ft. bucket are quite light duty - I have to be careful not to use them like a bulldozer or they'll break. However, they work fine in snow and silage."

Henry A. Kubischta, Dickinson, N. Dak.: Henry likes his **Chevrolet** S10 Club Cab pickup. "I get nothing but complements on its looks and body style. It starts and handles good and is fuel efficient. However, it's a 4-cyl. engine so it's a little underpowered."

Dave Aikman, Spencer, Ohio: "My **Knight** Pro-Twin 8024 spreader does a good job of spreading lime, manure, and sludge."

Frank Glenn, Farmer City, Ill.: "One of my worst buys is my 1990 **Deere** 8960. **Deere** really ruined a good engine with their specifications for the engine in this tractor. Last spring I replaced the fuel pump with one recalibrated by Schield diesel, Effingham, Ill., and gained 1 mph pulling a 46-ft. cultivator. The only thing I do like about this tractor is the 24-speed transmission. The new **Deere** tractors with the **Penske** engines and all the electronics do not impress me. My next tractors are going to be blue."

"I had major problems with my 1992 **DMI** 46-ft. Tiger mate cultivator with a 5-bar harrow. After hitting a hole in the road during transport, I twisted the center axle, creating a major catastrophe. In 1993, **DMI** solved the problem on new models by increasing the center axle tube to 5/8-in. thickness. Despite the problem I had with the earlier model, I still think **DMI** is the best on the market and I have since traded for a Tiger Mate II."

"I have a 2600 **Kinze** 16-row 31-in. planter that I would like much better if it had **White** planter units and a decent monitor. **White** planter units would easily fit in place of the pusher units but would require modification to mount in place of the rear units. **Kinze** has great ideas on their planter toolbars but sometimes quality control is lacking."

"I use a **Bruening Seed Vac** (made in Shelbyville, Ind.) to fill the planter from bulk bags. I also use it to clean out the planter and other equipment. It's a best buy."

Frank F. Oimstead, Gerry, N.Y.: He's happy with his 1997 **Polaris** 500 4-WD Sportsman ATV. "It's a lot more machine than we expected. We traded in our **Polaris**