

Farmers Nominate Best & Worst Buys

engine 30 minutes prior to operation. However, the owner's manual doesn't even mention this. After owning seven ATV's over a 22-year period, I've never been more disappointed with a product, a dealer, or a company."

John Hemphill, Diller, Neb.: "My 2003 **Koyker 565** front-end loader works perfect. One of my 'green' friends is totally impressed with the loader's quick-tach bucket and bale spear. It takes less than two minutes to change attachments."

Alex Vanhervaben, Hamilton, Ontario: "My 2002 **Deere 8520** tractor is my best buy. We had been farming only Case tractors until we decided to try Deere. I like it so much that I'd never go back to Case."

"My 2003 **Ford F-350** pickup equipped with a V-8 turbocharged diesel engine is my worst buy. After two months the engine blew up. We have a 1986 **Chevrolet 1-ton** pickup and haven't had any problems with it. It goes to show you which brand is on top."

Dale Kallenbach, Girard, Penn.: "This has to be one of the best engineered tractors on the market," says Dale about his **Steiner 4-WD** turf tractor equipped with a front-mount mower deck. "It's available with more than 30 attachments, which can be changed without tools in only a few minutes. The mower is in front where it's easy to see. And with 4-WD this tractor has fantastic traction. If I were 30 years younger, I'd probably become a dealer."

"My **Hudson** backpack 4-gal. sprayer is my worst buy. It won't build up pressure and needs continual pumping. Rubber pump parts wore out fast."

Dan Gordon, Convoy, Ohio: "Our best buy is our 1999 **Woods 6200 Mow'n** Machine equipped with a 20 hp Kohler engine and 52-in. deck on front. We bought it used

with more than 1,000 hours on it and it now has more than 1,300 hours. It's the most impressive machine I've ever used."

"My 2001 **Troy-Bilt** garden tractor equipped with a 42-in. deck is my worst buy. I was able to put less than 100 hours on it before the deck mounts broke. The spindle bearings also wore out, and the blades were as soft as butter and new ones weren't available. The next year bushings on the transmission went out. I've never seen such a pile of junk in my life."

Wayne A. Beggs, Lincolnton, Ga.: "In 1952 my dad bought a **Sears David Bradley** walk-behind garden tractor. It's still going



strong and is our best buy. The tractor's 5 hp Briggs & Stratton engine has been replaced a few times as well as the clutch facing, bearing and seals, and tires. However, I won't get rid of this machine any time soon. It's like plowing with a mule. Last year I repainted the tractor and all the attachments that I use with it."

Tom King, Winn, Nevada: "In 1989 I bought a 1985 **Chevrolet** pickup equipped with a 6.2-liter diesel engine, and it's my best buy. It had about 43,000 miles on it when I bought it. Over the years I've put more than 400,000 miles on it with no major problems. The clutch was replaced at 325,000 miles. I drove this pickup every day in my horseshoeing business. It still gets 18 mpg."

Sandra Jordan, Worcester, N.Y.: "My **Geo Metro** 4-door car equipped with a 4-cyl. engine has required only simple maintenance. It has more than 150,000 pleasure-filled miles on it and rides wonderfully. I wouldn't hesitate to buy another one."

Marvin Edevold, Bagley, Minn.: "Our **Vermeer Rebel 5500** baler works great and is reasonably priced."

Harm Spangenberg, St. Thomas, Ontario: "My 1997 **Deere 750** no-till drill does a good job in moist soil types and requires very little maintenance."

On the negative side, "My 1997 **Chevrolet** Sonoma 4-WD pickup equipped with a 4.3-liter V-6 engine got only 15 mpg and didn't have enough power to do anything. The cab is way too small for more than two people."

William Johnson, Holdrege, Neb.: "My 1994 **Deere 4620** is an excellent tractor. It has had a few electrical problems but they weren't too hard to fix."

On the "worst buy" side, he lists his 1992 **Chevrolet Silverado 4-WD** pickup equipped with a 6.2-liter diesel engine. He bought it used in 1996. "It's a poorly built pickup. The 4-WD should be made to shift like 1971-1976 models. Also, it had many electrical problems. For example, the lights would go out while I was driving at night. New switches for it weren't cheap. I finally sold it 3 years ago at a loss and bought an older 1976 **GM 4-WD** pickup. At least it's not loaded with computers and cheap electrical components."

Elmer Pinkerton, Elmwood, Neb.: "My **Deere 425** riding mower equipped with a 54-in. deck is my worst buy. I wish I could get my money back. The deck works well when it's clean, but it takes only a short time for grass to begin sticking to the entire inside part of the deck. It's too much work to remove the deck so I bought a small electric winch

and mounted it on front of the mower. Now when I'm done mowing I hitch the mower to a heavy tree branch and raise the front end of the mower to a vertical position so that I can easily hose it off. To power the winch I replaced the rig's original small battery with a larger car battery. Now I don't swear at the mower nearly as often."

Bob Stewart, Fishers, Ind.: "My worst buy was not really a buy at all. I ordered six bags of Intellicoat-treated seed corn from **Fielder's Choice** last winter so that I could do a comparison trial. However, when I got the seed I discovered that it wasn't the treated seed that I had ordered so I asked to return it. In fact, the seed hadn't been treated at all. After making many phone calls I finally got my refund but it was for \$136 less than I had paid. And the money doesn't take into account the 80-mile trip I had made to pick up the seed at the company's drop-off point or the 180-mile trip I made to return the seed to their seed plant. Not a bad profit for them considering they still have the product. I'll never buy from this company again."

Ken Scharabok, Waverly, Tenn.: "In our area, when you go to a small engine repair shop to have a chain saw's teeth sharpened, they take off so much of the teeth that after three sharpenings the chains are about useless. So I bought a 'Nick the Grinder' over eBay (www.eBay.com), which turned out to be a **Harbor Freight** tool (www.harborfreighttools.com). It's my best buy. While it may look like a toy, it's a serious piece of equipment that's simple to set up and use. I can take off as little of the teeth as required, meaning I can get several times the number of uses out of a chain compared to 'professional' sharpening. I estimate this machine will pay for itself in only one season of woodlot management and firewood cutting."

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