

Farmers Nominate Best & Worst Buys

hydraulics. Prevents a lot of plugging in wet, tangled hay. Also, this machine turns corners well."

Donald Brenton, Stewiacko, Col Co, Nova Scotia: "So far I've had only minor problems with my 1998 Zetor 6293 tractor. It has a good cab and excellent traction."

He says his **International 685** tractor equipped with a front-end loader works well but has nevertheless had some problems. "The hood design, with a loader on, makes it hard to clean the radiator and also the oil cooler. To clean the radiator I have to first remove the hood. It shouldn't take 1 1/2 hours to clean a radiator, but it does. I've cleaned the radiator on this tractor several times, and every time I had to remove the hood."

Bernard Lange, Muenster, Sask.: "I like my 2000 **Morris Maxim 34-ft.** air drill which has planting units on 10-in. spacings. It's a well-built unit and seeds very accurately, right down to the last pound of seed."

Ted Harris, Inyokern, Calif.: "My 1990 **Dodge 1-ton** flatbed pickup equipped with a 6-cyl. Cummins diesel engine is my best buy. It's been virtually trouble-free. Sometimes I load 140 100-lb. bales on it and pull a 16-ft. trailer at the same time, returning 155 miles back home empty. With a load I'm pulling more than 24,000 lbs., and empty 10,100 lbs., yet I still average 13.9 to 14.3 miles per gallon."

Larry Betts, Little Falls, Minn.: Larry says his 1999 **Deere 566** round baler is his "worst buy". "Upon delivery the baler was damaged and was missing a scraper kit, and there were some parts on back order. As of

last November, the parts still hadn't come in. The wrapping mechanism has never worked properly, either. There has been little to no effort from my dealer to correct these problems. It's hard for me to continue to support Deere or my dealer when the quality of customer service that I received was so poor."

Glen Stuiwenga, Sheridan, Ore.: Glen is disappointed with the **B-Alert** strobe light he bought for chasing away pest animals. "The product is made in China. It's supposed to chase away pests such as raccoons and even

"It's as handy as a shirt pocket."

deer from gardens. However, it didn't work and was a waste of money as far as I'm concerned."

Henry Trammell, Selma, Ala.: "It's as handy as a shirt pocket," says Henry, pleased with his 2001 **Milwaukee** portable bandsaw. "I can use it to cut any metal object up to 4 1/2 in. square. It has a 2-speed gearbox that allows me to speed up or slow down the saw as needed."

Russ Gilbertson, Nashua, Montana: "My **Besler** pickup-mounted round bale handler is my best buy (Besler Industries, P.O. Box B, Cambridge, Neb. 69022 ph 308 697-4866). It's well built and virtually indestructible. I can't believe how much work this machine saves on cold mornings. I like

that I don't have to start a tractor.

"The **Campbell Hausfeld** gas engine-driven pressure washer I bought a couple years ago was a worst buy. It quit working after I had used it for only a couple hours. It's powered by a Briggs & Stratton gas engine, which works fine. However, the washer part leaves a lot to be desired. I kept it for only two months. It comes with a one-year warranty which is also a joke. I couldn't get anything accomplished with this machine and wouldn't recommend it to anyone."

Willy Tenold, Reva, S. Dak.: Willy's impressed with his 2000 **Farm King 60-in.** 3-pt. mounted, pto-driven rototiller (Farm King, 301 Mountain St. S., Morden, Manitoba, Canada R6M 1X7 ph 204 822-4467). "This rototiller works well even in weeds. Field bindweed can be extracted from the tines by lifting the machine and putting it in gear for just a few seconds. It's a real treat to be able to pulverize the ground without feeling pulverized yourself. We even used this machine last spring to till some ground that had never been worked before."

Randy Allen, Bennington, Okla.: "My best buy 1990 **Nissan** pickup has more than 232,000 miles on it. All I've done is replace the starter and the air conditioning compressor.

"My 1985 **Honda 3-wheeler** is also a best buy. I had to rebuild the starter. Otherwise it has been trouble-free."

Lance Roper, American Falls, Idaho: "My **Versatile 9030** Bi-Directional tractor was my best buy ever. It was truly a versatile tractor, as I used it with a loader,

grapple fork, forklift teeth, and a swather header. I owned this tractor for three years and used it in my custom haying business and also for other jobs. My 9030 was big enough to keep up with self-propelled swathers, yet narrow enough that we could drive it up onto a semi truck to haul it go to another field. Between crops we dropped the header and used the grapple fork to load bales. We also used the tractor to move irrigation pipe, pallets, and anything else that the forklift teeth could get under. I sold my haying business but I still miss that tractor. I used it all year long including during the winter when it was equipped with a snowblower. It had a hydrostatic transmission so it worked great for that job."

Mike Bellar, Howard, Kansas: "I'm the disappointed owner of a brand new **Deere 2200 5-section, 45 1/2-ft.** field cultivator delivered March 15, 2002. The problem is that when I'm in the field and raise the cultivator to turn, the outside wing I'm turning into drops significantly. The rest of the machine can be 12 inches above ground, yet this wing is dragging in the ground.

"After I complained for six weeks, the company finally admitted there's a problem. However, they want me to pay \$1,300 to fix it. I think it's a design flaw and that it's their responsibility to make it work.

"In the past, Deere has always stepped up to the plate and corrected any problems I've had. That's why I almost always buy Deere. However, after this episode I'll think twice before I buy anything green again."

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