

# Farmers Nominate Best & Worst Buys

torque and is highly maneuverable. It doesn't have a ground drive pto, but instead the pto works live off the tractor. This was annoying because I had asked to see the operator's manual before I bought the tractor, and according to the manual a ground drive pto was standard equipment. I found out later that the ground drive pto is available only on the company's European-distributed tractors."

**Richard T. Eames, Union Hall, Va.:** "We bought our **Ferguson 35** tractor new in 1954 and it's still going strong."

**Steve Crouse, Katahdin Welding, Patten, Maine:** "I like my 1997 **Scotchman 40-ton** ironworker. This machine has performed flawlessly and has tripled the output of my small fabrication shop."

**L.B. Hagemann, Midland, Texas:** "I'm really pleased with my 1992 **Geo Metro** hatchback. The battery lasted seven years before it had to be replaced. The car itself didn't have any problems until it had 103,000 miles on it. During that time I changed the spark plugs, all the belts, the water pump, and some oil gaskets. Even though the car is equipped with a 5-speed transmission and air conditioning, it still averages 40 to 45 mpg. I replaced a rear wheel bearing at 97,000 miles. Now the car has more than 111,000 miles on it."

**Arthur Seute, Olathe, Kansas:** "My two **Cub Cadet** tractors have been running strong for more than 30 years and both of them are best buys. Both tractors are equipped with belly-mount mowers. The bigger one is a 1971 Model 154 Lo Boy, which is equipped with a 15 hp gas engine and a 60-in. deck. I bought it new and didn't overhaul it until 1991. My wife still uses it to mow. A few years ago she used it to do the final cutting on pasture land that we cleared with a Bush Hog. Thorns from hedge and locust trees



were causing the front tires to go flat all the time so we replaced them with solid-filled car spare tires.

"Later, I replaced the original tires but filled them with anti-freeze. I read about the idea in FARM SHOW. I removed the core from the valve stem on the tire, then I filled the tire pump with antifreeze and pumped the anti-freeze into the tire. The anti-freeze apparently causes the thorn to swell up, which keeps air from leaking out of the tire.

"The smaller tractor is a 1969 model 73 equipped with a 7 hp gas engine and a 36-in. deck. I bought it used but it was in like-new condition when I bought it. This tractor still has the same tires that were on it when I bought it. I use it mainly for mowing around trees in our yard.

"I overhauled both models in 1991 and also repainted them. I've never burned out a single bearing on either mower deck or had any trouble with either tractor. One reason is that I give each deck bearing a shot of grease once a week. I think lubrication is the key to long life on any piece of equipment."

**Michael M. Wiener, Brush, Colo.:** Michael likes his 1953 **Deere 40** tractor. "I bought it seven years ago with 1,960 hours

on it. It has been economical and a pleasure to operate on my small acreage. It's equipped with a dual Touch-A-Matic 3-pt. hitch that works great with all my Cat. I implements. I haven't had any problems with this tractor and it's easy to operate. Considering it's a 1953 model, I think Deere made a great tractor with a state-of-the-art 3-pt. hitch. If I were in the market for a new tractor, I'd buy a Deere 4300 with a Deere 430 front-end loader. It seems to have all the user-friendly options I like to see in a small tractor."

**Jim Revell, Thamesville, Ontario:** "My 1996 **Deere 6400** is a good tractor. It has a surprising amount of power and is easy on fuel. The only drawback is that the air conditioning doesn't work as well as on other tractors I've had."

**Paul Price, Goldston, N.C.:** Paul's happy with his 1997 **Deere 7810 4-WD** tractor which he says has more than 2,900 trouble-free hours on it. "It has plenty of power to pull our 22-ft. disk even through wet areas that we encounter every spring. It has a comfortable cab that has a great view and keeps cool on hot summer days."

**Sam C. Parsons, Sugar Grove, Va.:** "It's reasonably priced and has a lot of power," says Sam about his 2000 **Zetor 6341 4-WD** Super tractor equipped with a quick-tach front-end loader. "It has a smooth-operating shuttle shift transmission that makes the loader a pleasure to use. I like the loader, too. It's built strong."

**Adam Bowen, West Alexandria, Ohio:** "I like my **AGCO White 6045** front wheel assist tractor equipped with a front-end loader. It has performed incredibly well, and it starts right up no matter how cold the weather is. I used the tractor to take out fence rows, to pull our 15-ft. Bush Hog, and to move snow. This little tractor is a '10' in my book.

"My **AGCO White 6810** front wheel assist tractor is my worst buy. It has a lot of power and is comfortable to drive. However, the interior cracked and broke. Mud packed up in around the fuel tank and broke the brackets. And to top it all off, the rear end went out at about 600 hours. The dealer wouldn't stand behind the product and told me the warranty had expired seven days before I brought the tractor in, and that it wasn't his problem. Another dealer finally fixed the tractor."

**Lester M. Weaver, Quarryville, Pa.:** "My **Case 1845B** skid steer loader, which I bought used in 1988, still works good. I like it a lot. It has about 5,500 hours on it and has required very little maintenance."

**Tony Wilson, Statesville, N.C.:** "I like my 1976 **Ford 5600** tractor which I bought used. I traded my **Massey Ferguson 135** for it because the Massey was too light to carry round bales. The Ford model had water seeping through the head gasket, but the dealer repaired it before delivery. This tractor works great. It's the best trade I ever made."

**Kyle Dobias, Verdigr, Neb.:** "I like my brother's 1957 **Oliver 77** tractor equipped with a diesel engine. It runs strong and works great for mowing. My dad bought it from a friend for \$360.

"I rented a 1987 **Case-IH 2394** tractor and I always had to use a battery charger to start it. The tractor had an electronic clutch that was operated by a fuse, which kept shorting out."

**Joseph W. Brocard, Sweet Home, Ore.:** "My best buys are two **Ford** tractors - a 5610

that I bought used, and a 1520 which I bought new equipped with a belly-mounted mower. It has a 3-cyl. diesel engine. Both tractors are easy to maintain."

**Trevor Atchison, Pipestone, Manitoba:** "My 1998 **New Holland TR140** tractor, equipped with a front-end loader, is my worst buy. It's a real lemon. The hydraulic system was faulty, which caused the loader to shudder severely when I dumped the bucket or lowered the loader. The extra pressure blew out a hydraulic hose. Hydrostatic lines began to leak slowly where they were crimped on, and O-rings blew on the hydraulic lines and also on coupling blocks. The couplers are poorly designed and spit oil at me whenever I uncouple them. The cab roof leaks, and the glass in the doors and windshield have broken more than once. The company now offers update kits. It took a year before they really stepped up to fix the problems."

**Richard Baldwin, Great Meadows, N.J.:** Richard's "well satisfied" with his 1986 **Ford 340B** tractor equipped with a front-end loader.

**Mac McCallum, Glencoe, Ontario:** "I like my 1991 **Deere 4255** tractor which is equipped with an air conditioned cab. It's comfortable to drive and handles good. My only complaint is that the muffler partially blocks the driver's view."

**Earl Roney, Dublin, Ontario:** "I'm well satisfied with my **Case-IH 7240** tractor. I mounted a step on the left side of the cab so I could get up to clean the window and mirror. I also bought a quick hitch for the 3-pt."

**Rusty Hoekstra, Camlachie, Ontario:** Rusty's happy with his **Kubota M 9000** utility tractor equipped with a front-end loader. "It handles good, has a lot of hydraulic power, and turns short. The loader works great."

**Sonny Kolbe, Bagley, Iowa:** Sonny's disappointed with his 2000 **Case-IH MX 220** tractor. "The high-paid people who design these \$150,000 tractors should come out to my farm and run one for a week. One problem is that the temperature control inside

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the cab can vary 20 degrees within a 5-minute time period. Another problem is that hydraulic hoses jump and jerk whenever you lower any equipment that's hooked to them. You need a suitcase and a handful of wrenches whenever you change to a different pto speed. And when you're done for the day, the tractor won't shut off.

"It has adequate power and handles okay. However, it's not particularly comfortable. For example, you can't even control fan speed on the heat or air conditioning - the computer does that. It's reasonably fuel efficient but it's hard to tell because it has a 150-gal. tank so it seems like you get a lot of work done before you have to fill up again. I mounted a bar inside the cab to hold an FM radio, phone, and spray monitor. There was no place else to place these items."

**Robert L. Sorenson, Arvada, Wyoming:** Robert's "very satisfied" with his 1982 **Deere 4640** tractor. "It has about 7,300 hours on it with no major problems and still has the original engine and transmission. I also have a **Deere 4430** with more than 10,000 hours on it and virtually everything on it is original. Only the air conditioning pump and the alternator have been replaced. The fuel economy on Deere's 30 and 40 series tractors isn't good, but everything else about these tractors is so good that I can overlook that problem. No other tractor even comes close in quality to this one. I still prefer these old tractors to the new ones my neighbors have."

**Steve Eyler, Camden, Ohio:** "My 1992 **Deere 855** compact utility tractor is fuel efficient and easy to operate. I use it with a 72-in. deck and a 70A front-end loader. It turns short so I can operate it in small areas with no problems. I use this tractor in my mowing service and it's been trouble-free."

**Sharold Shepherd, Kiowa, Colo.:** "My 1998 **Deere 5400** tractor runs great. It's a good tractor."

**Duane Martin, Fayette, Iowa:** "I like my 1978 **Case 1370** tractor."

**Larry Blackard, Hartman, Ark.:** Larry likes his 1999 **Deere 5410** tractor equipped with a front-end loader. "It has a lot of power and is nimble. It works great as a loader-tractor. My only complaint is that it could use a better fuel tank cap."

**Clarence Peterson, Menasha, Wis.:** Clarence likes his 1986 **Massey Ferguson 1040** tractor but says it nevertheless could use some improvements. "I'm satisfied in some ways and disappointed in others. For moving and blowing snow and doing light loader work, this tractor works fine. But for heavy mowing with a rotary mower, it doesn't work so well because the engine overheats. The radiator had to be cleaned out, a new thermostat installed, and the block was flushed, but it still overheats. The dealer says this tractor is too small for the kind of work I use it for. Of course, he had a different story when he sold it to me."

**Marvin Houdek, Munden, Kansas:** Marvin likes his 1983 **Deere 2940** tractor, but says he had a problem with hydraulic O-rings located by the steering wheel and behind the gauges. "I installed a roll guard and added an exit step on the right side of the tractor."

**Alex Thomson, Vo Ag director, Woodbury, Conn.:** Alex is the Vo Ag director for his school, where he uses a 1990 **Ford 445C** tractor equipped with a front-end loader and a model 763 backhoe. "This tractor is just the right size for our students. The torque converter transmission is easy to use and I really like the 4-WD. The backhoe has only a 10-ft. reach but it works perfect for landscaping work. However, this tractor could use a couple of improvements. The engine is extremely noisy, especially when it's cold. The sound it makes is ear splitting. Also, I wish the engine had more power. It's like a snail going uphill."

**Francois Allard, St. Isidore, Alberta:** "Overall, I like my 1997 **Caterpillar 85D** tractor. However, in extremely wet conditions the tracks slip and lose steering. Basically, the tractor could use improved steering when it's under load."

**Leonard Kirchhoff, Humboldt, Iowa:** "My 1955 **International 300** utility tractor and 1955 **International 200** row crop tractors are both best buys."