

"It always starts, is easy to use, and does a good job cutting. However, I think the name Wild Thing is a pretty stupid name for a chain saw.

"My 1998 Murray 22-in. push mower and 1999 Lawn General 22-in. self-propelled lawn mowers are both worst buys. I bought both mowers new. Neither one has much power which makes it difficult to cut even 3 or 4-in. high grass. All the safety features on these mowers are inconvenient to use. I don't

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want to buy an expensive mower just to mow my lawn, but maybe that's what I'll have to do."

Bud Eanes, Thomasville, N.C.: "My 1981 Datsun pickup equipped with a diesel engine gets 48 to 50 mpg with the tailgate down. It's my best buy."

Jody Lagerquist, Westby, Mont.: "My Bourgault 5710 air seeder is my best buy. I like being able to go right into stubble to seed. It has great trash clearance and mid-row banders so I don't have to deep band in order to get all the fertilizer down. Also, it doesn't disturb the ground as deep as other air seeders on the market."

Jim Dayton, Shoal Lake, Manitoba: Jim's impressed with his 2000 Deere 9650 walker combine. "Over the years I've used many Deere combine models, ranging from the 7700 up to this 9650. The 9650 is without a doubt the best Deere combine I've owned. It's easy to set and also to operate. I love the new loss monitor and the return-to-cut feature is a great asset. The tailings monitor is a great feature, too. By following the instructions that came with the 930 rigid platform, we were able to move the cutterbar to the forward position. This has really helped feed the crop in better. We also tilted the cutterbar up. As a result we have no more broken guards, sections, or injured stones."

Dean May, Golden Prairie, Sask.: "My 1999 Chevrolet regular cab 4-WD pickup has a lot of power, a quiet cab, is fuel efficient, and rides nice. It's a comfortable and reliable pickup."

G.A. Henderson, Williamstown, W. Va.: I like my 1987 TroyBuilt rototiller equipped with an 8 hp Kohler gas engine. I've worn out only one set of tines in 14 years and it has never failed to start on the second pull. All I have to do is change the oil regularly. It still has the original spark plug."

Lawrence E. Smith, Norwalk, Iowa: "My 1999 Kawasaki Prairie 300 ATV starts and runs smooth and saves a lot of steps. I use it with a 15-gal. sprayer to spray fence rows and pastures, to check crops, and to run errands. It's a pleasure to drive. I added a receiver hitch and running boards."

Donald A. Schremp, Ste. Genevieve, Mo.: "My 1991 New Idea 5209 discbine has been trouble-free and is my best buy. I've used it to cut 3,000 to 4,000 acres of hay in hilly ground with some rocks in the fields. The only reason I would get rid of it would be to buy a new one just like it."

"The windshield wipers on my 1995 Chevrolet 1500 pickup don't work and the dealer can't seem to fix them.

"One of my worst buys is a 1981 International Harvester 986 tractor which has only about 3,200 hours on it. I've had problems with the cab mounts, transmission, clutch, two hydraulic pumps, injection pump, pto shaft, air conditioner, and front wheel spindle."

Henry Carl Barnett, Horse Shoe, N.C.: Henry owns a 1996 Dodge 3500 pickup equipped with a Cummins diesel engine and 5-speed transmission. "I bought it used with 14,000 miles on it. It's a well-built pickup that I use to haul logs. I wish it had a 6-speed manual transmission. The fifth gear on this transmission went out at 32,000 miles. The company paid for parts but not labor. The dealer charged \$90 alone just for transmission grease. It must be made from gold. The pickup gets 18 mpg which I think is good."

Rick Genova, West Babylon, N.Y.: "My worst buy was a Quonset-type garage from Pioneer Steel. The building collapsed under the weight of a foot or so of snow. When I called the company they told me that the model I bought was meant for the prairie, not for upstate New York, and that it was my fault for buying that model. When I ordered the garage I called the company and told them where I was planning to build it, and they said this model was the right one. Now they're passing the buck to me. The building is less than five years old and has already begun to rust. Now I have to bulldoze it. The company was willing to sell me another garage at a discount. You'd think a company from Canada would sell buildings that can handle snow."

On the "best buy" side, "My Miller Econotig is my favorite welder. It's so versatile that I can weld almost any metal up to 1/4 in. thick with it, without the need for water cooling equipment."

Bradley Meyer, Zeeland, Mich.: Bradley nominates his 1993 Honda Fourtrax 200 4-wheeler ATV as his "best buy". "We haven't had any major problems with it. It'll easily pull our irrigation pump and lawn cart. We recently bought two Polaris Sport 400 4-wheeler ATVs and they run pretty good, too."

"We've had numerous problems with our DeWalt 12-volt cordless drills. They lock up on us and we've also had problems with the battery chargers - they fried two batteries. We have a 9-year-old Makita drill that has never had any problems. So we're going to replace the DeWalt models with new Makitas."

Harold Lineberger, Dallas, N.C.: "My best buy is my Kuhn VKD crop shredder, which is really a heavy duty flail mower. It's one of the toughest and best-engineered machines I've ever owned and will cut anything from small trees to lawn grass. The hammers wear an exceptionally long time before they have to be replaced. I can keep my rough farm looking like a golf course with this mower."

W.H. Greenwell, Benton, Kan.: "My 1999 Kubota lawn mower is always ready to go. It starts every time and is a well-made product."

Patrick McCauley, New Bethlehem, Pa.: Patrick's impressed with his 1979 Ford F-250 pickup. "I bought it used seven years ago with more than 100,000 miles on it. I thought we'd get a year or two out of it, but we're still using it. This pickup just won't die even though I've shown it no mercy. I've used it to pull a 16-ft. stock trailer, to rake hay, and even to pull a 6-ft. tandem disk. I drive it to

"Best Buy" Corn-Burning Hot Water Furnace

Roger Foster, Tower Hill, Ill., says his A-Maizing Heat corn-burning furnace is his "best buy".

Foster uses the hot water furnace to heat his house and garage, using regular field corn and discarded seed corn that he gets from local seed companies. The furnace and 14-bu. metal hopper are housed in a mud room that he built onto his house. A pair of flexible steel augers deliver corn to the furnace. Each auger is powered by a small electric motor.

"It's a flexible system that's clean, trouble-free, and about as convenient as you can get," says Foster. "I bought it last January after selling my wood-fired furnace. I made the switch to corn because I got tired of cutting wood. Corn is a lot easier to handle and it isn't worth much on the market anyway."

"The corn is moved by electricity. All I have to do is load it into the tank. The augers and the circulation pump inside the furnace are turned on or off by an 'aquastat' that measures the water temperature inside the furnace. I store corn in a gravity wagon and use 5-gal. buckets to load the furnace hopper. I didn't put up a bin next to my house because I didn't want the house to look like I was raising hogs in it."

"I haven't used the system long enough to know how much money I'm saving, but last

work every day and have no complaints with it."

Gary Woita, Atkinson, Neb.: "I like my 1997 Besler 3100 pickup-mounted bale bed. We mounted it on a 1986 Ford F-250 equipped with an automatic transmission and 351 cu. in. gas engine. We use it to haul two 1,800-lb. round bales at a time. We beefed up the pickup's frame and put extra springs and overload springs on it as well as 10-ply tires to carry the load. We've fed hundreds of bales with it. We run more than 400 cows and in the winter pasture them on corn stalks as far as 10 miles from our home. We use the pickup to transport and unroll bales on the ground on the days when cows can't graze stalks or when they need supplemental feed. "We also use it during calving time to feed

"I can't say enough good things about this labor and time-saving piece of equipment."

hay to cows several times a day. I'll take one or two bales out and feed them. This seems to save hay and the cows seem more satisfied than feeding once a day. I can't say enough good about this labor and time-saving piece of equipment. It saves hundreds of miles on our loader tractor. We use it for all types of lifting jobs, from pulling fence posts to moving feed bunks. The only problem we've had was with a toggle switch."

Warren D. Heslinga, New Sharon, Iowa: "My worst buy is a Solar Pak Magnum 12-speed solar fence charger. I wanted a solar fencer to keep raccoons out of my sweet corn. And since this was a 12-volt fencer, the dealer assured me it would do the job. However, the first week after I brought it home it quit working so the dealer put a new battery in it. That



Corn-burning furnace and 14-bu. metal hopper are housed in a mud room that Foster built onto his house.

winter I was able to heat my home on corn even on the coldest days, using only about 14 bu. per week. One bushel of corn is equal to about five gallons of propane.

"I've found that naturally dried corn works the best. Elevator-dried corn has too many fines in it. If you're going to burn elevator-dried corn I think you should run it through a cleaner first."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Roger Foster, Rt. 1, Box 108, Tower Hill, Ill. 62571 (ph 217 567-3417) or Big M Mfg. Co. (A-Maize-Ing Heat), 928 E. 1090 N. Rd., Taylorville, Ill. 62568 (ph 217 824-9372).

kept it going for a few more days. When it failed again, the dealer sent it back to the factory where I was told they replaced the solar panel.

"Even when it was working at its best, the shock this fencer put out was so weak that it barely showed up on my fence tester. The fence could be laying flat on the ground, yet the panel meter on the fencer would show that everything was okay. When I got the fencer out again this spring and found it didn't work, I did myself a favor and junked it."

Gordon Lawson, Houston, Texas: Gordon likes Maasdam Pow-R-Pull come-alongs. "We used them while building a 20 by 30-ft. shed. The metal panels needed to be pulled together so the proper spacing and angle braces could be added. They can be operated one-handed, which is really handy when you're standing on a ladder. Lining up the bolt holes on the panels occasionally required use of a second come-along. If you buy two, you won't be disappointed."

William Finnegan, Janesville, Minn.: "My Snapper ZTR 60-in. riding mower is my best buy. It has a single joystick control which makes it easy to operate. This mower is easy to get on and off, and once you're in the seat it's like being in an easy chair. It has a 22 hp Kohler gas engine which is a little light on power when you're mowing in deep grass. All in all, though, it's a nice mower."

"My 1992 Dodge minivan is my worst buy. Before buying, I did a lot of research on vans to determine which year Dodge stopped having transmission problems. In case you're wondering, 1992 was not the year. My van had about 100,000 miles on it when the transmission went out, and if I formed a support group it would be bigger than the population at Woodstock. Another problem is that if you open the doors too far, the hinge breaks the door skin loose and the door won't close correctly."

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