

**Pieter Poth, Mt. Clare, W. Va.:** "My 1976 Chevrolet 3/4-ton 4-WD Scottsdale pickup equipped with a 350 cu. in. engine and 4-speed transmission is a best buy. It has 354,000 miles and I've only replaced one rocker arm, two clutches, and many tires. I've used it a number of times to haul 2 to 3-ton loads."

**Markus D. Taylor, Belmont, Ontario:** Markus is pleased with 1991 Till-Tech 2-in. fluted zone-till coulters (Till-Tech Systems Ltd., Rt. 5, St. Thomas, Ontario Canada N5P 3S9). He mounted 3 coulters per row on his Deere 7000 8-row 30-in. planter. "They're built better than anything else on the market and should stand up to many years of rugged use. They make a nice zone to plant into."

**Herb Karst, Sunburst, Mont.:** Herb's satisfied with his 1990 Case-IH 1680 combine. "This is my fourth rotary combine and they've all been easy to adjust and very dependable."

"My worst buy is a 1989 GM Suburban diesel. It's supposed to be identical to the 1985 model that I traded in, but the newer model is noisy, lacks power, and gets 5 mpg less than the 1985 model."

**C. Patterson, Lexington, Va.:** He's the owner of a "best buy" 1989 Farmi 350P 3-pt. logging winch. "This is the most useful machine I've seen in years. It's made in Finland and is pto-operated. Works great in woodlots and for use with small timber. Lets me winch logs for up to 150 ft. and then drag-skid them. It turns a farm tractor into a

## "This is the most useful machine I've seen in years."

winch-skidder and works much better than a logging winch only."

**David Firth, Amherst, Nova Scotia:** David's "best buy" is a Hurst Rampack round bale silage machine (also sold under license by Ag Bag in the U.S.). "It works very well and is faster and more economical than other ways of making round bale silage."

**Allen L. Johnson, Borden, Ind.:** Allen has almost 200,000 miles on his 1969 Ford F-100 pickup equipped with a 360 cu. in. engine and says it's a "best buy". "I use 30 weight oil in it year around and change oil at regular intervals. I think that's helped."

"My 1976 Stihl 041 chain saw is also a best buy. Other than regular maintenance on bars, chains, and carburetor, I haven't had any trouble with it. I've used it to cut many cords of wood. I replaced the points and condenser last fall for the first time."

**Danny Mannel, Jefferson, Iowa:** "It's the best field cultivator on the market," says Danny, owner of an International 4800 equipped with a Triple S Engineering harrow adjuster kit (Triple S Engineering, Inc., Rt. 2, Box 200A, Griswold, Iowa 51535) that he read about in FARM SHOW. "The Kinze brush-type seed meters on my planter are also a best buy."

"I also like the Depth-A-Matic gauge wheels on my Deere 7000 planter. I wouldn't go to the field without them."

**Dan Juneau, Red Lake Falls, Minn.:** "It's the best pickup I've ever owned," says Dan, pleased with his 1977 GM 4-WD 1/2-ton pickup that he bought used in 1982. "It has about 199,000 miles on it and is still in good shape. It has a 4-speed transmission and a 250 cu. in. engine that's geared down

real low for extra pulling power. The engine is original. The truck is easy to work on and pulls better than some brand new Fords."

**Frank Lipinski, Buckley, Mich.:** "Last June we purchased a Farmaster TMR mixer and our dairy herd average has risen steadily each month since we installed it. It's well built and does an excellent job of mixing. Our herd average is now 22,800 lbs. of milk and 921 lbs. of butterfat."

"We also have six Deere tractors with a total of 33,000 hours with practically no down time or repair expense."

**Cletus Arnold, Roodhouse, Ill.:** "Our 1991 Blu-Jet ST8 Subtiller does a good job of loosening subsoil without disturbing the top soil."

"Our 1989 Woods 1250 mower also works well. The up-front deck lets us mow close to fences, trees, etc., so very little trimming is required. It cut mowing time by more than a third."

**Lee Roy Campbell, Angleton, Texas:** A 1990 Ford F-250 XL 4-WD pickup, equipped with a 351 cu. in. gas engine, 5-speed manual transmission, and 3:55 axle, rates as Lee Roy's "best buy". "It has plenty of pulling power to pull my trailer and tractor, which weigh 8,000 lbs., through rice fields. Rides very comfortably when empty. After 21,000 miles the original Firestone ASR tires still have plenty of tread."

**David W. Speidel, Vinton, Iowa:** "My Hobart Beta MIG-250 amp, 220-volt wire welder is a well designed, compact unit that can weld thin to thick metals. It makes repair work easy," reports David.

**Mike Harris, McNeill, Miss.:** Mike's "worst buy" is Surge herringbone barn stalls. "They rusted out at three years, but the dealer wouldn't replace them. The company offered to replace parts at half price if I bought sanitation supplies from them."

**Kenneth McEachren, Glencoe, Ontario:** "This truck performs perfectly in every way and is the best I've ever owned," says Kenneth about his 1990 Ford Ranger XLT Supercab equipped with a 4-liter V-6 engine.

**Paul Balacak, Westlock, Alberta:** Paul's "best buy" is his 1991 Ford F-150 Lariat pickup. "I was always a Chevrolet man until my neighbors talked me into buying a Ford. It's trouble-free and rides nice. It puts Chevrolet and GM products to shame. No more Chevrolets for me."

**LeRoy Toth, Elk River, Minn.:** A Deere 3020 tractor equipped with a diesel engine and powershift transmission rates as LeRoy's "best buy". "It handles well and is economical for field work and loader work. There's no better tractor in my opinion."

LeRoy's "worst buy" is a Deere 338 baler equipped with hydraulic bale tension and bale thrower. "It ties only 80% of the time and bales aren't uniform. Some are 30 in. long and some are 48 in. long. Some are light and some are heavy out of the same field. The bale thrower throws some bales in the middle of the wagon, some in front, and some right over the back. My dealer has been out at least 26 times trying to make it work right."

**Tom Traxler, Menomonie, Wis.:** "It's an excellent machine and makes beautiful stands," says Tom about his "best buy" Great Plains 10-ft. no-till grain drill.

"My Vicon 13-ft. diskbine with a 9-ft. crimper is a best buy. No breakdowns and it cuts fast and even. Allows hay to dry fast."

**Joe Laycock, Sabina, Ohio:** Joe's pleased with his 1984 International 1460 combine but says it could use some im-

provements. "We've used it on clover seed, canola, corn, and soybeans with good results. However, it needs a larger clean grain elevator, which I understand is offered on later models. It's hard to reach the sieve adjustments when the chaff spreader is mounted. We traded in the original header for a 1020 head which performs 100% better. It has a larger diameter auger and hydraulic reel adjustment that lets us fine tune the header depending on the crop."

**Ken Pieper, Donnellson, Iowa:** Ken's pleased with his Case-IH 1640 combine but says it could use a couple of improvements. "It does the job that it should and provides excellent grain quality. However, the bottom sieves should be easier to adjust and the unloading auger should have an alarm to tell when it's running."

**Paul Vande Voort, Sherman, S. Dak.:** Paul is the owner of a "best buy" 1989 Yamaha Terraplo 4-wheel ATV. "It has plenty of power with 10 forward speeds and reverse. Works great for pulling empty wagons, fixing fence, and chasing pigs. We built a tow bar to haul it to the field. It has over 1,000 miles on it and the only repair we've made was to install a new spark plug."

**Cecil Pikey, Scott City, Mo.:** Cecil's impressed with his Deere 2350 MFWD tractor which he bought used. "It had low hours and had been well maintained. Front wheel drive is very helpful for loader work."

**Thomas E. White, Leonard, Texas:** "My 1991 MTD 5hp rototiller runs and tills extremely well. The tines go both forward and backward and work well for breaking new ground."

**Don Kelly, Plato, Minn.:** Don nominates his 1990 Ford 1720 tractor as "best buy". "It has a comfortable ride, is economical, and picks up a 1,200-lb. bale with no problem. It also has a very handy loader."

"My Winnebago motorhome is a worst buy. On quiet summer nights I can hear it falling apart out in the shed."

**John M. Spring, Elmvale, Ontario:** John's unhappy with dairy comfort stalls that he bought from Berg Corp. "The stalls weren't in our new barn more than two months before they started to rust where

## "On quiet summer nights I can hear it falling apart out in the shed."

they enter the concrete floor. The galvanized coating on the pipes was so poor that it did no good."

"The company sent out a representative who agreed that the pipe used in the stalls shouldn't have rusted. However, the company refuses to act. Their warranty isn't worth the paper it takes to write it on. Companies like this make it difficult for legitimate companies to conduct business without potential customers being leery."

**William Webster, Paris, Ill.:** "William's "worst buy" is his Strauss clipper mower. "The sickle drive should have a balance wheel to keep the drive belt from whipping around. Also the tongue is built too heavy and should have a different clevis on it. The hydraulic system also needs a flow control valve to keep oil flow from dropping too fast. A reel would help keep the sickle bar clean. The right side of the mower needs only one wheel - the second one causes the bar to plug up. It's out of balance."

**E.F. Jones, Midland, Texas:** He's pleased with his Deere 4250 tractor equipped with mechanical front wheel drive. "It does a good job, is very dependable, and starts easy. However, Deere has ripoff prices on parts."

"Our 1986 Volkswagen Jetta diesel car starts poor even on a cool summer day. If the battery gets weak we have to send the radio away to have it reprogrammed. The doors leak water whenever it rains. The headlights cost over \$120 each and that doesn't include labor for the complicated installation. The engine has about 80,000 miles and needs to be overhauled. It gets 60 mpg - when it runs."

**Tom Probst, West Liberty, Iowa:** A 1990 Case-IH 7110 Magnum tractor heads Tom's "best buy" list. "I'm extremely pleased with it. It pulls a 22-ft. disk chisel plow without lugging down much and regains rpm's very quickly. The powershift transmission is smooth and has speeds where you need them. It's a pleasure to run. The cab is quiet and well designed and has great visibility."

**Allan Brooks, Markesan, Wis.:** Allan's pleased with Martin row cleaners mounted on his Deere 7200 12-row planter (Kentucky Farms Inc., 169 Allegre Rd., Elkton, Kent. 42220 ph 502 265-5817). "They've allowed me to significantly reduce tillage operations while providing excellent planter performance. They're built much stronger and designed better than Yetter 'residue manager' attachments."

**Michael Kozel, Peru, Ill.:** Michael's the satisfied owner of a 1991 GM heavy 3/4-ton pickup. "It has a 454 cu. in. fuel-injected engine and 4-speed manual transmission but still gets 10 mpg around the farm and running errands at my machine shop. The ride is second to none and better than Ford or Dodge."

"My 1984 Honda TRX 200 4-wheeler ATV is also a best buy. I drive it hard all year long. It got its first set of new tires and a new clutch this year."

"Two years ago I bought my wife a 1986 Ford LTD II Sedan with 20,000 miles as a work car. It's a worst buy. After 40,000 miles, smoking oil started coming out of the crankcase breathers on the 6-cylinder engine. I took it to a Ford garage and was told it needed a complete overhaul. I've had the brakes checked twice, but still have to literally stand on them to get them to work. The ride is another sore subject. I can feel every bump in the road. My new pickup puts it to shame for ride quality."

**Bruce A. Wolff, Naperville, Ill.:** "It works harder and runs better than any other truck I own," says Bruce about his 1986 International 9670 semi that he bought used 1 1/2 years ago. "The Cummins engine is easy to service and gets good fuel mileage."

"My worst buy are Craftsman ratchet box-end wrenches. They break every time I have to bear down on them."

**Thomas Hoefert, Wessington Springs, S. Dak.:** A 1990 Krause 496 32-ft. cushion gang disc harrow heads his "worst buy" list. "I made it through the first year of warranty before trouble started. The first problem was weak bearings. Then last fall the rear part of the main frame bowed down about 6 in. due to folding of the wings. We took it to a blacksmith who beefed up the frame. I talked to a company representative at our state fair but he just gave me the run-around."

(Continued on next page)