

3,000 trouble-free hours on it."

**Edwin Ruff, Moses Lake, Wash.:** Edwin's 1986 Ford Ranger pickup equipped with a V-6 engine and automatic transmission rates as a "best buy". "It has almost 100,000 miles but still gets 18 plus mpg in town and up to 26 mpg on the highway. It still looks and performs like a champ."

**Bruce Crawford, Merna, Neb.:** "It rides so good that I use it like a car," says Bruce, pleased with his 1990 Ford 3/4-ton pickup equipped with a 460 cu. in. engine. "It has plenty of power to pull a 27-ft. recreational vehicle. I'm very satisfied with it."

**Rupert House, Hailey, Idaho:** Rupert is pleased with his 1991 Ford 150 4-WD pickup equipped with an automatic transmission, but says it could use one improvement. "A rear tire blew out at about 5,000 miles on a gravel road with lots of traffic. I had a miserable time getting the spare tire out. I would like to have had just one Ford engineer with me to help find the tire changing tools, get the jack under, and get the spare tire out and on."

**Larry M. Lauer, Crook, Colo.:** "I've never owned a piece of equipment that pleased me more," says Larry about his 1991 Morris 881 Hay Hiker round bale mover. "It picks up 1,500 to 1,800-lb. bales and lets me move 55 to 65 tons per hour off

### "I've never owned a piece of equipment that pleased me more."

the field so I can get irrigation water back on the fields sooner. The big advantage over other brands is that it has springs under it which causes it to ride smoother on rough fields with less stress on the frame. It's built in Canada. Why can't U.S. manufacturers build this type of equipment?"

**John Dappert, Oblong, Ill.:** John's happy with his Bonanza 120-ft. long, 60-ft. wide machine shed built in 1990 by Moore Buildings, Charleston, Ill. "It's well designed, bird resistant, and the 24 and 36-ft. doors are easy to open. The builders were extremely concerned with providing excellent construction and cleanup afterward. This is our second Bonanza building and we'd buy another one if needed."

On the "worst buy" side, John's had trouble with his 1989 Rhino FLX 20 mower. "The blades ripped open the top deck in the first hour of operation. The manufacturer wouldn't replace the mower, but a local company finally provided a new set of blades. I've also damaged the gearbox, broken a poorly constructed hitch, and ruined a \$600 shaft because a bolt wasn't tightened at the factory. I have a lot of trouble getting parts from Rhino. However, the mower does a great job of mowing. The company just won't admit its mistakes or correct them, and it doesn't seem to want to sell parts."

**Cecil Butler, Manotick, Ontario:** "My 1990 Deere 9500 combine does a great job in corn, soybeans, and small grains and is a real comfort to operate. It threshes clean and loses very little grain out the back."

**Charles Williams, Rexford, Kan.:** Charles's "best buy" is his 1987 Lincoln 200 SP wire welder. "We use it on iron that's up to 3/8 in. in dia. We go through about 60 lbs. of wire a year and have had no repairs."

"My 1990 Chevrolet 1/2-ton pickup is a worst buy. The air conditioner doesn't work as good as the one on the '86 Ford we owned previously. It also rides much poorer, and the cab leaks dust and is noisy. The cruise control quit working at 20,000 miles after the warranty had expired. However, it does get good gas mileage and the 350 cu. in. engine and 3.75 rear end make a good combination. Ford pickups have much better overall quality."

**Violet Steinbeck, Bland, Mo.:** "My 1989 Hardy outdoor furnace is a best buy (Hardy Mfg., Rt. 4, Box 156, Philadelphia, Miss. 39350). I live in a 70-year old house and I've insulated the storm windows and fixed the cracks, but it's still very cold. I can't believe how warm and nice it is with the furnace."

**Robert White, Chrisman, Ill.:** "The Deere 216 platform on my combine performs much better since I installed May Wes slippery shoes on it. It's a best buy (May Wes Mfg., Box 33, Gibbon, Minn. 55335).

"My May Wes double cut sickle bar greatly reduces header losses."

"My Ingersoll Rand Air Pro Air compressor, model IR5E6VA, is a worst buy. It keeps blowing a head gasket mounted between the reed plates, and to get a \$3 gasket you have to buy a \$40 reed plate replacement kit."

**Texahana Farm, Fredricksburg, Texas:** "Our Deere 425 offset disk does a perfect job in tight soils and lets me plant right behind it. I haven't spent one cent on maintenance."

**Scott Ward, Richfield, Idaho:** Scott's impressed with his "best buy" 1990 EZ Mix 325 Special mixer-feeder wagon. "It makes feeding our dairy herd and feeder cattle simple and cost effective. The inside poly liner allows it to run with less power and it doesn't bind like other wagons. It's made with easy-to-access components. All chains and bearings are standard and can be found at our local parts supplier. We use it every day, but we haven't had to repair anything yet. We're very satisfied with it."

**Charles Rosselot, Worden, Mont.:** "My Weed Wizard attachment replaces the string head on a weed trimmer and is a best buy. The chains will cut brush 1 in. thick without even slowing the motor down. It's an absolute necessity on a weed trimmer."

**Joseph Nicolas, Bellwood, Neb.:** Joseph's happy with his 1990 Nitzsche bean buggy made by B & B Mfg. Co., Wisner, Neb. "It's a pleasure to operate, very fuel efficient, starts easy, and runs quiet. I stay cool even in the hottest weather because I'm seated up high and in front where I have a good view. I use it in my pastures and wherever there are any weeds to spray. The manufacturer stands behind its products."

**Calvin Fuller, Forest, Ontario:** Calvin says his 1990 Ford XLT 4-WD Lariat pickup is a "best buy". "It's comfortable and a pleasure to drive, and it has enough traction to go through practically anything. However, the paint quality could be better."

**G.C. Glover, Lenoir, N.C.:** He's had good luck with his 1990 Case-IH 485 tractor. "I have 204 hours on it and have loved every minute. Everything about it has been perfect."

"My 1982 Yazoo 16 hp 48-in. cut riding lawn mower is also a best buy. The only repairs I've made was to replace the belts, blades and bearings on the deck once."

**Martin Wetterich, Carthage, Ill.:** Martin's "best buy" is his 1990 Rhino 15-ft shredder. "I used it last year to chop corn

stalks and this year to mow over 200 acres of pasture. I had problems with the power shafts and the frame, but the dealer and company solved them."

**Ralph Bernskoetter, Lohman, Mo.:** "I like my 1991 Dodge 250 4-WD pickup equipped with a Cummins diesel engine. It does a great job of pulling my 20-ft. livestock trailer and gets great mileage."

"My Troy-Bilt 6 hp tiller is also a best buy. It works much better than other brands."

**Howard Woehrer, Centertown, Mo.:** Howard's had good luck with his 1991 Westendorf TA 26 loader mounted on an Allis-Chalmers 185 tractor. "It's built very strong and designed so that it's easy to mount and dismount from the tractor. Works great for loading and stacking large round bales. The quick-tach brackets let me change from bucket to bale spear in seconds."

**John Musick, Wellsville, Kan.:** "My 1989 Deere 240 Weed Eater is light and easy to handle and works great. Everyone in my family can operate it."

**Donald Scott, Moscow Mills, Mo.:** Donald's had bad luck with Nu-View steel siding on his house. "This is one of the worst siding jobs I've ever seen. Almost all of the pieces were cut wrong. Some pieces were crimped and some were bent. All of the outside corners were left open on top so it leaks when it rains. I've tried repeatedly to get the company to do something about the problems, but with no luck."

**Marshall Forren, Marshall, Ill.:** "It's a great truck," says Marshall about his "best buy" 1990 Dodge 150 1/2-ton pickup equipped with a 318 cu. in. engine. "It's nice looking, doesn't use oil, has plenty of power, and rides great."

**Robert Schultz, Columbus, Kan.:** Robert's "best buy" is a 1989 Deere 4555 tractor equipped with mechanical front wheel drive and power shift transmission. "It's hard to believe that they could improve this tractor, although I did have a few minor problems with it after 1,700 hours which have been resolved. A good product and good service make for a healthy relationship."

**David Parsell, Jerseyville, Ill.:** "My best buy is my 1991 Case-IH 5130 Maxxum tractor that's equipped with a power shift transmission and dual batteries. It origi-

### "It's hard to believe that they could improve this tractor."

nally came with Goodyear Dyna Torque II tires, but the lugs on these tires are spaced far apart which caused the tires to wobble like a duck. I replaced them with Firestone tires. The factory shade canopy cost \$800 so I bought a canopy from Femco (P.O. Box 1186, McPherson, Kan. 67460) for only \$300 and mounted it on the foldable roll over protective structure. I mounted a Case-IH 510 loader on it, using a bucket from Farmer's Factory (P.O. Box 122, Lee, Ill. 60530)."

**Frank Karsky, Jr., Dickinson, N. Dak.:** "It's really a handy loader tractor. I have 700 hours on it with no problems," says Frank, pleased with his 1990 Deere 3155 tractor equipped with mechanical front wheel drive and a Deere 265 loader.

**James Hines, Doddridge, Ark.:** "It's a good working truck with good power and

gas mileage, but it has a loud transmission," says James about his 1991 Dodge 3/4-ton pickup equipped with a 360 cu. in. engine and 4-speed manual transmission.

On the negative side, "My 1991 Krone 242 disc mower is relatively easy to hook up and works good in light hay. However, in heavy hay it wads the hay up and wraps it on the inside spinner. The break away feature doesn't work right."

**Carroll Martin, Albany, Texas:** Carroll nominates his 1990 Ford F-150 pickup as a "best buy". "I use it for all the usual ranching jobs, from pulling hay and stock trailers to making long trips gathering parts and supplies. It's very dependable and a comfort to drive."

"My 1981 and 1986 Ford X16 riding lawn tractors equipped with 42-in. mowers are worst buys. I bought them mainly because our big Ford tractors had given us such good service. However, I couldn't keep either one going. The motors used nearly as much oil as gas. The rear end went out on the 1981 model and the front end went out on the 1986 model. I finally gave up and traded them in."

**Jack Stokman, Woodland, Wash.:** "My Black and Decker 1/2-in. hammer-drill is a worst buy. It doesn't do a good job of hammering and the variable speed is either too fast or too slow."

"My 1990 Kubota L2850 tractor equipped with a creeper gear does even more than I expected and is a best buy. I use it to till fields."

**John Hall, Hereford, Texas:** John's "best buy" is his 1991 Case-IH 9280 4-WD tractor made by Steiger. "It has greatly exceeded my expectations. The 30.5L-32



Tiger dual tires provide excellent traction. It has unbelievable fuel economy, excellent serviceability because of the tilt hood, fast no-mess oil changes, an adjustable drawbar, and excellent climate control in the cab. I use it to pull my 80-ft. Friggstad chisel plow at 5.3 mph. I attach an 84-ft. Econo-Rod to the rear row of plow shanks and pull two 40-ft. CrustBuster grain drills when I planted my summer crop this year, but that's pushing this tractor to the limit. I feel it could handle a 60-ft. version of this equipment with ease."

On the negative side, "My Snapper ET 200 edge trimmer equipped with a Briggs & Stratton engine is a worst buy. The engine doesn't have any power at all. When I lower the edge blade to the ground it dies immediately, regardless of how careful or slowly I lower the blade. It's absolutely worthless."

**Lonnie Hendricks, Roswell, N.M.:** Ronnie's pleased with his 1990 Deere 4255 tractor. "It replaced a Deere 4240 that was also a best buy. However, the 4255 has more power and is more fuel efficient. The big fuel tank helps on long days. The 15-speed transmission is a lot better than the old 8-speed transmission."

**Scott McKibbin, Mt. Hope, Ontario:** Scott likes his "best buy" 1989 Case-IH 685 tractor equipped with a Case-IH 2250 quick-tach loader. "It has good power and

(Continued on next page)