

Larry Peterson, Carey, Idaho: "The best buy we've made is our 1991 Dodge LE 250 2-WD pickup equipped with a Cummins diesel engine. We expected a lot from it and it delivered even more than we expected. It pulls like a team of mules and gets 19 to 20 mpg. Rides good and is fun to drive."

On the negative side, "Our Yamaha 180 RX dirt bike is a worst buy. It's very hard to start on cold mornings, won't run properly, and is a gas hog. The injector oil lid kept coming off and caused oil to spill, and the

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air cleaner was difficult to service. Some of the wheel spokes came loose and pulled through the rear wheel. The clutch always had to be adjusted, and the drive chain stretched out like a rubber band."

Calvin Voigt, Forest City, Iowa: Calvin likes his Little Wesley bean rider (May Wes Mfg. Co., Gibbon, Minn. 55335) "It's very comfortable to ride and it's easy to vary the speed for different conditions across the field. The seats are mounted high enough to provide a good view of weeds and allow us to apply chemical more precisely to reduce crop damage. The steering bar is easy to remove in the field. Removing the bar allows more freedom of wand movement and keeps herbicide from splattering against the bar. You can steer it with your feet."

Bill Burns, Sioux Falls, S.Dak.: Bill's had good luck with his White 273 disk. "Once you set it correctly, it works great. It contours well on a variety of slopes and valleys. It has larger, stronger axles and bearings on the gangs than the older model 271. Rolls right through heavy trash even in wet conditions."

Kelvin and Bill Kirkham, Sexsmith, Alberta: "Our best buy of all time is our 1989 Caterpillar Challenger 65 rubber-tracked tractor. This 270 hp tractor will outperform and outwork any 4-WD tractor up to 300 hp. It has less slippage, reduces soil compaction, and is easier on fuel than 4-WD's. It handles easy and has a comfortable cab. The hydraulic system is excellent. The 10-speed power shift transmission is a delight to work with."

"Our 1990 Dodge 250 3/4-ton pickup equipped with a Cummins engine is a great performer and a best buy. It gets good mileage, has lots of lugging power, quick acceleration, and a comfortable ride. Even my wife can handle the standard shift transmission."

Harry Taylor, Grantsville, W. Va.: Harry isn't pleased with his 1990 Black & Decker 7277 hammer drill. "I bought it for remodeling my basement, but the hammer broke down before I had even done two walls. I bought another one and it went out before long, too. I had to borrow a drill to finish the job, and it did more work than both Black & Decker models put together."

On the "best buy" side, he likes his 1990 Hesston 530 round baler. "It's the second one I've owned. They've both performed very well. The first one baled over 3,000 bales and the second has done about 500 bales all with very little maintenance."

Kenneth Rickels, Mendenhall, Miss.: "I bought a used Deere 4440 tractor with

cab and air conditioning in 1986, and it's a best buy."

"I heartily recommend the Deere 245 quick-tach front-end loader that I bought several years ago. I couldn't do without it. I use the bucket to haul manure, dirt, trash, etc. I use the forks to pick up small logs, brush, tree limbs, and to lift posts out of the ground. I also use it to haul, lift, and stack 1,200 to 1,400-lb. bales in our shed and to move gates and hay feeders. When we built our new house we used it to lift bundles of shingles up to workers on the roof, and when we built our hay shed we used it to lift building materials, tin, etc. I made a pallet that mounts on the loader or on the rear hay lift so that when I'm building or mending fence I can carry wire, stretcher, nails, and tools."

Robert Bromander, Ulen, Minn.: Robert's "best buy" is his Woods 15-ft. "Batwing" mower. "We used it on corn stalks last fall and it did a good job."

Garth Miller, Copley, Ohio: Garth is pleased with his Honda 200 5-85 4-wheeler ATV. "I've used it for over six years and it still has the original battery. My only expense so far was to replace the exhaust system. It's well made and is a dependable, sturdy machine. We use it on our farm almost every day of the year."

Raymond Louwagie, Cottonwood, Minn.: Raymond's had good luck with his Century 225 amp wire feed welder. "It makes overhead and vertical welding a breeze. It produces no smoke and less heat so I can weld thin or thick materials with ease. Every welding job is easier with this machine."

Joseph Hawkins, Mountain City, Tenn.: Joseph owns a 1988 Dodge 1/2-ton 4-WD pickup. "It runs good. The fuel-injected 318 cu. in. engine has good power and gets good gas mileage."

Bill Fraser, Antigonish, Nova Scotia: Bill nominates his 1983 Belarus 500 tractor as his all-time "best buy". "We bought it with 600 hours on it in 1988 and have spent very little on maintenance. Parts availability and dealer service are excellent. You get the same horsepower for half the price of North American tractor models."

Harvey Corbett, Bowden, Alberta: Harvey's happy with his Campbell Housefield 1 hp air compressor. "It's light, quiet, and priced right."

Scott Wright, Vanscoy, Sask.: A 1990 New Holland 116 haybine heads Scott's "best buy" list. "It has cut over 1,000 acres with no down time. It cuts clean and fast at speeds up to 6 mph. Maintenance is very simple."

Chuck Hadacek, Fort Atkinson, Iowa: "It has lots of power for its size, good safety features, and the hydraulic system works fast," says Chuck, owner of a 1991 Gehl skid steer loader.

R.L. Rice, McEwen, Tenn.: He's had problems with his 1989 McCulloch Pro Mac Guardian II weed eater. "The drum that holds the cord fell apart, and the spark arrester screen plugged up resulting in piston and other engine damage. It should never have been installed on the engine."

Robert Fehr, Hague, Sask.: "It gets 35 mpg on short trips and up to 45 mpg on long trips. I like how it heats up good in the winter and it also handles well on gravel roads," says Robert, pleased owner of a 1982 Plymouth Horizon that's equipped with a 1.7-liter Volkswagen engine.

"My Deere 66 riding mower is a worst buy. I used it to cut grass for only half an hour before I had to work on it for five

hours. The engine is very poor. A Honda engine would last five times as long.

"Our 1990 Universal 850 tractor is also a worst buy. It has only 70 hours of use, but already we've repaired it about 10 times. Every time we use it we wonder what will break next. We've had trouble with the fuel pump, injector pump, rpm gauge, and rear tire. The hydraulic cylinder on the front-end loader broke three times and the front tire fell off while we were driving on the road. It requires far more work to keep it going than any other tractor we've owned. The cab is very noisy. It costs only about half as much as a Deere tractor, but it isn't worth one tenth as much."

John Avila, Hanford, Calif.: John says his 1991 Dodge 3/4-ton pickup equipped with a Cummins diesel engine and a 5-speed transmission with overdrive rates as a "best buy". "I use it to pull a 26-ft. travel trailer. It has plenty of power and gets 16 mpg. I get 26 mpg on the highway with the truck alone."

On the negative side, "My 1989 Dodge Ramcharger, which is equipped with a 360 cu. in. fuel injected gas engine, gets only 8 mpg and doesn't have enough power to pull

"Every time we use it we wonder what will break next."

my travel trailer."

Marvin Steffen, White Lake, S. Dak.: "It rides and starts good and also gets good mileage," says Marvin about his 1987 Ford F150 pickup equipped with a 300 cu. in. engine and 4-speed transmission.

Victor Lee, Woodville, Wis.: Victor's disappointed with his 1990 Mueller 1,000-gal. bulk tank milk cooler that's equipped with a 5 hp compressor. "It cools very slow. The company gave me a lot of double talk. The biggest mistake I made was to pay for the cooler before it was installed."

"My 1990 H & S 17-ft. chopper box provides fast, smooth unloading and is a best buy. It's exceptionally well built."

"I'm also pleased with my 1989 H & S 370 tandem spreader. It's the best spreader I've ever owned."

Chuck Grimes, Dumont, Minn.: Chuck's "best buy" is his Case-IH 9250 4-WD tractor. "It's easier to service than the 9150 model and has about 20 more hp. The cab is also much more quiet."

Dale Kimball, Spirit Lake, Iowa: Dale likes his Kuhn GMD 66 disk mower. "I tried it out when I had to mow third cutting hay in a field that had been cut but not baled the cutting before. My pitmanless sickle mower wouldn't mow it at any speed, but the Kuhn mower went right through it at 8 mph. I was sold!"

Theodore Redick, Cridersville, Ohio: Thomas says his 1990 Great Plains 3-pt. no-till drill "works great in no-till beans and wheat under all conditions and produces excellent stands."

Charles Thomley, Hartford, Ala.: "It's the best piece of equipment I've ever owned," says Charles about his 1973 Chevrolet C10 heavy duty pickup equipped with a 350 cu. in. engine and automatic transmission. "I use it to pull equipment trailers, haul livestock, and for other tough farm jobs. I

bought it in 1988 with 158,000 miles on it. The dealer said that he didn't know if the engine had ever been overhauled, but he saw no evidence that it had. I had some repair work done on the transmission when I purchased it. Since then, I've used my truck for nothing but extremely heavy duty work and put on 115,000 more miles without any expenses except for a new battery and alternator. It has a 100-gal. plus fuel tank and is hardly ever driven without a trailer of some kind behind it. It now has 273,000 miles, yet it still uses only a pint of oil every 1,200 miles and works as hard as ever. I wish I could find a new one that worked as good."

"My 1990 Vermeer 605 Super J hay baler is extremely easy to operate and does an outstanding job."

Linden B. Smith, Augusta, N.J.: "It does a good job. The electrical controls make it a pleasure to operate," says Linden about his 1990 Deere field chopper.

His "worst buy" is a Husqvarna model 50 chain saw. "The chain brake assembly melted on the third tank of fuel."

Bob Moysis, Dante, S. Dak.: Bob nominates his 1988 Rowse 9-ft. pull-type mower as a "best buy". "It cuts very well with few breakdowns and little upkeep. It's a real time saver and a pleasure to use."

"I'm also very pleased with my Deere 530 baler."

On the "worst buy" side, "My four Hot Shot electric stock prods have never worked right. They work only for a short period of time and usually quit working whenever I need them the most, such as when I'm loading hogs."

Jerry Neese, Afton, Va.: Jerry's had problems with his Sears Craftsman 18 hp lawn and garden tractor. "Every time I use it the belts twist and turn which locks the tractor up. The belt guides are poorly made. The tractor itself isn't that well built, but the mower is really bad."

R.S. Mitchell, Cottage Grove, Wis.: A Ford F-250 4-WD pickup equipped with a 301 cu. in. engine and automatic transmission heads his "best buy" list. "It rides and handles well for a truck of its size. It gets 15 mpg which isn't great, but it has plenty of power for pulling trailers and gravity wagons. It's a nice truck."

Ted Ross, Forest, La: Ted's "worst buy" is his 1989 Ford F-250 3/4-ton 4-WD pickup equipped with a diesel engine. "The speedometer went out at under 12,000 miles and was repaired by a dealer. It wasn't long before it went out again. I was told by another dealer's mechanic that the speedometer had an engineering defect. Two rear wheel seals also went out. The transfer case was removed and repaired twice (at under 12,000 miles), the fuel gauges failed, and the seat belt has never retracted properly. The 5-speed manual transmission became very hard to shift and cost \$886 to repair. The transmission repair happened well within the 60,000 mile, 6-year power train warranty, but the company wouldn't cover it because the speedometer had failed and showed the incorrect mileage. The company refused to pay for the transmission repair even though other Ford dealerships had failed to repair the speedometer."

"Perhaps U.S. truck makers will improve the quality of their trucks when Nissan, Mazda, etc., build comparable sized trucks for sale in this country. However, despite the shoddy workmanship and the company's failure to honor the warranty, this is a

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