

mpg and starts good in cold weather.

"My **Buckeye** 3-pt. front-mount hitch for my International Super M tractor is another best buy (Buckeye Tractor Co., Columbus Grove, Ohio). It'll take a lot of abuse without breaking."

Paul Riniker, Greeley, Iowa: Paul's pleased with his 1990 Westendorf TA 26 loader. "I really like the quick-tach mounting system. It takes only a minute to change from bucket to forks. No tools are necessary."

Paul Mattison, Lambertton, Minn.: A 1990 Knight Reel Auggie 2350 feed mixer-wagon heads Paul's "best buy" list. "It does a terrific job of mixing feed in only a minute or so. I really like the reel because it lets me mix up whole square bales. The wagon is built simple and durable."

Joe Appling, Crosbyton, Texas: A Case-IH 900 8-row planter rates as Joe's "best buy". "It'll plant in any kind of ground just like the company says."

Jim Smith, Griswold, Iowa: "I like its ability to cultivate at high speeds while leaving the soil level," says Jim, pleased with his 1990 Hiniker model 5000 no-till cultivator. "I have yet to see any trash that will plug it."

Louis Klusinske, Wild Rose, Wis.: "My best buy of all time is my 1982 Ford F-150 1/2-ton pickup equipped with a 300 cu. in. 6-cylinder engine and automatic transmission, as well as overload springs and oversize tires. It has 75,000 miles and the only time it's been in the repair shop was for a new muffler, front end alignment, and for one new front wheel brake pad. I use it to haul hay all winter long. I can pile 68 to 73 bales on it with a total weight of 3,200 to 3,700 lbs."

Don Braber, Goshen, Ind.: Don nominates his Ford 8000 tractor as a "best buy". "It has 7,500 hours and works great."

On the negative side, "I've had lots of problems with my Allis-Chalmers 200 tractor mainly due to a poor rear end. Also the tractor is built too light. I can see why they don't build Allis-Chalmers tractors anymore."

Lacy Hurlocker, Mt. Pleasant, N. C.: "It does a real good job working up the ground and makes a good seedbed," says Lacy, pleased owner of a 1990 Deere 66 tiller.

Robert Francis, Pearisburg, Va.: "This is truly the Cadillac of round balers," says Robert, pleased with his 1990 Vermeer 504 Super round baler. "The soft start springs eliminate any problems whatsoever with

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getting the bale core to start rolling. The double arm twine wrap system cuts tying time almost in half."

Lester Turner, Stilwell, Okla.: "It'll cut wet or tangled hay as fast as I can drive," reports Lester, pleased with his 1990 Krone disc mower. "It didn't break down once last year. The only maintenance needed was general lubrication and retightening of the drive belts."

Terry Simpson, Portage La Prairie, Manitoba: "My 1991 Deere 8560 MFWD tractor is a pleasure to operate and a best buy. I've put 450 hours on it without one minute of downtime. The cab offers a great view and I like the 24-speed transmission.

"My 1986 Deere 4250 MFWD tractor is a best buy. It pulls my 30-ft. Deere hoe drill with ease. Works great for row crop work in corn and sunflowers. After 2,000 hours my total maintenance cost for parts is only \$200."

John Christen, Albany, Minn.: "My 1991 Polaris 350 liquid-cooled 4-wheeler is a best buy. I use it for chasing cattle, building fence, checking crops, pulling trailers, traveling between farms, etc. This is my second Polaris 4-wheeler and I'll never own another brand."

"My 1988 Case-IH 6500 conser-till plow is also a best buy. It's never plugged up in corn stalks. The hydraulic-operated disk can be easily adjusted for working at different depths."

"My 1988 Sanborn portable 2-cylinder, 3 hp electric air compressor is a worst buy. After only a little use the air hose became rotten, and the electric motor always started hard. It recently quit altogether."

Lawrence Dittmer, Shelby, Iowa: "It's a pleasure to use," reports Lawrence, pleased with his 1990 Oldsmobile 88 car. "It has a smooth, comfortable ride, a big trunk, and plenty of leg room. It averaged 29.7 miles per gallon on a recent trip that included quite a bit of mountain driving."

Edward Huppert Jr., Salem, Neb.: "It's one of the best buys I've made in a long time," says Edward, pleased owner of a Case-IH 1660 combine. "It's a wonderful machine to set and to operate. I'd never buy anything else. I had been a New Holland combine owner."

Earl Hanson, Newfolden, Minn.: Earl's 1985 Chrysler New Yorker car has more than 100,000 miles. "It still runs and looks like new, making it a best buy. It's equipped with a 2.2 liter turbocharged engine."

"My 1982 Case 2390 tractor is also a best buy. I bought it used in 1986 with 875 hours. Now it has 1,875 hours with no problems."

Robert H. Acker, Mt. Pleasant, Mich.: Robert says a grain probe manufactured by National Equipment Inc., Valparaiso, Ind., heads his "worst buy" list. "The probe broke loose the third time I used it and lodged in 10 ft. of corn inside a bin. It later jammed in the bin unloading auger. My out-of-pocket cost for removal and repair of the auger was \$31, and I had to pay the company an additional \$49.30 for a new probe. The company refused to stand behind its product."

Dennis Wedemeyer, Ravenna, Neb.: "It's simple to set and operate," says Dennis, whose Deere 7000 8-row Max-Emerge planter has nevertheless had some problems. "It should be designed so there's equal weight on each gauge wheel, and so that no-till coulters can be used without having to remove the disc furrowers. The seed and insecticide boxes should be funnel-shaped so I don't have to clean so much out of the boxes."

Marvin T. Oltmanns, Lincoln, Ill.: Marvin mounted 1-in. no-till fluted coulters on his 1989 White air planter which he says is his "best buy".

"My 1990 Tye no-till drill is also a best buy."

John Miller, Howard City, Mich.: "My worst buy of all time was a Generac standby generator. After problems developed I got no help at all from the manufacturer or distributor. I took it to the authorized repair shop once and had them out to the farm twice. I got only about three hours of service from it before I traded for another brand."

"I like my Case-IH Magnum tractor, 885 loader tractor, 4800 Vibra Shank field cultivator, 496 cushion gang disk, and 2-row

chopper equipped with electric controls."

Jay Stoffregen, Gaylord, Minn.: Jay modified his older-model Tye 3-pt. grain and soybean drill that he bought used three years ago. "The problem was the light down-pressure springs and poor row unit mountings. I have heavy soil with some moderate-size rocks, and the springs must be compressed fairly tight to get proper depth control but that prevents the row units from clearing rocks without bending. We've discovered that the problem can be solved by adding an extra spring assembly onto each row unit or by replacing the existing springs with springs from a White 374 row crop cultivator. Also, we used short pieces of 3/8 by 2-in. strap iron to replace washers on the sliding rail where the units bolt on. These older-model drills have poor resale in our area."

Carl Bock, London Mills, Ill.: Carl's the satisfied owner of a 1990 Ford 3/4-ton 4-WD Lariat Special pickup equipped with a 460 cu. in. engine. "It has plenty of power, more leg room than a Chevy, and holds the road well. My wife likes it, too."

Duane Fischer, Beattie, Kan.: Duane's impressed with his 1988 International 800 no-till planter, but says he doesn't like the way the seed monitor works. "The alarm sounds only when I stop planting, not while the planter is skipping. The planter also raises and lowers too slow."

Virgil Smith, Eudora, Ark.: A 1989 Dodge Dakota pickup is Virgil's "best buy". "It's an excellent performer."

Ray Meardl, Hylo, Alberta: Ray's pleased with his Honda 3-wheel ATV. "All I've replaced are the tires."

"My Honda 3-in. water pump is another best buy. It started after two or three pulls, even after sitting for seven months during the winter."

Ray's had problems with his 400-lb. capacity 1989 Detecto model 11S27 hog scale made in Webb City, Mo. "I weighed only three hogs before the dial flew off. I tried gluing it back on but it wouldn't hold."

Delbert Bok, Sherwood, Ohio: Delbert is the satisfied owner of a 1982 Deere 7000 planter. "It does an accurate job of planting and places seed at the desired depth. I made 15-in. splitter row units and mounted them on it for planting soybeans."

Randy Dertwich, Pilger, Neb.: "It flexes extremely well for a 12-row mounted planter," says Randy, whose 1989 Deere 7300 12RN fingerpickplanter has nevertheless had some problems. "It's extremely difficult to get a good mark from the markers in high residue in our irrigated corn fields. I added weights onto the markers, but further work needs to be done. Possibly the markers should be equipped with double discs."

Arven Vondy, Woodrow, Colo.: Arven's "best buy" is his 1991 Honda TRX 300 3-wheeler ATV. "It starts easy and is safer to ride than other 3-wheelers."

Arven says his 1989 GMC 1-ton Dually pickup equipped with a 454 cu. in. gas engine is a "worst buy". "From day one the engine overheated when it was idling with the air conditioner on. The radiator has to be kept clean of all grass, weeds, and insects in order to stay cool on the road. Fuel mileage is bad. It does have a comfortable ride."

John Flinn, Wheeler, Ill.: John owns a Forrest City 15-ft. Do-All field cultivator. "We use it on corn stalks in the spring and had plugging problems so we had our local welder add two bars to it. Now the shanks are spaced 40 in. apart and it won't plug. Works great."

Ric Murphy, Lyle, Minn.: Ric's pleased

with Hiniker Spray Commanders designed to control chemical and anhydrous ammonia application rates. "I own three units made in different years. They all monitor gallons and speed and adjust rates properly. They're equipped with true ground speed sensors that are very accurate. They've saved me many dollars, especially when applying anhydrous ammonia because the temperature varies a lot on fall days."

"My worst buy is my White 274 34-ft. disk. I traded in an excellent 32-ft. White disk that had covered thousands of acres with little maintenance and always did a nice job of leveling the ground. The new disk was twisted and unlevel on opposite corners and couldn't be adjusted to do the job right. The dealer assisted in loosening all the frame bolts, twisting the frame, and retightening the bolts. It helped some but other problems developed including an S-shaped spring standard that broke. Also the spools next to the bearing "press" dirt into the bearings. Four bearings went out after only 15 hours of use. Spools on the newer models have tapered edges which eliminates the problem, but the company won't provide any parts or labor to help the guinea pigs who found the problem, even though it happened before the warranty expired. I'm really disappointed with White."

Bernard Schneider, Chatfield, Ohio: "It's the best planter I could ever buy for the money," says Bernard, happy with his 1980

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Deere 7000 Conservation 6-row, 30-in. planter. "Works equally well in no-till, minimum till, or conventional till and offers excellent seed placement. The narrow no-till coulters work great in my heavy clay-loam soils. The only change I'd like to see is more closely spaced gears on the transmission for planting in the 27,000 to 32,000 population range."

C.H. Almas, St. Paul, Alberta: He's had trouble with his 1988 Ford 3/4-ton 4-WD pickup equipped with a 351 cu. in. fuel injected engine. "The engine had to be overhauled at 14,000 miles. It gets only 10 mpg on the highway when empty and 7.8 mpg with a load."

Alex Loffman, Eden, Wis.: Alex's "best buy" is his Scoop-n-Haul (Kness Mfg. Co., Inc., P.O. Box 70, Albia, Iowa 52531 ph toll-free 1 800 247-5062, in Iowa 515 932-7846). "It's a 3-pt. mounted rear scoop that's handy for a variety of farm chores."

Darroll Kramer, Pine Island, Minn.: "I wonder if anyone can top this?" asks Darroll, owner of a 1977 International 1086 tractor whose original batteries are still going strong. "I had the transmission worked on four years ago and the battery terminals may have been cleaned, but otherwise there has been no maintenance on the tractor."

John Hoppe, Nicholson, Penn.: "My best buy of all time is my 1956 Ferguson 35 tractor. The engine has been overhauled twice, but otherwise this tractor has had very few repairs. I have no idea how many

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