

Best & Worst Buys

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hours are on it, but for years it was the only tractor I used on four different farms. It's also been my 'horse in the woods' for hauling logs and firewood all these years."

Tom F. Crittenden, Mansfield, Penn.: "My 1983 Ford 3610, 1984 5610, and 1985 7710 tractors are all best buys. They all are fuel efficient and start easy. No problems except for a power steering line that was replaced on the 7710.

"One of my all-time worst buys was a 1976 Ford F-250 pickup equipped with a 360 cu. in. gas-guzzling, oil-burning engine. At 75,000 miles the box and front fenders were nothing but a pile of rust. It was helpless in 2-WD and not much better in 4-WD. I wanted to trade it, but I didn't want to invest the money for an expensive new one. Instead I bought an old 1972 1-ton truck and fixed it up. I'm still using it."

Billy Averitte, Vanleer, Tenn.: Billy says his Taylorway-JF model 410 hay tedder "does a great job on green and wet hay and is a best buy. The 3-pt. hitch mount comes in handy for lifting the tedder on turns at the end of the field and for transport. This tedder didn't cost an arm and a leg like the big name brands."

On the negative side, "My Campbell Hausfeld 2 hp direct drive air compressor is a worst buy. After two months of light use, the motor quit running. I exchanged it for a new one that runs fine in warm weather, but can't power the compressor in cool weather. After it blew several fuses I unplugged it until summer came again. I'll probably replace it with a Craftsman."

Bill Wright, Gatesville, Texas: "My 1989 Dodge Dually 1-ton diesel pickup equipped with a 5-speed transmission has good power and is a best buy. It outpulls the Chevrolet 454 1-ton pickup that I traded in and gets three or four times better mileage.

"I also like my DMI Nutri-Placer implement (DMI, Inc., Box 65, Goodfield, Ill. 61742). I use it to apply anhydrous ammonia and liquid phosphate at the same time on my pasture. Works great."

David F. Lapp, Myerstown, Penn.: David's impressed with his Honda GX110 3 1/2 hp gas engine as well as his GX140 5 hp gas engine. "Both engines start easy, are fuel efficient, and have high torque at low speeds. They don't use much oil and are equipped with 'oil alert'. They've outlasted and outperformed the 5 and 8 hp Briggs & Stratton engines I had been using."

On the negative side, "My Hardi RY 15 back-pack sprayer equipped with a piston-type hand pump is a worst buy. It almost always leaks out the top if it's more than half full. The pump gave out after I used it a few times. The dealer replaced some parts at no cost, but they weren't enough to overcome the poor design."

John D. Freeman, Castalia, N.C.: "It has plenty of power for pulling trailers and is built to handle big loads with ease, yet it still rides as smooth as a car. It's a joy to own," reports John, owner of a 1991 Chevrolet 2500 heavy duty 4-WD pickup that's equipped with a 454 cu. in. engine and automatic transmission. "It gets about 10 mpg."

Paul Cullen, Ronan, Mont.: "My Deere 2010 diesel tractor cost a fortune and hasn't held up as advertised. I can't get parts ex-

cept through a Deere dealer, and the dealers and mechanics don't know their product. Now I know why these tractors are the color of money."

J.P. Mackelprang, Kanab, Utah: He likes his 1990 Saueressig 3-pt. subsoiler. "It operates perfectly without disturbing existing grasses. It pulls real nice with a 70 hp tractor."

"Parts are hard to come by. It's a disaster. No one wants to work on it."

"I nominate my Belarus 562 tractor as a worst buy. The gear shift wouldn't work because a woodruff key had dropped out. The key was metric so I had to get a new one from the factory. Now the tractor runs a couple of minutes and stops. The hydraulic system doesn't work for maneuvering the bucket. Many gauges and instruments don't work. Parts are hard to come by. It's a disaster. No one wants to work on it."

Melvin Kloepfel, Delphos, Ohio: Melvin's pleased with the accuracy of his 1989 Deutz-Allis 385 Quadra-Disc planter. "It's the first air planter I've ever owned. I set it to plant rows seven inches apart in corn, and that's exactly what it planted. It's just as accurate in soybeans, and allows me to save money on seed beans by placing seed every 1 1/2 inches. The Whopper Hopper seed boxes save time on refilling. Everything on the planter is simple and easy to reach.

"My 1989 Deutz-Allis R-50 combine is a pleasure to own. It's my first rotary combine. The air-cooled engine is very fuel efficient."

Joe Roberts, Waco, Texas: Joe's the pleased owner of a 1981 Kubota B7200 4-WD tractor. "I've had no trouble with it other than a faulty water pump. I'm pretty well sold on purchasing American-made products, but I haven't found one that'll take the punishment that I've dished out to my Kubota. I've used it to pull a breaking plow many times on raw pasture land. I don't know anything that could be harder on a tractor, especially one this size. I can go eight hours on four gallons of fuel while pulling a 6-ft. Mohawk shredder. Show me another tractor that'll do that. Why can't American manufacturers create specifications and material and workmanship of the same caliber?"

Ralph Watkins, Effingham, Ill.: Ralph's had problems with his Sears Craftsman 7 1/4-in. hand powered saw. "After about 50 hours of use the motor burned out. The company replaced it, but the new one lasted only a little longer before burning out."

On the positive side, "My 1980 International F2575 semi tractor has 386,000 miles and is equipped with a V-6 Detroit diesel engine and an automatic transmission. I use it to pull a 38-ft. hopper bottom grain trailer. It does real well in the field and is a pleasure to drive. Very few repairs. Good maintenance has really paid off."

Robert R. Rimmey, Millheim, Penn.: "I bought a new Bolens mulching 4-hp. mower in 1989. It does a beautiful job of chopping up the grass but leaves an ugly looking job. People keep asking me what's wrong with my mower. I took it to my dealer and he checked it over but couldn't help. I think the problem is the design of the cutting blade. Doesn't have enough suction to stand up leaning blades of grass before cutting it. I called the manufacturer to see if they could give me some advice but they showed very little concern."

R.A. Kohrs, Lake City, Minn.: His "worst buy" is a Mirafont insulated water fountain, model 3360. "It freezes up every time the temperature drops below zero and the wind is blowing. If I set the water level at the top where it's supposed to be, water runs over the top seals and I get ice all over the yard. The problem is poorly designed top, seals, and ball seats. Water splashes between the seals when animals bounce the ball to drink, and then freezes the top on solid. One morning when the windchill was 80 below it took 20 gallons of hot water to get the tank going again. The company literature says four gallons a day will keep it free.

"My best buy is my 1976 White 2-50 4-WD tractor equipped with a 3-cylinder diesel engine with 'thermostart'. It goes anywhere and makes an excellent loader tractor. Has good power, a progressive 8-speed synchronized shift, plenty of lights, and big fenders. It's a joy to operate. Even my wife likes it."

Howard Schmidt, Marine City, Mich.: A 1985 Ford F-150 pickup rates as Howard's "worst buy". "The hydraulic clutch worked so hard that it took both my legs to push it. It locked into third gear and I had to take the shift lever off to unlock it. I wound up putting an automatic transmission in it and now it works fine."

Howard says his 1988 Poulan 2300 chain saw equipped with a 16-in. bar is a "best

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buy". "Starts easy in hot or cold weather, saws fast, and is very easy to handle."

Dave Walkes, Avon, S. Dak.: Dave is the satisfied owner of a 1988 Gehl 3610 skidsteer loader. "The 33 hp diesel engine has excellent power and the 'T' handle controls let me operate it with a minimum of effort. I wouldn't try to farm without it."

Mike Walek, Appleton, N.Y.: A 1990 Chevrolet 3/4-ton pickup equipped with a 305 cu. in. engine and 5-speed transmission is Mike's "best buy". "It handles excellent, has adequate carrying capacity, averages 18 mpg, and has been back to the dealer only for routine service.

"My worst buy is my Echo 200 series string trimmer. It lacks the power of my older trimmer and the shroud has cracked twice."

Bernard Hartman, Corning, N.Y.: Bernard says his 1990 Case-IH 8520 square baler saves many more leaves than conventional balers and is a "best buy". "It makes nice uniform bales. There's no side draft on hills and no need to adjust the tongue for highway travel."

Wallace Jenzen, Canistota, S. Dak.: "My 1990 Dodge Dakota 4-WD pickup is well-built and gets good gas mileage. A few small things went wrong, but the dealer took care of them immediately. It might be underpowered for pulling some trailers."

Tom Wilkins, Pocomoke, Md.: Tom likes the 1989 White 5100S splitter planter that he mounted on his 1982 White 5100 8-row planter. "I've used it to plant about 600 acres each year and haven't had any major problems with the planter or splitter. What really sold me on the product was the perfection of seed spacing with corn or soybeans. It's the best on the market. I'd buy another White planter tomorrow if I needed one."

Carl DeBisschop, Middlebury, Vt.: "It's a pure pleasure to operate," says Carl, pleased owner of a 1984 Ford TW-25 4-WD tractor. "It has 1,000 hours and has been completely trouble-free. The cab is great."

On the "worst buy" side, Carl nominates a 1990 Ford 6-ft. wide, 3-pt. hitch finish mower. "The tail wheels constantly broke off. Sometimes they stayed on only for 15 minutes. After nine trips to the dealer the problem was finally solved."

Patrick Wrisley, Burlington, Penn.: Patrick's had trouble with his 1989 Chevrolet K2500 pickup equipped with an electronic fuel-injected engine and 4-speed creeper low transmission. "It has 60,000 miles and already I've replaced the ball joints, tie rod ends, head gaskets, a door handle, oil cooler lines, and three sets of front brakes. The transmission shift lever wore so bad that it wouldn't shift any more so I rebuilt it. It takes 30 to 60 seconds to engage the hubs for 4-WD. It gets only 10 mpg at the most."

Roy Wendte, Altamont, Ill.: Walter's "best buy" is his 1990 Case-IH 7140 Magnum tractor equipped with mechanical front wheel drive. "It's extremely comfortable to drive and the assurance of the 5-year warranty makes it one of the most productive pieces of equipment I own. The design makes it easy to service and operate."

Jim Kozumplik, Lennon, Mich.: "My worst buy of all time was an International 1086 tractor. It never seemed to have the power it was rated at. After the warranty expired hydraulic lines broke and a valve leaked. I bought a barrel of hydraulic-transmission fluid just to replace the leakage. Gauges went bad and the pto wouldn't stay engaged. It got so that I was almost afraid to start it wondering what would go wrong today. The final straw was when the bearings, ring, and pinion went out at 1,620 hours. It cost me \$3,563. I traded it in for a new Deere 4455 even though my IH dealer is only two miles away. I'll drive 50 miles to stay with Deere. You get what you pay for. The difference is fantastic."

Laurence E. McCall, Mesa, Wash.: Laurence says he's pleased with Lloyd's Loops featured in FARM SHOW (The Lloyd Ranch, Route 1, Box 91, Lewiston, Idaho 83501). "They're curved pieces of pipe that install between the boom and the nozzle, eliminating about 99% of sprayer nozzle glugging problems."

He says Reel-Tites made by Kermco Products (Box 204, Monroe, Iowa 50170) are also a "best buy". "They let me tighten my fence in a jiffy. I don't know what I'd do without them."