

tional guards. However, it needs a better swath divide board in heavy, tall hay."

Roy Veatch, Norris City, Ill.: "It's my best buy in over 50 years of farming," says Roy about his 1990 **Weber Weeder** (Ficklin Machine Co., Inc., 209 West Grant St., Onarga, Ill. 60955). "I bought it to control shattercane in soybeans, but it works great for spot spraying many different kinds of weeds. It sure beats walking."

Jim Tepool, Poseyville, Ind.: Jim's had good luck with his 1990 **Ford Ranger** pickup equipped with a 4-cylinder engine and 5-speed transmission. "I put 20,000 miles on it in the first seven months. Once I left the dealer's lot I never had to go back."

Mickey Leid, Dayton, Wash.: "My 1989 **Ford F-150 4-WD XLT** pickup rides, drives, and handles like a dream. I drive 800 miles per month on gravel and dirt roads so I use 4-WD or low range nearly every day."

Mickey's says his 1990 **Cobra Plus-20** CB radio is "absolutely worthless. It slips back to channel 9 every time I blink my eyes. The dial knob is too small and the push buttons are ridiculous. I'm going to throw it away and buy another brand."

Syl Knippen, Delphos, Ohio: "My 1986 **Nissan** pickup is a best buy. It has over 73,000 miles, but I still haven't spent one penny for repairs and it doesn't use oil. It still has the original tires and they're good for a few more miles."

Charles Dorris, White House, Tenn.: Charles's "best buy" is his 1988 **Manx Ferguson 383** tractor. "It starts easy and has great power. Works like a much higher horsepower machine."

On the "worst buy" side, "My 1986 **Ford F-250** pickup equipped with a 351 cu. in. engine and automatic transmission gets poor gas mileage and could use more pulling power. It should have a 460 cu. in. engine."

Fred Nelson, Audubon, Iowa: "It produced the best stand of soybeans I've ever had," says Fred, owner of a 1990 **Great Plains 24-ft.** folding drill equipped with seed firming wheel and 1 by 12-in. double "V" press wheels.

"My 1983 **Deere 4450** tractor is also a best buy. I like the 15-speed powershift transmission, and the mechanical front wheel

"It produced the best stand of soybeans I've ever had."

drive was well worth the extra cost. The only thing it's been to the shop for is updated front axle seals."

Thomas Ryder, Roodhouse, Ill.: Thomas is happy with his 1990 **Shivvers** Moisture Trac model 5010 combine moisture tester manufactured in Corydon, Iowa. "It automatically takes grain temperatures every two, five, or ten minutes. I like it better than an elevator tester because it takes so many readings and provides an average."

George Hanzlik, Petersburg, Va.: Faced with the chore of cutting more than an acre of lawn, George purchased a 1990 72-in. 3-blade "Turf Hog" lawn mower built by **Bush Hog**. "I pull it behind an Oliver 55 tractor equipped with an independent pto and it leaves the lawn looking like it was cut by a hand push mower. I can maneuver it anywhere which reduces time spent trimming shrubbery."

Frank O' Toole, Loysville, Penn.: Frank is impressed with his 1989 **Myers 518** forage wagon. "The top beater turns backward

to keep silage from being thrown too far forward when the wagon is being unloaded out the front. I bought my first one in 1988. Liked it so much I bought this one."

Don Stretesky, Julesburg, Colo.: Don likes his **Case-IH 1680** rotary combine. "This is my third Axial Flow since 1979. I'm very pleased, especially with the good dealer service."

He's also happy with his **Orthman 6-row** bean cutter. "It never plugs up."

Lawrence Munro, Charlotte, Mich.: Lawrence has had good luck with his 1989 **Gehl 1310** round baler. "It's easy to use and produces bales that keep extremely well without protection. Has been completely trouble-free so far."

Jack Langford, Sparta, Tenn.: A 1989 **Chevrolet** heavy-duty 3/4-ton 4-WD Silverado pickup heads Jack's "best buy" list. "I use it to pull a gooseneck trailer as well as my car. It's the only vehicle I own. It rides and drives better than the 1/2-ton Chevrolet models that I had owned and gets only 1 to 2 mpg less. I like the low-entry door, spacious cab, and automatic locking hubs. They require no repacking."

William Bame, Findlay, Ohio: William nominates his 1990 **Sunflower 4211-09** disk-chisel as a "best buy". "It's a well-made unit that maintains very even depth thanks to lots of built-in weight and the walking tandem axle, which really helps when I go over corn rows at angle."

"I'm also pleased with my 1989 **Remlinger RTC** equipped with 3-pt. hitch that's teamed together with a **Case-IH 5200** drill. They do an excellent job tilling and seeding."

Wallace Parrott, Lebanon, Ky.: "My 1982 **Deere 4240** handles and drives great and is a best buy. The hydraulics are dependable and fast. I've spent only about \$50 on repairs."

Martin Keem, Arcade, N.Y.: "It's a good middle-sized tractor with plenty of power and it handles great. However, I wish it was equipped with a powershift transmission and Firestone tires," says Martin, who otherwise is pleased with his 1990 **Deere 2955 2-WD** tractor. "I use it for planting, cultivating, hauling hay and silage wagons, spreading manure, and raking hay."

Ed Powell, Portland, Mich.: A 1986 **Oldsmobile 98** car is Ed's "worst buy". "It's had many problems including the starter, cruise control, brakes, and transmission."

"My best buy is my 1988 **Ford F-250 4-WD** pickup equipped with a 300 cu. in. 6-cylinder engine. It has 46,000 miles and the only repairs, other than regular maintenance, have been for a new light switch and windshield wiper switch. I use it to pull fertilizer carts and loaded grain wagons weighing up to 26,000 lbs. In the winter I use it to pull a 6,000-lb. travel trailer to Florida or Arizona. Last summer I mounted a 2,000-lb. camper on it and drove 11,000 miles to Alaska."

F. Merle Jensen, Bennet, Neb.: His "best buy" is a **Black & Decker 4-in.** hand grinder. "It has plenty of power and is easy to handle. Lets me work in places too small for a larger grinder."

Melvin Kampen, Plentywood, Mont.: Melvin is happy with his 1990 **Ford F-150 XLT** Supercab 4-WD short box pickup equipped with a 351 cu. in. fuel-injected engine, but says it could use a little more power. "I wish it had a 460 cu. in. engine so I could use it to tow my fifth wheel recreational vehicle and stock trailer. It rides nice and the automatic overdrive is nice for

highway driving."

Kevin Byrnes, Riceville, Iowa: A 1990 **Demco** model 370 12-ton gravity wagon rates as Kevin's "best buy". "It's the first wagon I've ever owned that had more capacity than advertised by the company. I had 389 bushels of dry corn in it last fall. I really like the low profile gear and 16 by 16.5 tires, and it has the best slope in the industry."

Kevin's disappointed with his 1989 **Pepin** flexible spike tooth drag which consists of four 6-ft. sections. "It constantly plugged up. I called the company twice but got no help. The teeth were adjustable so I laid them down more. This helped, but then the last row would go over center and they plugged up. I lengthened the last adjustment bar which helped somewhat. It still plugged occasionally so I finally fixed it by raising the chains where it fastened onto the drag cart. Now it seems to work fine."

William Bones, Franksville, Wis.: "My **Deere AMT 600** is a best buy. I use it to haul calves, flat tires, tools, and odds and ends."

On the "worst buy" side, "I bought a **Deere 2640** tractor that had low hours at a sale in 1988. This tractor must have been built by the three stooges. The bottom of the radiator core was full of fine trimmings and solder which caused it to overheat. The power steering went out and the relief valves stuck in the steering system. The clutch failed and I had to install a kit to run the hydraulic motors. A hydraulic line to the steering valve broke causing hot oil to leak out. The air cleaner inlet is in a hard-to-reach location and the air cleaner element is always full of dirt. When it's cold I have to use wrenches to adjust the seat for the operator's height and weight. On the plus side, this tractor is a great starter, fairly economical, and it's torquey and tough."

David Gloss, Clare, Mich.: David is pleased with his 1990 **Ford 6610** tractor equipped with a deluxe cab. "It runs perfect and is easy to operate because of the handy-to-use controls."

"My **Vicon 330** rake fluffs hay so it dries a day quicker. It really helped in a wet year like 1990."

Robert McCain, Jane, Mo.: Robert's "best buy" is his 1990 **Dodge W-150 4-WD** pickup equipped with a 4-speed manual transmission and high-low range. "The 318 cu. in. engine gets better mileage than is listed on the sticker. It pulls maximum loads with almost no effort and should be as mechanically dependable as my two previous Dodges which each had well over 100,000 miles before I traded them."

Stanley Ohol, Cambria, N.Y.: Stanley likes his **Case-IH Cyclo 900 6-row** air planter. "It's a simple planter. Well-built and it lets us plant fast."

Bill Simonson, Avon, Ill.: Bill nominates his **Deutz DX 110** and **DX 140A** tractors, which he purchased new in 1980, as his all-time "best buys". "I have over 8,000 hours on them combined with very minimal repairs and downtime. The fuel economy is unmatched and the air-cooled engines run very cool. It's nice not having to worry about radiators or water pumps."

"My 1988 **Kewanee** model 295 coulter-chisel goes through heavy trash without plugging and does a level job of plowing. It's a lot faster than moldboard plowing."

"I also like **Yetter 6000** series row units equipped with trash masters that I mounted on my **International 500 Cyclo** planter. They're easy to set and provide excellent depth control and a good level seedbed in cloddy and trashy conditions. I've used them

for three years with no problems."

Bill nominates **Cannon** herbicide from Monsanto as a "worst buy". "I've used both of the herbicides that make up Cannon before with good results, but the mixture of the two failed miserably. If Monsanto wants to sell Lasso to soybean growers, why don't they just lower the price? I feel that Monsanto is a good company with good products. Cannon just didn't work for me. The company did offer some compensation."

Tim Butler, Rupert, Quebec: "My 1989 **Stihl 044** chain saw is my right hand man. It's fast and powerful, yet so comfortable and light that I hardly get tired. I can bury the 20-in. bar in a maple log with no problem."

Tim says his **Briggs & Stratton 3 hp 4-stroke** engine, which he uses to operate his log splitter, is a "worst buy". "After only two weeks it started losing power. It came with a 2-year warranty so I returned it to my dealer. He discovered two screws holding the air cleaner had come loose and fell into the carburetor, jamming the butterfly valve. Also, this engine's paper air filter is a pain in the neck. What was wrong with the old foam filter that you could wash and re-oil? I discovered that the vent in the gas cap had plugged up causing a vacuum in the tank

"Two screws holding the air cleaner came loose and fell into the carburetor."

which caused the engine to die. I installed a new cap, but one day later the same thing happened. I finally drilled a hole through the cap and twisted in a screw. Now it runs like a charm. Briggs & Stratton should leave a good thing alone. It would've been cheaper and easier if I had just rebuilt my old engine."

Larry H. Lampe, Hillsboro, Iowa: "My **Yamaha Terra-Pro 350 ATV** is a real work-horse. I use it every day for chores. I've also used it to pull an 8-row sprayer over 800 acres. No downtime or repairs."

Roy Westendorff, Pewamo, Mich.: "It has over 12,000 miles and gets about the same gas mileage as advertised," says Roy, happy with his 1991 **Chevrolet S-10** pickup equipped with a 4-cylinder engine.

John Kuper, Brosley, Mo.: "It's the best pickup I've ever owned but also the most expensive," says John, owner of a 1990 **Ford F-250 XLT 4-WD** Lariat pickup equipped with a diesel engine and 5-speed transmission. "I use it to pull a 6-ton fertilizer buggy, as well as a 29-ft. fifth wheel travel trailer. It gets 18 mpg if I stay under 55 mph."

Erling Swiggum, Dodgeville, Wis.: Erling owns a 1990 **Case-IH 600** forage blower. "This baby will really handle a lot of material. A Deere salesman recommended it to me."

"Another best buy is my 1990 1,000-gal. **Mueller** bulk milk tank. It cools milk down to 38 degrees by the time I'm done milking. Reduced my electricity bill, too."

Maynard Hartke, Litchfield, Ill.: Maynard purchased a **Case-IH 1680** combine with 511 hours on it and says it's a "best buy". "It put a beautiful sample in the grain tank and has almost twice as much capacity as the 3,000-hour 1460 model I traded in. I

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