

Best & Worst Buys

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can't believe how many acres it can cover in a day."

Maynard's had trouble with a Razor Cat sickle and guards, manufactured by **Herschel Mfg. Co.**, which he installed on his New Holland haybine. "It wouldn't cut brome grass at 3 mph. The sickle pulled so hard that it tore the wobble box and bracket into two pieces. The machine was destroyed because it had unibody construction."

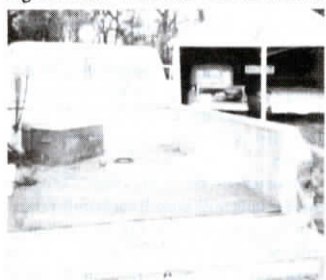
Carl Carlson, Yoder, Wis.: Carl is impressed with his 1989 **Deere 9400** grain drill. "It has excellent ground clearance and I like the three rows of shovels and split rims. There are very few moving parts so maintenance is minimal. I also like the capacity of the grain box."

"My 1986 **Steiger Cougar 1000** tractor equipped with a LTA Cummins engine is another best buy. It has the best view and the most cab room of any 4-WD tractor I've ever seen. The 12-speed powershift transmission really works great. The tractor is easy to service and built to last. It doesn't smoke at all under full load."

"My **Dovetec** corn burning stove is a piece of junk. It wouldn't burn. All it did was smoke and gas the house. The dealer replaced it but the new one did the same thing. I returned it and to this day the company refuses to refund my money. It cost \$1,629."

"My 1989 **Pontiac Grand Prix SE** is a lemon. The controls for the lumbar seats went out, and the cruise control hasn't worked since I bought the car. I've replaced the stereo three times and I can't get the compass to stay set."

Jim Lacey, Dell Rapids, S. Dak.: A pair of 1989 **Dodge W-250 3/4-ton 4-WD** pickups equipped with Cummins diesel engines head Jim's "best buy" list. "I have about 40,000 miles on each pickup. One has a 5-speed manual transmission and the other has an automatic transmission. Both pickups ride rough, but they really pull well and get 17 to 20 mpg. I cut out the wheel wells in the boxes of both trucks and covered the holes with L-shaped steel plate in their place. It really opens up the box. You can cut away the wheel wells on 4-WD pickups because they're equipped with the same beds as 2-WD pickups, but the bodies are set higher to clear the driveline and transfer case so there's plenty of clearance. Removing the wheel wells adds a lot of room to



each side of the pickup bed. I'm in the well drilling business and the extra space really comes in handy."

"I'm also pleased with my **Compact Positive Lock** toolbox (Montezuma Welding & Mfg., Box 234, Montezuma, Kan. 67867-0234). It keeps tools organized and easily accessible. Saves time."

John Polansky, West, Texas: John is the satisfied owner of a 1989 **White 120** tractor. "It rides smooth, is fuel efficient, and has good power. The cab has good visibility."

William Twidwell, Frankfort, Kan.: William nominates his **Gehl 125** grinder-mixer as a "best buy". "I owned a **Gehl MX-100** grinder-mixer for 13 years, and this model works just as good. The digital scale really doesn't save any time so it's probably no improvement over the cheaper analog scale. The optional electric unloading auger works a bit slow, but pushing a button is certainly easier than cranking a lever."

John Feltes, Garden Prairie, Ill.: John likes his **Dickey John** model **DJCCS100** spray controller. "This is the most precise spray controller on the market. It's accurate to within one gallon plus or minus on a 500-gal. batch. Less than 1% error total."

"My 1983 **GMC 4-WD 1-ton** pickup equipped with a 6.2-liter diesel engine is a worst buy. I bought it used in 1983 with 18,000 miles. The engine lasted 46,000 miles before the company replaced it. The second engine lasted 51,000 miles before it blew out. I installed a new engine which now has 45,000 miles. I've gone through two turbo 400 transmissions and three sets of brakes. It spends only 25% of the time doing heavy work. The rest of the time is spent on the highway. How can GM produce such poor quality products and stay in business? I've driven other pickups equipped with Cummins diesels. They make GM's product seem like a joke. When will someone listen to the real needs of farmers and start to build these high-priced 'work trucks' to last?"

Mike Coble, Walnut Grove, Mo.: "It has lots of power and is a pleasure to drive," reports Mike, pleased with his 1990 **Ford F-250 4-WD** pickup equipped with a 460 cu. in. engine.

Mike also likes his **Motorola Radius** business band radios. "They have very good range and are a good value."

Warren Medina, Sauk Rapids, Minn.: Warren's happy with his **Miller Blue Star 2E AC/DC** welder. "I can easily adjust it for different heat settings, and the fine amper-

"Metal on the wheels is too thin. Teeth bent backward, leaving hay in the field."

age control makes it easy to change from thin to thick metal welding.

"My worst buy is a **Deere 567** wheel rake. The metal on the wheels that the teeth bolt to is too thin. The teeth bend backward, leaving hay in the field."

Ron White, Manitou, Manitoba: "My **Deere 260** self-leveling loader equipped with a 7-ft. bucket and pallet fork is a best buy. It's easy to load because I don't have to constantly adjust the bucket angle to prevent material from falling backward while I lift the loader. Makes it safer for loading

round bales."

Bobby Barker, Grafton, Ohio: "My 1990 **Ford F-150 XLT Lariat** pickup is a worst buy. I took it back to the dealer at least four times for work on the brakes and front wheels (they shimmed). It also made a lot of noise on the road, but the dealer said nothing was wrong. One time he had it for seven days but did nothing to fix it. I had it checked by another shop which found shocks and frame were bent and all tires were cupped or worn out. A lawsuit is pending."

Richard MacDonald, N. Manchester, Ind.: "It's built to take heavy use day in and day out and has to be one of the best loaders on the market," says Richard, pleased with the **Case-IH 2255** loader that he mounted on a 674 diesel utility tractor. "It lifts high and is easy to mount. However, I don't like the 72-in. bucket equipped with manure tines and tine cover. It wouldn't load manure or corn. I redesigned the bucket by bolting sides on the tine cover the full depth of the bucket and bolted a high-backed spill guard on it so manure wouldn't spill back onto the tractor. I would think Case-IH

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engineers would think of these things."

Buddy Hoopes, Beloit, Ohio: Buddy says his 1988 **Vicon 2-wheel** mounted windrow turner does a super job of turning windrows at speeds up to 10 mph. "I'm mounting a 2-way hydraulic cylinder on it so I can raise and lower it from tractor seat."

Lee Taylor, Swaledale, Iowa: Lee likes his **Mirafount 3310-4** energy-free hog waterer. "It's rust resistant and will pay for itself with energy savings. Hogs seem to drink more water from it."

Virden Smith, Findlay, Ohio: Virden's had trouble with his 1986 **Deutz DX 110** tractor. "The clutch went out at 1,000 hours and the hydraulic valves had problems. The brakes had to be rebuilt. The transmission bearing failed and wiped out a ring and pinion as well as a differential case and bull gear. I had owned a **Deutz 9006** for nine years with no problems."

"My 1989 **Ford Tempo** has 14,000 miles and hasn't been back to the dealer once."

Eugene Bissey, Dwight, Ill.: "My 1990 **Toro 21-in.** recycler mower is a worst buy. The bagger door wouldn't stay open but the dealer fixed it. Then after about 14 hours of use the door cracked. The rear wheel drive is very unhandy. Poor quality for the money."

"My 1989 **Ford Ranger XLT Super Cab** pickup is a best buy. Handles great in all weather, rides good and starts great."

Vernon Ellickson, Decorah, Iowa: Vernon says his 1988 **Ford E-150** van gets over 20 mpg when loaded and is a "best buy". "It has gone more than 30,000 miles with no problems."

Leo Fox, Columbus, Wis.: "My 1990 **Case-IH 5130** tractor shifts much better than the 96 and 94 series tractors. The powershift transmission is much faster than the one in my 1494."

"The **Case-IH 74L** loader mounted on my 1494 tractor doesn't fit good. The loader mounting bracket isn't welded right, but neither the dealer or company will install a different bracket."

Lester Warburton, Chinook, Mont.:

Lester's "worst buy" is the **Bead Buster**, a tool designed to help take tires off rims. "It cost \$200 but didn't do what the company said it would. It did do a good job of breaking my finger, however."

"My **Campbell Hausfield 5 hp** air compressor develops 175 lbs. pressure. It really works great to power tools."

Russell Braymen, Blanchard, Iowa: A 1987 **Dodge Dakota** pickup equipped with a V-6 engine and 5-speed transmission heads Russell's "worst buy" list. "It gets only about 16 mpg average and about 20 mpg highway. A small pickup like this should get better mileage. Owners of new full-size pickups tell me they get just about the same mileage and their pickups are big enough to haul 500 lbs. of feed without dragging the ground. The manual transmission is geared way too high, especially in reverse. Even with a small load on, I have a tough time backing up without slipping the clutch. It should have an automatic transmission. I'm glad I kept my 1978 **Dodge 4-WD** pickup for farm work."

Don Krause, Watertown, Wis.: Don wasn't happy with an **Acura Trak** guidance system tested on his cultivator on a trial basis. "A hydrostatic hose broke while I was cultivating. Another hose broke while the tractor was idling when I went to make a phone call. I came back 15 minutes later and all the oil had leaked out of the tractor. All I got out of it was a big repair bill. I returned the unit."

On the "best buy" side, "My 34-ft. **McFarlane 8-bar** flex drag (Sauk City, Wis.) makes a perfect seedbed when pulled behind a disk or field cultivator. It raises heck with quack-grass roots and it doesn't plug."

Robert Simmons, Marshall, Minn.: "My **Mercury Topaz** car equipped with a 4-cylinder engine and automatic transmission is a best buy. It has 34,000 miles and gets good mileage. The only trouble was with the fuel injector, but the dealer and company took care of that promptly."

"My **Sears Craftsman** sabre saw is a piece of junk. I used it only about 20 minutes before it quit. Sears fixed it for a fee. It ran only about 30 minutes more before quitting again."

Dorsey Owings, Millington, Md.: Dorsey says his 1990 **Hesston 8400** self-propelled windrower is a "best buy". "It cuts a 16-ft. swath through alfalfa at 6 mph. A double windrow attachment lets me put two 16-ft. windrows together so I can chop 32 ft. at a pass."

Carroll Bjorke, Harvey, N. Dak.: "My 1986 **Koehn** heavy duty chaff spreader is a best buy (Box 577, Watertown, S. Dak. 57201 ph 605 886-2120). I mounted it on my **Massey Ferguson 750** combine which I use to harvest 18 and 20-ft. swaths or direct cut small grain. I wouldn't be without it if I were to change combines. The dual rotating fans do a great job of spreading chaff. It's simple to mount and causes no noticeable power loss because it's belt-driven. It didn't cost an arm and a leg either."

Richard T. Rider, Minor Hill, Tenn.: "My 1989 **Husqvarna 50** chain saw cuts fast and starts easy. No problems."

Donald Guetter, Wabasso, Minn.: "I can't say enough good about my 1989 **Deere 9500** combine. Last fall was the most enjoyable harvest season I ever had."

Jeff Watson, Spring City, Utah: Jeff's happy with his **Honda EW170** welder and generator. "It starts easy, runs quiet, and the wheels make it handy to move around. I pull it with a 3-wheeler or haul it in my pickup."