

lems. "The rollers are too close to the table which lets loose hay catch in the belts and get pulled underneath."

**Leon Bradley, Union City, Mich.:** "My 1989 Case-IH 685 utility tractor equipped with a Case-IH 255 loader is a best buy. Great fuel economy."

"My 1990 Case-IH 4-row cultivator is a pleasure to use."

**Edward Borkowski, Claysville, Penn.:** Edward's 1987 Ford Ranger pickup has 92,000 miles and is a "best buy." "The 2.3-liter turbocharged diesel engine runs good and gets 32 mpg. It easily hauls a 1-ton payload. However, the oil filter for it costs \$25. If someone knows of a less expensive brand for use on this pickup I'd like to hear from them."

**John deBoer, Mt. Elgin, Ontario:** "My Deere 3155 4-WD tractor is rated at 95 hp but pulls like it has 120 hp. It has a quiet and comfortable cab and is a pleasure to drive."

**Jerry Reiling, Lake View, Iowa:** Jerry's 1989 Ford F-250 pickup equipped with a 7.3-liter diesel engine and 4:10 rear end heads his "best buy" list. "It has 52,000 miles and, other than normal maintenance, all I've replaced is an alternator belt. I use it to pull a 24-ft. gooseneck trailer with a 12,000-lb. payload. It gets 17 mpg when empty."

"My worst buys are tools from Taiwan. Any I've tried have failed within a very short time."

**Russell Sprang, Kenton, Ohio:** Russell is impressed with his 1989 Ford LGT 14D diesel lawn tractor equipped with a heavy duty 48-in. mower deck. "It turns short and mows level. The 3-cylinder, water-cooled engine runs very smooth and is fuel efficient."

**W.A. Gibbs, Elmwood, Tenn.:** He nominates his 1974 Deere 1530 diesel tractor as his all-time "best buy." "This tractor has been a jewel and is without doubt the toughest tractor I've ever seen. It pulls a Deere 410 hay baler in fifth gear in heavy winds and has done some of the hardest bush hogging work any tractor ever did."

### "It's been a jewel and is without doubt the toughest tractor I've ever seen."

"My 1983 Ford LTD car equipped with a V-6 3.8-liter engine is still going strong. It has 116,000 miles and is a pleasure to drive. Very little trouble."

"My 1979 Datsun 210 car has 170,700 miles. It still has the original engine and uses very little oil."

**Mark Vernon, West Liberty, Ohio:** Mark's "worst buy" is his New Holland bale elevator. "This elevator must have been built from electrical conduit and bubble gum. It definitely wasn't built to handle bales with any weight. The bottom section has been reworked twice and I had to weld additional supports on it. The motor mount has cracked twice and there's no way to keep the belt tight for long. It sure doesn't compare in quality with the other New Holland equipment I own."

**Alvin Schmitz, Minot, N. Dak.:** Alvin is impressed with his 1990 Ford F-150 XLT Lariat pickup equipped with a 300 cu. in. 6-cyl. engine and automatic transmission with overdrive. "It gets good gas mileage, has plenty of power, has excellent visibility, and rides better than most cars."

**L.A. Dunn, Harrodsburg, Ky.:** "My 1989 Vicor tedder, which we use to turn hay windows, does a good job. We're well pleased."

**Larry Carman, Washington Court House, Ohio:** "It does a good job of planting and is easy to transport, but it's very heavy and requires a 200 hp tractor," says Larry, who is otherwise pleased with his Kinze 16-row planter equipped with 15 interplant units. "The only problem was with the Dickey John 3000 monitor, but the company replaced it immediately."

**John Shaw, New London, Wis.:** "I've got 148,000 miles on my 1984 Jeep Cherokee and I've replaced only the power steering hose and heater switch. My new 1990 Cherokee has 26,000 miles with no problems."

**Alton Hanson, Pine City, Minn.:** "My 1990 Gehl 2170 mower-conditioner works as advertised and has a good finance program."

**Wes Sebetka, Malcom, Iowa:** Wes is the satisfied owner of a 1987 E-Zee Wrap round bale wrapping machine made by Gerry's Welding & Fabrication, Inc. (6869 Columbus St., Box 37, New Vienna, Iowa 52065). "I tried two other brands, but the E-Zee Wrap worked best. The first year I used it to custom wrap 1,450 bales. The last two years I've wrapped only 1,925 bales because of drought. I held some 1989 hay over into 1990 and the wrapped bales still look good a year later. I installed a new chain this year that cost \$15. Otherwise, it just keeps on running with very little upkeep."

**David Paasch, Dickinson, N. Dak.:** A 1981 Hydra-Mac 11-C diesel skid steer loader is David's "best buy." "It's built heavy and has gone 2,400 hours with no problems. The Izuzu diesel engine has never failed to start and doesn't use any oil between 100-hour oil changes."

**Steven Plate, Rose Hill, Iowa:** Steven's "best buy" is his Fly Terminator which attracts flies into a jug and drowns them. "I just fill it half full of water and an attractant and it takes care of itself for a week. Three local feed stores sell the product in my town. Farnam Co. Inc. (Omaha, Neb.) makes the attractant. I assume they also make the jug."

**D.D. Provasek, Waco, Texas:** He likes his Bale Buggy made by Darneco Products (Soper, Okla. 74759 ph toll-free 800 654-6106). "I've used it to haul many bales of hay over the years. Recently I lost a spring and called the company toll-free and received a new one the next day via UPS."

**Charles Huegel, Venus, Penn.:** "It has good power, fuel efficiency, and brakes, but the radio is lousy and first and reverse gears go way too fast for a farm pickup," says Charles, who is otherwise pleased with his 1989 Ford 1/2-ton pickup equipped with a 300 cu. in. 6-cyl. engine and 5-speed transmission.

**Bruce Jeffers, High River, Alberta:** Bruce's "worst buy" is a 1986 Dodge 4-WD Ramcharger equipped with a 360 cu. in. engine. "The paint is bubbling from the inside to the outside. I've tried to get the problem solved for the past two years, but area dealers keep going out of business so nothing gets done. Now the warranty has expired. It gets only 10 to 12 mpg at best and 8 mpg at worst and vacuum leaks are a constant problem. The rear door won't latch shut when the temperature is colder than 10 degrees above zero so I have to drive down the road with the door still open. The doors won't unlock when the temperature is colder than 5 degrees below zero. If I finally get them to unlock, they won't lock again until

the weather or the pickup warms up."

**Mike Etkorn, Wapakoneta, Ohio:** Mike's had trouble with his 1990 Ford F-350 4-door Dually pickup. "Ford's motto is 'Quality is Job One', but on my pickup they left out the quality. It looks like this was the first job they ever did. The cab and bed are 1 3/4-in. out of alignment and the doors are so far out of alignment that when you open them they drop down 1/2 in. The bed isn't square when measured from corner to corner. The pickup pulls hard to the right. The dealer and company tell me this is how all their pickups are made and that my F-350 is the finest in the company's history. What a laugh! I had been a diehard Ford man."

### "The dealer and company tell me that my pickup is the finest in the company's history. What a laugh!"

However, next time I purchase a new pickup I'll choose more wisely and go with a company that stands behind their product."

**Dan Chambers, Atwood, Ill.:** "My Micro Trak 3000 sprayer controller is a best buy. Works great and the company service is even better."

**Walter Wilkens, Albert City, Iowa:** Walter likes his 1988 Buick LeSabre. "It's comfortable and gets 30 mpg on distance driving, about 26-27 mpg locally."

**Charles Johnson, Bristol, Wis.:** "It's been absolutely trouble-free over two years of use and even my wife loves to use it," says Charles about his 1986 Glencoe Soil Finisher which he bought used. "I mounted a 350-gal. tank and incorporation kit on it. It does an excellent job of incorporation."

**Harvey Wirkler, Farmersburg, Iowa:** Harvey nominates his 1988 Case-IH 496 Flex-Wing disk as a "best buy." "It works very well without plugging up and levels the land much better than the Krause model I had been using."

**William Allan MacLean, Cornwall, Prince Edward Island:** William nominates a Tanco autowrap silage bale wrapper as his "best buy." "It's well built and easy to use and adjust."

**Doug Allan, Macedon, N.Y.:** "It works fantastic," says Doug, pleased with his Farm Drainage 4-in. tile plow (Farm Drainage Plows, 909 4th St. N.W., Waverly, Iowa 50677). "The first time I used it I laid 4,200 ft. of tile in 1 1/2 days. All of the tiles were running within a few days and they're still running today."

**Glenn Frye, Ekalaka, Mont.:** "They should have put the switch at a reasonable level so you wouldn't have to reach so low to turn it on," says Glenn about his Lincoln AC-DC arc welder. "The leads are too short and there's no way to replace them with longer ones. On DC it won't even run a full rod before it cuts out."

Glenn is pleased with the Honeybee self-turning rod weeder attachment mounted on his 45-ft. Wilrich chisel plow. "It turns easy and doesn't carry a 3-ft. pile of dirt along like the brand I had been using."

**Truman Thykeson, Hope, N. Dak.:** Truman isn't pleased with the deal he got on his 1990 Dodge W-150 4-WD pickup. "I bought it two weeks before the company began offering a \$2,000 rebate. My dealer called the company to see if I could qualify for the rebate, but they said no."

**James Walsh, Merrimac, Mass.:** James is happy with his 1987 Ford F-350 equipped with a 460 cu. in. engine, but says he had to replace the hydraulic clutch at 17,000 miles at a cost of \$900.

"My 1982 Ford F-350 pickup equipped with a 400 cu. in. engine has 132,000 miles and has had only three oil changes (synthetic oil) and two sets of plugs. It runs fine. I use it to pull a 24-ft. trailer and it still has the original clutch."

**Charles Nelson, Plentywood, Mont.:** "My 1985 Jeep Cherokee wagon gets 20 to 26 mpg. Goes right through mud and snow."

**Doug Rutten, Osakis, Minn.:** "It's light, compact, starts easy, and cuts great," says Doug about his Jonsenud 535 chain saw.

On the negative side, "My Wen 1/2-in. drill isn't made for farm use. Just drilling through a 4 by 6 post causes it to heat up. The handle broke off easily."

**Anton Hambek, Herrick, S. Dak.:** "My 1988 Buick LeSabre is the best car I've ever owned. It has 50,000 miles and drives, rides, and performs like a car should."

**Tom Markley, Canton, Ill.:** "Never a moment's problem except for a faulty light switch," says Tom, pleased with his 1990 Ford F-250 pickup.

On the "worst buy" side, "I had my 1988 Ford F-150 less than a month when the starter went out and the synchronizer in the transmission failed. It took the dealer a month to get a new synchronizer and later the starter went out again. The fuel gauge lasted only 7,000 miles, the rear U-joint 18,000 miles, and tires about 12,000 miles."

**David Dougherty, Pylesville, Md.:** "It's an amazing mower. After 250 acres of mowing all kinds of hay in various conditions it still has the original knives," says David about his "best buy" 1989 Deere 1360 discbine.

**Rick Mount, Farragut, Iowa:** Rick converted his "best buy" 1990 Ford F-350 4-WD diesel pickup into a service truck. It's equipped with a long wheelbase, 5-speed transmission, Badem 11-ft. flatbed, and Mac road service toolbox. Mount built 155 gal. fuel tanks and hung them underneath the bed. "It has almost everything I need when I go to the field and still gets 10 to 14 mpg."

**Ronald Sanasack, Dumont, Minn.:** "It's second to none for comfort and capacity," says Ronald about his "best buy" 1990 Case-IH 1680 axial flow combine.

**Jerry Kruger, Warren, Minn.:** "It works even better than I expected," says Jerry, pleased with his Pleasure Products 80-ft. 3-pt. sprayer boom. "The nozzles are protected from damage and the outer ends of the boom swing back. Folds hydraulically for transport."

On the minus side, "My Hobart 6,500 watt Powerweld AC-DC portable welder generator is a repairman's delight. I've owned it for a year and a half, but used it no more than 20 hours. First the automatic idle malfunctioned. The dealer said the 90-day warranty had expired so I had to pay for the repair. Then the engine crankshaft broke. The dealer repaired it and I used it for about five more hours before a connecting rod broke. This welder replaced a Miller Roughneck welder that I used for many years with no trouble. I wish I had it back."

**Robert Stock, Fergus Falls, Minn.:** "My Flexi Coil 50 sprayer is a best buy. Shields over the nozzles let me keep spraying in high winds when other sprayers have to quit."

(Continued on next page)