

Best & Worst Buys

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gaskets leaked, but the company refused to send a representative to check out the problem. The dealer did help some by sending new gaskets for the 10-in. pipe. The last time I called the company they said they'd have a truck driver stop by as they don't have personnel for this sort of thing."

William Lohse, Heron Lake, Minn.: "It has good power and all controls work well," says William, who owns a **Gehl 2500** skid steer loader. "All I've had to fix is the starter and one gearbox."

He isn't pleased with his 1979 **Dodge 200** pickup. "It always seems to have problems, including a wheel bearing and gearing chain that went out. It starts hard and makes quite a bit of noise."

J. Mitchell Blose, Yatesboro, Penn.: "My **Hesston** round baler makes 500-lb. bales that are easy to move. I just roll them along by hand. They're also easy to load."

Jimmy West, Roxton, Texas: Jimmy says the **Fish** carburetor he installed on his **Ford 4-WD** pickup (Brown Carburetor Co., Inc., P.O. Box 298, Groton, S. Dak. 57445) is a "best buy". West uses the pickup, which is equipped with a 360 cu. in. engine, to pull a livestock trailer. "The carburetor increases the engine's power and provides smooth acceleration and idle at low rpm's. I plan to replace the factory carburetors on all my **Ford** pickups and trucks with **Fish** carburetors."

Albert Chlan, Webster, Minn.: Albert's "best buy" is his **Deere 535** round baler equipped with net wrap. "It lets me switch from net wrap to twine in no time and eject the bale without having to back up."

George Langenfeld, Harlan, Iowa: "So far I've had no problems at all with it," says George, pleased owner of a 1989 **White 160 2-WD** tractor. "The air ride seat is more comfortable than any other seat I've used."

George has had trouble with his 1989 **Case-IH 1300 9-ft.** sickle mower. "It plugs easily and the cable that raises the bar isn't strong enough. It slips off the pulley and gets caught between the pulley and clamp where it gets torn up."

John Fathe, Avon, S. Dak.: John likes his **Deere** Danish tine cultivator equipped with crank-adjustable gauge wheels. "I use it to cultivate corn and milo that's about 24 in. tall. It works so well I've stopped using herbicides."

David Whisnant, Shelby, N.C.: A 1988 **Ford** Ranger XLT pickup is David's "best buy". "The V-6 engine handles very well and gets good gas mileage."

Jimmy Powell, Ward, Alabama: Jimmy is the pleased owner of a 1989 **Kuhn GMD 66** heavy duty multi-disc hay cutter. "This is my third **Kuhn** cutter and it's been trouble free. I even use it to cut my lawn and my son's baseball field."

Gary Knuckles, Antwerp, Ohio: Gary nominates his 1988 **Deere 25-ft.** model 960 Danish tine field cultivator equipped with rolling baskets as his "best buy". "I bought it knocked down and assembled it myself. The six rows of tines have excellent trash clearance and virtually eliminate plugging. No breakdowns at all. I especially like the single point depth control feature."

"My 1989 **Great Plains 20-ft.** Solid Stand 3-pt. grain drill equipped with the 'pull

package' is also a best buy. It's well built and does an excellent job in seedbeds that are sometimes less than ideal. I especially like the overlapping double disc openers which cut a narrow seed trench right through trash. The 2 by 13-in. double press wheels do a good job of controlling seed depth. My **Yetter** flat fold markers are a good compliment to this drill."

Stanley Crone, Danville, Penn.: "It does a good job in both no-till and conventional till and is very easy to adjust," says Stanley, pleased owner of a 1990 **Deere 7200** corn planter.

"I don't have a worst buy, but my negative gripe are the metric bolts and nuts on my **Deere 7200** corn planter, **Deere 1460** disc hay cutter, and 1989 **Ford F-350** pickup. I need another complete set of tools, bolts, and nuts just to keep this equipment running. I think we should boycott companies that use metric in this country."

Charles Kunka, Hamilton, Ohio: Charles says his **John Blue** 500-gal. trailer sprayer equipped with a ground-driven pump heads his "best buy" list. "I just fill the sprayer, set the pump according to the desired application rate, and start spraying. It's very accurate and I don't have to worry about speed or pressure."

On the "worst buy" side, Charles is unhappy with his 1988 **Ford F-250 4-WD** diesel pickup. "After a few months of getting stuck in wet grass, I found out that the company had installed two different drive axle ratios. The front one was always trying to outrun the back one. The dealer solved the problem after I convinced him that the company messed up. I traded it in for a 1989 **Ford F-250 4-WD** diesel pickup. After only 15,000 miles the injector pump went bad. I keep asking myself why I have to pay \$20,000 for a pickup that won't last a year without a major problem."

Pace Guthrie, Forest, Miss.: An M&W

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Gear 1500 round baler rates as Pace's "best buy". "It makes good tight bales that are easy to haul and has a simple and trouble-free design. No breakdowns."

Arthur Lumpkin, Anderson, Ind.: Arthur nominates a pair of 1989 **Mirafount** energy-free livestock waterers, model 3310 for hogs and model 3350 for cattle (Miraco Mfg., Box 686, Grinnell, Iowa 50112) as "best buys". "They never freeze up as long as enough livestock use them and there's no danger from electricity. Livestock training is a minor inconvenience."

Jimmy Newby, Ardmore, Tenn.: "It's the most satisfying product I've bought lately," says Jimmy, pleased with the front wheel assist on his **Deere 4850** tractor. "When we flip the front wheel drive on and off under load we can immediately see the

advantages of front wheel drive. I'm also sold on the tractor's radial tires. They offer a better ride, less compaction, and longer life."

Richard Pecha, Jr., Bloomer, Wis.: "My best buys of all time are my **Harvestore** silos. I built one silo in 1970 to store corn and one in 1971 to store haylage. I use them every day."

"My **Deere AMT 600** is another best buy. I use it for fencing, picking up rocks, soil sampling, and hauling calves to the barn. It does everything a pickup or wheelbarrow can do and starts good all year long."

Donald Simon, Bowling Green, Ky.: A 1990 **Deere** hydra push spreader heads Donald's "best buy" list. "It doesn't have a floor chain so there are no slats for semi-solid manure to fall over as on other types of spreaders. When it's empty it goes over rough ground without bouncing like other brands do."

Orval Ostebee, Ellsworth, Iowa: Orval's impressed with his 1990 **Schweiss 2360** Magnum lawn mower. "It rides nice, is easy to maneuver, and doesn't plug up even if the grass is damp. It has lots of power so it mows fast."

Donald Rapley, Climax, Sask.: "My 1988 **Ford TW35 170** hp tractor is a best buy. It has plenty of power and the cab is nice and quiet."

Oddie Rogers, Pinetta, Fla.: Oddie's unhappy with the **Peerless** pump he installed in a 10-in. well last year. "It can't build enough pressure to operate my cable tow traveling irrigation system."

Steve Korver, New Oxford, Penn.: Steve's had good luck with his 1989 **Case 1840** skid steer loader. "I use it every day on my dairy and turkey farm. It starts easy in cold weather and speeds up chores and manure hauling."

"My 1989 **Deere 1360** disc mower conditioner is another best buy. It cuts down and tangled hay faster than the **New Holland 495** disc mower it replaced."

William McGuire, Maroa, Ill.: "It's the best vehicle I've ever owned," says William about his 1990 **Dodge Ram 3/4-ton** pickup equipped with a **Cummins** diesel engine. "Starts good in all weather, gets good fuel mileage, and seems to have almost unlimited power."

"My **Deere 9500** combine is another best buy. It works perfectly, is easy to operate, and does the best job of harvesting I've ever seen."

Thomas Rosandich, Oak Creek, Wis.: Thomas is impressed with his **Gravely** garden tractor. "This is the third one I've owned. It's built sturdy and has all gear drive so it won't wear out. I used my last one for 14 years. The snowblower and snowplow attachments are also built rugged."

Herbert Wessel, Jr., Hampstead, Md.: "The pickup worked fine, but the engine was nothing but trouble from the beginning," says Herb, unhappy with his 1986 **Chevrolet 1/2-ton 4-WD** pickup. "It had to be towed to the garage six times in the first 18 months. Two different dealers couldn't correct the problem and the company didn't help at all. After 40,000 miles of frustration I traded it in for a **Ford**."

On the positive side, "My 1990 **Ford F-150 4-WD** pickup rides and drives great. It's equipped with an overdrive transmission so it gets good mileage, and with 4-WD and automatic front hubs it'll go anywhere."

John Czubek, New Wilmington, Penn.: "It does an excellent job of raking hay," says John, who has nevertheless had some problems with his **Kuhn Gyro** rake tedder. "It's

a little difficult to switch rotors when you switch between raking and tedding, and parts are very expensive. A broken pto shaft cost \$400 to replace."

Richard Noel, Highgate Center, Vt.: "It has plenty of power, comfort, and economy," reports Richard, pleased with his 1989 **Case-IH Magnum 7120** tractor. "It'll pull a 7-shank subsoiler 12 to 14 in. deep at 6 mph using 6 gal. per hour. The dealer and company have fixed all problems."

"My **Deere 1360** mower conditioner is another best buy. I've used it to mow 300 of alfalfa, timothy, and reed canary grass. No breakdowns."

Gerald Cook, Calgary, Alberta: "My 1989 **Chevrolet** Caprice is a worst buy. The motor has leaked oil from day one, but the dealer can't fix it and told me it would always leak."

Chris Greanad, Forestburg, Texas: Chris isn't happy with his 1987 **Ford F-250XL** diesel pickup. "This pickup was born a problem. The only thing I like about it is the radio. At less than 2,000 miles the electrical system went haywire so I never know when it will start. If it does start the blinkers, headlights, and taillights might

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work, but I wouldn't bet on it. At 7,000 miles the clutch and glow plugs quit. I have 70,000 miles on it now. Also the anti-lock rear end is a joke. It never has worked. I don't think much of **Ford's** commitment to quality. When I talked to the dealer they sort of laughed and said, 'Oh, a farm pickup.' The company didn't seem to care about the problems, either."

"My best buy is my **Bush Hog** model 346 8-ft. tandem offset plow. The company made this plow to work, not to side beside the house and look pretty."

Bruce Meier, Chilton, Wis.: Bruce's "worst buy" is his **Hotsy 9450** steamer-cleaner. "Every time I use it something breaks. I need a full line of parts on hand just to steam clean my equipment."

On the "best buy" side, "My 1990 **Case-IH 385** tractor equipped with a front-end loader is the best small tractor I've ever owned. It has a shuttle shift and mechanical front wheel drive. I use the tractor to do a lot of loader work, and the shuttle shift lets me switch from forward to reverse in seconds. With front wheel drive I can push manure and snow as well as a tractor twice its size."

Ross Rogers, Onoway, Alberta: Ross is the satisfied owner of a 1985 **Chevrolet 1/2-ton** Wrangler 6.2-liter diesel pickup equipped with a 4-speed overdrive automatic transmission. "It's a dandy of a pickup. It gets 31 miles per gallon, has lots of power, and rides and handles great."

Niel Hannah, Port Hope, Ontario: "My **Deere 2955** tractor equipped with mechanical front wheel drive has more than 350 hours and is a best buy. It has a great cab and excellent power, fuel economy, and traction. It makes farming a breeze compared to other makes of tractors I've used."

"My **Deere 4555** tractor has more than 300 hours and is another best buy."

Norman Harris, Sun River, Mont.: "It's the best starting diesel tractor I've ever seen, is fuel efficient, and has lots of power," says Norman about his 75 hp **Belarus 611** model.