

# Best & Worst Buys

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valves, battery, and alternator. It still runs and starts good without using any oil between changes."

**W.D. Naylor, Lancaster, Ky.:** "One of my best buys ever is a 1988 **Honda TRX 300**. It goes anywhere in mud without tracking the ground up. It's very economical to use and the best thing about it is that I can go among my cattle, even when they're calving, and they're not jumpy or afraid of it."

**Oliver Graham, Derry, Penn.:** Oliver's "best buy" is his 1986 **Cub Cadet 782** equipped with a 50-in. belly mower. "I use it to mow 1 1/2 acres every week and I also use a 54-in. blade to move snow."

**Gary Jones, Coleman, Mich.:** "My New **Holland 479** and **316** have been best buys. Very few breakdowns."

**Ross Essary, Taneyville, Mo.:** "One of the best buys for my son and I is a **New Holland 276** baler, which we bought from a friend 10 years ago. The only expense is an occasional broken shear pin. It hardly ever makes an untied bale."

"Another best buy is our 1984 **New Holland 488** haybine. The only repairs have been a few broken sections and guards."

**Charles Romansky, Orwell, Ohio:** "My 1989 **Makita 3** by 24 belt sander has been trouble-free."

"My worst buy is a 1989 **Ford F-150** pickup equipped with a 300 cu. in. 6-cylinder engine. When I start the truck it revs up to 1,800 to 2,000 rpm. Mechanics know there's a problem, but the company won't fix it. I've taken it to five different dealers. Otherwise it's an excellent pickup. The 4-speed creeper with 3.08 rear end does a good job of pulling trailers."

**Roger Hoff, Applegate, Mich.:** "My 1980 **Ford 1900** tractor is a best buy. It starts good in cold or hot weather. The front wheel assist has great traction, but it doesn't have power steering nor is there a kit available to install it."

**George Howe, Casselton, N. Dak.:** "The box could have heavier metal as it already has small dents from oxygen tanks rolling around," says George, who otherwise is pleased with his 1989 **General Motors 4-WD** pickup.

**Dennis Deal, Waukon, Iowa:** "It could use more horsepower and better mileage," says Dennis about his 1984 **Chevrolet** heavy duty 3/4 ton pickup. "The distributor was loose from the factory and driving down the road it sounded like an engine had swallowed something. The dealer tightened it, but it didn't have as much horsepower after that."

**Don Brower, Taneytown, Md.:** Don's had good luck with his **Hesston 80-66 DT 4-WD** tractor equipped with front wheel drive assist and a front-end loader. "It's a super performer and always starts quick even in the coldest weather. It has 85 hp but with the front wheel assist it puts a 100 hp 2-WD tractor to shame."

**Randy Roquette, Baldwin, Wis.:** Randy likes his 1985 **Ford F-150 4-WD** pickup equipped with a 300 cu. in. engine and 4-speed transmission.

**Ronald Lindner, Watertown, S. Dak.:** Ronald says 1980 **Westfalia ALR** milker takeoffs are a "best buy". "They're well built, and once they're set all you have to do is inspect the udder for health purposes."

On the "worst buy" side, Ronald's unhappy with his 1981 **Case 58** loader designed for a 1390 **Case** tractor. "The loader sets out too far. I shortened the main frame, but the holes wore out right away. The dealer did all he could, but the company gave me the run-around."

**David Barton, Raymond, Miss.:** David says his **Deere F935** mower makes lawn mowing fun and is a "best buy". "We cut six

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acres with lots of trees and buildings. It's really fast and efficient."

"My **Ford QT7210** front-end loader is the handiest tool I've ever had. It's very easy to take off and put on."

**Keith Casterline, Vida, Mont.:** Keith says his 1982 **Chevrolet 20** Silverado diesel pickup equipped with a 6.2-liter engine is neither a "best" or "worst" buy. "The dash is cracking, the door pulls are broken, the dome light burns out frequently, and some of the paint has peeled off. However, I'm satisfied with the mileage and it drives okay and is fairly comfortable. I like the **Luverne** chrome rear bumper hitch I bought for it (**Luverne Truck Equip.**, 501 Edgehill, Luverne, Minn. 56156)."

**Walter Rowcliffe, Osage, Iowa:** Walter is "very satisfied" with his 1985 **Ford F-250** heavy duty diesel pickup. "It gets 8 to 12 mpg and I can count on averaging 10 mpg while pulling my 31-ft. trailer. My only expense in 58,000 miles has been to replace a vacuum pump. I ordered the pickup with a 4:10 rear end to pull the trailer. My solo mileage was 14 mpg. After adding a 20% overdrive, I gained 1 mpg. If Ford would include a 30% overdrive on this low ratio rear end, I believe the solo mileage would be much better."

**Robert Herkner, Edenville, Mich.:** Robert's "best buy" is his 1990 **Dodge Power Ram 150** pickup. "In three months I put 10,000 miles on it, some of them hauling heavy trailers. Everything works perfect and it's never been back to the dealer. The 318 cu. in. engine gets 18 mpg on the highway."

**W.H. Potter, Middletown, N.J.:** His "worst buy" is his **Agway 60** by 80-ft. building. "It never stopped leaking until I put on a new roof for about \$6,000."

**Cecil Reiser, Limerick, S. Dak.:** "It has good power and excellent traction and the wheel tracks don't damage the crop," says Cecil, pleased with his 1989 **Caterpillar** Challenger 65 tractor. "It compares to a 325 hp 4-WD tractor in good field conditions, but it'll pull a lot more than a 325 in soft, wet, or hilly fields."

Cecil says his **Concord 48-ft.** air drill is also a "best buy". "It does a good job of seeding. It's equipped with a 300-bu. seed and fertilizer tank. Depth control is good and each seed row gets packed properly. Time saved in transporting as well as filling and cleaning out the seed and fertilizer

hoppers makes this an efficient, productive machine."

**Gerald Stephani, Appleton, Wis.:** Gerald says his 1988 **Dodge 250 Power Ram 3/4-ton 4-WD** equipped with a 318 cu. in. engine and 4-speed transmission is a "well-built" truck. "It performs well pulling chopper wagons and other heavy loads and goes through lots of mud without getting stuck. The only problem was with the brakes at 11,000 miles. The dealer found an extra nut in the brake drum."

**Walter Pittman, Surry, Va.:** "My 1990 **KMC** field cultivator requires less horsepower to handle and does an excellent job of leveling and working up the soil."

**William Griessler, Delanson, N.Y.:** "My **Gehl 72** flail chopper, which I bought used at an auction, works great. The high speed rotor cuts the crop short and blows it well back into my self-unloading wagon."

**Robert Peckham, Woodstock, Conn.:** "It's a nice looking pickup and rides excellent because of the long wheelbase," says Robert, owner of a 1989 **Chevrolet K2500 Silverado**. "It has the extended cab and rear seat so my grandsons can ride with us in comfort."

**Ken Zienstra, Zealand, Mich.:** "My 1990 **Case-III 5120** Maxxum tractor equipped with mechanical front drive can turn shorter than the 2-WD tractor I owned before. The engine is only a 4-cylinder, but it's very powerful and lugs great. The cab is easy to get on and off. Deere doesn't have a tractor that can compare to this one. It can pull almost anything I own. I'd never buy another tractor without front wheel drive assist. The 4-speed powershift transmission is very smooth."

**Kevin McMinn, Cream Ridge, N.J.:** Kevin says his 1988 **General Motors** Crew Cab Dual Wheel 4-WD pickup is a "best buy", but it has nevertheless had some problems. "Fuel mileage was good at first, but dropped to 10 to 11 mpg and hasn't gotten better. No one seemed to know what to do about the problem and they all told me something different. The company should establish a better-informed dealer network. I had a complete Starcraft conversion done - captain's seat, wood interior, heavier carpet, aluminum wheels, and running boards. It makes the pickup a real pleasure to drive on long trips. I also added cruise control myself. It isn't available on General Motors 4-WD pickups."

**Keith Nordemann, Alsa Craig, Ontario:** Keith is pleased with his 1988 **Jeep** Comanche pickup equipped with the Eliminator package. "It runs well and is very fuel efficient at 27 to 30 mpg. It's a pleasure to drive for work and play and isn't a 'tin can' on wheels like a lot of other brands. Performance of the 4-liter fuel-injected 5-speed is awesome and it handles like a sports car. I replaced the Eagle tires

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with **B.F. Goodrich's** radial tires. The back window louvers snap on and off for easy cleaning, and the **Elixir 1000** running boards are sharp looking and have stood up well. However, the bucket seats could be more comfortable."

**Rene Labbe, Falher, Alberta:** "My 1989 **Brent 150** yield cart is simple to use, quick to set up, and accurate. It tows very well on roads. Works great for measuring yields in field trials."

**Dale Schelling, Hillsboro, Ohio:** "My 1988 **Deutz-Allis 1916** Ultima lawn mower equipped with a 48-in. deck is a best buy. It has plenty of power, is quiet, easy to handle and operate, mows level, and doesn't scalp."

**Fred Miller, Arpin, Wis.:** "My best buy is my 1989 **Gehl 1260** forage harvester which replaced my **Gehl 1250** model. The 1260 has some great improvements. I used it to chop three crops of haylage on 235 acres of hay without any problems."

**John Guth, Crivitz, Wis.:** "My 1989 **Deere AMT 600** is a best buy. It puts conventional ATVs on the back burner as far as versatility and safety is concerned."

**H.F. Fields, Grand Bay, Ala.:** "I use my **Unverferth S-tine** field cultivator before planting to loosen soil and kill small weeds. It does a much better job than a disk harrow and leaves a level, uniform seedbed."

**Orvin Kramer, Strasburg, N. Dak.:** "I used **Assert** herbicide manufactured by **American Cyanamid** last year to spray 250 acres of spring wheat and the results were 100% weed control. I had been using **Hoclon** herbicide, but **Assert** is easier on the crop."

**Duane Dellinger, Galloway, Ohio:** Duane is pleased with his 1989 **Kubota B2150 HST** equipped with a 5-ft. mid-mount mower, end loader, and sunshade. I can remove and install the loader and mower in about 2 minutes. It's got 24 hp with a hydrostatic transmission and has no problem running a 6-ft. **Bush Hog** mower all day long. It uses about 7/10 of a gallon of diesel fuel per hour."

**Gene Budach, New Richland, Minn.:** Gene's satisfied with his **Navigator** guidance system for planters and row crop cultivators (**HR Mfg. Co.**, Rt. 1, Box 71, Pender, Neb. 68047). "We've used several cultivator guidance systems, but the **Navigator** is by far the best on the market. It follows the row in any conditions including side hills, slopes, and level land."

His "worst buy" is a 1988 **General Motors 2500 3/4-ton 4-WD** pickup. "I had to replace the ball joints and tie rod ends on the steering system before it had 25,000 miles. The 350 cu. in. engine has good power but starts hard."

**Dean Begg, Columbus Grove, Ohio:** "My 1990 **Case-III Cyclo** planter works great. It's simple to adjust and the settings are right on."

**Leo Shinholt, Corriganville, Md.:** Leo says his 1989 **Ford XLT F-250** heavy duty pickup is "one terrific truck. It's equipped with a 7.3-liter diesel engine, 5-speed transmission, and 4:10 rear end. I use it to deliver maple syrup. It'll handle a 4,000 lb. payload just great. It has all the power I'll ever need, starts easy, and gets 20 to 23 mpg."

**Jim Mitchell, Eaton, Ohio:** Jim's happy with his 1990 **Case-IH 900** Early Riser 12-row 30-in. planter. "It's a dream come true. Seed placement is outstanding - it'll plant conventional or no-till equally well. Crusting doesn't seem to be a problem either. The air metering system is simple, easy to fill, and unbelievably accurate. You can figure out how much seed you'll need for a field and that's exactly what you'll use."

**John Shults, Henderson, Md.:** "My 1989 **Chore-Time** automatic feed system bought for a broiler house is a best buy. I've replaced only one motor and one auger bearing at a total cost of \$120 - not bad for 7 1/2 years of continuous use."