

Robert's "worst buy" is his 1982 GMC 350 diesel pickup. "The brakes failed after 4 months and the engine, rear end, and transmission went out with less than 40,000 miles. I have a lawsuit against the company."

His "best buy" is his 1986 Ford F-250 diesel pickup equipped with a 4-speed transmission which he uses to pull a 26 by 7 1/2-ft. gooseneck trailer. "It's economical to run and has been trouble free in 142,000 miles."

**Eldon Williams, Dansville, Mich.:** A 1986 Vermeer model LS 150A log splitter heads Eldon's "best buy" list. "It has its own hydraulic system and 5 hp engine mounted on a trailer. It splits logs with the bar in the vertical position so I don't have to lift blocks up on the bar. One person can easily operate it."

"My Polaris Trail Boss 250 ATV is another best buy. I use it to check fence, herd cattle, spray fence rows and crops, and to haul a small trailer."

On the negative side, "The fuel pump on my 1988 White 37 tractor failed after about 10 hours. The dealer couldn't locate the same fuel pump so he temporarily installed an electric fuel pump. This tractor has a higher horsepower rating than my 1953 Ford NAA, but it can't do as much work. I traded it for the next larger size, model 43, but it didn't work any better because I couldn't keep it in gear. The dealer tried to repair the transmission, but was told that it had to be replaced. By this time White had introduced its American-made 60 and 80 models so I traded model 43 for model 60. However, after one hour of use a seal in the power take off failed and it started throwing oil. By now I was almost ready to give up, but the dealer and company replaced the seal and made other changes. The tractor now has about 175 hours with no more problems."

**Malcolm McCracken, Hilton, N.Y.:** Malcolm's "best buy" is his Prasco model 8140 air seeder. "I put drill openers on the rear of a 22-ft. disk which I pull behind the air seeder. I used it to plant 640 acres of



winter wheat and 125 acres of alfalfa last fall and it worked super. It even plants in corn stalks without plugging."

On the negative side, Malcolm's unhappy with his two 1989 Deere 468 string-tie balers. "They didn't tie properly at first which caused 10 to 20% of the bales to break. The dealer installed sisal twine hooks on them and they now do a passable job of baling. However, these balers aren't as good as the model 467 wire-tie baler we traded in."

**James Rhodes, Dayton, Va.:** James installed a 239T (2750) engine in his Deere 2520 tractor to boost horsepower from 60 to 86. "I expected more power, but I didn't expect the tractor to start well at 15° and to use one fourth less fuel while grinding feed. It's equipped with power steering, power brakes, differential lock, side console, dual remotes, and power shift. I doubt if I'd trade it for a new 85 hp tractor of any color today."

**Jerome Holker, Beardesley, Minn.:** Jerome likes his 1988 Honeysuckle "power assist" manure auger for vacuum wagons from P.L.R. (Phil Ruyle, Rt. 1, Box 141A, Medora, Ill. 62063 ph 618 729-4465). Vacuum from the tank pulls heavy sludge to

the input end where an auger, operating inside an air-tight tube, gives it a boost to move it into the wagon. "I had been using pit additives for years with poor results. I tried using the auger after solids had filled more than half my finishing house pit. Despite the fact that the auger was mounted on a nearly worn-out vacuum tank, it cleaned the pit until it started to draw air about 6 in. from the floor. It worked beautifully."

**Earl Longhenry, Glencoe, Minn.:** My three Harvestore silos are all best buys. My dad bought the first one 31 years ago and it's worked day in and day out ever since. I don't think I'd be dairying without them."

"My Glencoe Soil Finisher has lived up to all of my expectations. It makes a perfect seedbed. I mounted a set of nozzles on it so I can incorporate all of my chemicals in one pass."

**Edward Fleming, Jr., Cambridge, Md.:** "My 1989 Kinze 31-15 in. row planter is a best buy. I've used it to plant more than 2,000 acres of soybeans and the company has given me good service. They replaced the point row clutches and installed larger capacity cylinders on the end of the planter."

"Another 'best buy' is my 1981 Massey Ferguson 4880 4-WD tractor. The 903 cu. in. Cummins engine has lots of power. A fuel injector washed down the cylinder so a sleeve and piston had to be replaced, but no other problems."

"My 1988 White 185 front wheel drive tractor handles well, has a quiet cab, and comfortable air cushion seat."

"I felt that my Massey Ferguson 2745 tractor didn't perform with other tractors in its horsepower range so I traded it in for the White tractor."

**Grant Nyhus, Mt. Horeb, Wis.:** Grant's 1989 Deere 622 5-wheeler is a best buy. "I've never been more satisfied with a product."

He says his Deere 2755 4-WD tractor works alright but it could use a better seat. "Another thing that drives us crazy is learning how to back up implements with it. With this type of front axle, the back goes the wrong way."

His Kverneland PC rollover plow equipped with automatic reset "does a perfect job even in rocky soil and heavy clay."

**Richard Laidlaw, London, Ontario:** "Cows love to use it," says Richard about his E-Z Brush & Oiler that not only oils cattle, but brushes them clean at the same time (E-Z Brush & Oiler, RR 5, Strathroy, Ontario, Canada N7G 3H6 ph 519 245-0838). A pair of 2-ft. long nylon brushes and a 5-gal. bucket mounted above them are clamped onto an existing fence, post, or wall. Oil flows by gravity from the bucket into oil "stems" spaced 4 in. apart at the base of the horizontal brush. As cattle rub against the brush, oil automatically flows out of the "stems" and onto the bristles. The vertical brush isn't oiled. "About 20 minutes after installation two animals were already scrubbing themselves on it. It applies insecticide sparingly because oil flows out only when the animal brushes against it. A tap on the bucket lets me control the rate of flow."

**Curtiss Berndt, Freesoil, Mich.:** "It turns the windrow completely over on dry ground to dry hay fast," says Curtiss about his 1989 New Holland 144 ground-driven windrow inverter. "Handles any size windrow."

**John Leipprandt, Pigeon, Mich.:** "It has good power and the comfort of a smaller tractor," reports John, pleased with the Deere 4455 tractor he leased last year.

**Stanley Miller, Lake Park, Minn.:** "It keeps on stacking load after load of hay and

has to be one of the best pieces of equipment New Holland ever made," says Stanley, happy with his 1974 New Holland 1033 stacklifter.

Stanley's also pleased with his 1985 Dodge W-250 pickup. "It has 45,000 miles but runs and looks like new. I mounted a DMI cushion bumper hitch on it which takes a lot of the jerk out when pulling wagons."

**Howard Schmidt, Marine City, Mich.:** Howard's had problems with his 1987 Deere 582 lawn mower. "The 30-in. blade has so much suction that when I cut low it scalps the sod and tears it right out. If I pull the blade up a notch it takes a bite here and another bite there which makes the lawn look like a sick cow has grazed it. It also threw stones through several windows in our house and barns."

He likes his 1989 Simplicity 17 hp, 48-

**"It takes a bite here and another bite there which makes our lawn look like a sick cow has grazed it."**

in. cut lawn tractor and mower equipped with hydrostatic drive. "It handles nice, turns short, and cuts smooth without scalping. It seldom throws stones and when it does it keeps them low."

**Leonard Selinger, Holdfast, Sask.:** A 1990 Chevrolet Suburban equipped with a 350 electronic fuel injected engine and overdrive transmission is Leonard's "best buy." "When it was brand new we loaded up 8 people and went on a 5,000 mile trip. It averaged over 22 mpg and performed flawlessly."

**David Barker, North Leeds, Me.:** "The air cooled engine on my best buy Same Mercury 85 tractor runs great and is very fuel efficient."

David's also pleased with his 1988 165-ft. Badger belt feeder and 24-ft. conveyor.

On the "worst buy" side is a New Holland 790 chopper. "The first year the feed roll side plate wore out which prevented me from sharpening the knives. The dealer fixed it but still tried to charge \$960 to sharpen them. The company eventually paid for it. Since then 2 more feed roll side plates have worn out and the dealer doesn't know what to do. The second year the metal alert mechanism quit. The dealer mechanic couldn't follow the wiring diagram in the manual and couldn't find the chopper's electric clutch. The result was \$260 down the drain. We called another dealer 100 miles away who hasn't been able to fix it yet. I've tried calling the service center listed in the owner's manual many times, but no one answers the phone. So far I've spent \$1,300 and it still doesn't work."

**Bob Jessup, Winter Park, Fl.:** "No more Black & Decker tools for me," says Bob, disappointed with his "worst buy" Black & Decker 3/8-in. electric drill. "The chuck wasn't true which caused the drill bit to flop. I replaced it with a Sears 1/3 hp 3/8-in. drill which works great."

Bob's happy with his 1989 Ford Ranger long bed pickup equipped with automatic overdrive and 4-cylinder dual ignition. "It rides and handles great, gets 22 to 24 mpg, and is real peppy."

He also likes his 1985 Ford F-150 6-cylinder pickup. "It has 130,000 miles and has never been in the shop. It still doesn't

use any oil."

**Howard Cuddeback, Skaneateles, N.Y.:** "It does an excellent job of cutting hay or rye in all weather conditions and works at speeds up to 10 mph," says Howard, pleased owner of a 1989 Vicon KM 281 disc mower. "Vicon backs up its product line better than any other company."

**L.O. Beddard, Snow Hill, N.C.:** "My 1989 Homelite 240 chain saw is light, starts easy, and is easy to handle and adjust."

**Paul McKie, North Augusta, S.C.:** "It's heavy, well built, and has accurate seeding rates and depth control," reports Paul, pleased with his 1988 Lilliston 9690 no-till drill. "I can use it in pasture, crop residue, or conventional seedbeds."

"My Surge premium soft 10050 milker inflations offer a rare combination of increased milking efficiency and reduced liner slippage."

Paul says his 1989 Case-IH 8350 12-ft. mower conditioner is well built, quiet, and runs efficiently. "It handles tough crops yet is gentle on alfalfa and requires no more horsepower than my older 9-ft. model."

**Vernon McCardle, Brandon, Iowa:** Vernon says his 1989 MiraFont 3350 energy-free waterer withstood 23° below zero temperatures without freezing and is a "best buy."

His "worst buy" is his 1989 Gelson 150,000 btu space heater. "It's so noisy that I can't stand to be in the barn while it's running."

**Stanley Davis, Live Oak, Fl.:** Stanley says his 1988 Mazda B-2200 pickup cab heads his "best buy" list. "This is the third Mazda I've owned, all equipped with 5-speed transmissions. It rides and handles well, has plenty of get-up-and-go even in 5th gear, and gets 27 plus mpg."

**Gaylord Poffenbaugh, Lucas, Ohio:** Gaylord's "best buy" is his 1981 Deere 4420 combine. "It's extremely dependable, has good capacity and fuel economy, is very maneuverable, and goes right through wet fields."

**Allen Franks, Guthrie, Ky.:** "All hammermills are not created equal," says Allen, pleased owner of a Mix Mill which he uses to grind corn. "It grinds uniformly and makes less dust and fewer large particles than the model we had been using."

**John Jennissen, Sauk Centre, Minn.:** A 1989 Deutz-Allis 7085 tractor rates as John's "best buy". "The air-cooled diesel engine is fuel efficient and starts easily in cold weather without overheating in hot weather. This tractor has lots of torque and the easy shifting, fully synchronized 20-speed transmission has a speed to match any job."

**James Anderson, Herman, Minn.:** "I've owned 18 Ford cars over the last 33 years and this is the best one yet," reports James, owner of a 1989 Ford Mustang. "I've driven it 32,000 miles in 9 months with no problems. It's fun to drive and gets super gas mileage."

**Glenn Eash, Howe, Ind.:** Glenn nominates his 1988 Parmak Magnum 12 solar fence as a "best buy". "The built-in performance meter monitors fence condition and is a real step saver when I'm checking the fence."

**Eugene Meyer, Brookville, Ind.:** "I like the simple design, rugged construction, and ease of adjustment on my Hinkler 5000 ridge till cultivator. Works good in hard soil or heavy residue."

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