

Trash goes through the tines easily."

Keith Dickie, Deloraine, Manitoba: Keith is pleased with his three Versatile tractors. "These are 'meat and potatoes' machines, easy to maintain and repair. All of them have been very reliable and reasonably fuel efficient, and repair costs over a combined 12,000 hours have been minimal. The common weak point has been the door handles. All have been replaced at least once, some twice. The model 300 Hydro-Mech works great for pto combining, but requires more maintenance than the other models. The transmission on this tractor was ahead of its time. It's the ultimate power shift."

Wilbur Black, Plum City, Wis.: Wilbur likes his New Idea 363 manure spreader. "I've had 3 different New Idea spreaders in the past 13 years and each one gets better than the one before."

Burton Graves, Sandusky, Mich.: Burton's "best buy" is his 1989 MiraFont 3360 "no energy" cattle waterer. "It uses only ground heat and had no freeze-ups."

Gary Jones, Coleman, Mich.: "My New Holland 479 haybine and 316 baler are both best buys. Very few breakdowns with the haybine in 10 years."

Harlan Hartzahn, Greene, Iowa: "My 1988 Case 1818 skid steer loader is a best buy. I also have a 1969 Chevrolet C-50 truck with 540,000 miles that's a best buy."

On the negative side, "My 1988 Ford Ranger pickup is a lemon. I bought it slightly used from a local dealer and sent \$100 to Ford for the warranty transfer. Then the problems began. I told Ford I'd paint it lemon yellow if they wouldn't fix it. After 16 trips to Ford dealers (and many calls to the company), I traded it in for a 1990 Ford Ranger. It's had a few problems, but they seem to take care of it. It seems that if you take the pickup to anyone but the dealer you bought it from, you're out of luck. I've owned many Fords, but this one might be my last."

Don Crowe, Wallaceburg, Ontario: "My worst buy of all time was a 1969 International Harvester 915 combine," says Don, who custom combines. "It never worked a full day without breakdowns and made us a laughing stock. The service manager said he didn't know anything about the combine and parts were never available. We had many customers angry at not only us, but International as well when we couldn't harvest their crops. We even had to call in a neighbor who owned a Deere combine to harvest our own crops. In desperation I called the company in Chicago for help, but I was treated very badly."

"My 1989 Deere 4450 front wheel tractor is a super tractor. No breakdowns."

Barry Stephen, Bowsman, Manitoba: Barry is pleased with his 1989 Deere 348 baler. "This high capacity baler has performed extremely well and is a great knitter. We've used it to custom bale flax straw with no problems."

Gerry Richards, Renfrew, Ontario: "My Deere AMT 600 is a best buy. I bought it for fencing work, but I seem to use it every day for something. It saves wear and tear on my pickup and tractor."

"My battery-operated Gallagher electric fencing units have worked well for two years. I built a solar panel for the battery unit."

"My Bosch 1/2-in. hammer drill is a worst buy. It doesn't have enough power and the motor burned out after about 50 holes."

"My Ariens 8 hp riding mower is another

worst buy. The variable speed friction pulley and belts wore out regularly. After two years I traded it in."

George Birdsall, Watertown, Conn.: "My 1989 Kubota BL 60C rotary tiller does a good job of preparing soil and the 3-pt. hitch is easy to hook up. I can adjust tillage depth from 0 to 6 in. by moving the skid shoes up or down."

"My 1985 Dodge 4-WD pickup is another best buy. It works well on hilly terrain or in the woods. The 318 cu. in. engine uses almost no oil and has plenty of power."

"My 1988 Ford F-150 4 by 4 pickup is a worst buy because the front end won't stay lined up. Ford's warranty is a big joke."

Lenox Russell, New Tazewell, Tenn.: "My best buy is a Westendorf WL211 loader. It mounts easy and the bucket can be quickly changed."

Dennis Knoll, Bridgeport, Mich.: A 1988 Deutz-Allis minimum till disk-chisel plow rates as his "best buy". "It's built for hard use and has excellent trash clearance in heavy corn stalks with minimal plugging."

Dennis's "worst buy" is his 1989 New Holland 499 haybine. "We didn't have any trouble with operation of the machine but we're disappointed with the paint finish because surface rust appeared after only a few weeks of use. The New Holland machines we previously owned had much better paint jobs."

Bill Bell, Deloraine, Manitoba: "Our 1977 Allis-Chalmers 7040 tractor is trouble-free, easy to service, drives nice, and has good power."

"Our Gleaner combines, a 1965 C11, a 1978 L2, and a 1981 L2 combine, do an excellent job. They're tough, easy to service, and fun to drive."

Philip McHugh, Royal, Iowa: "My worst buy is a Year-A-Round wobble drive. I was lucky to get two rounds on a set of ball socket bushings. The drivebelt loosened and tightened as the cutterbar floated over the ground. The company gave me the run-around. I finally sold it for 2 cents a pound to the scrap buyer, which is where it should have gone directly from the factory."

Philip's "best buy" is his Westendorf dual wheel chenger that he read about in

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FARM SHOW (Vol. 13, No. 6). It attaches to the lip of a loader bucket. A 10-in. dia. rubber wheel at the end of an extendable arm picks up the dual by the rim. "It makes mounting and dismounting large duals on high horsepower tractors an easy job, and works well on either band-type or hub-type duals."

Dennis Umbrell, Elizabethtown, Penn.: Dennis is pleased with his 1989 Case-IH 5100 soybean special grain drill. "It's well built, easy to adjust, and plants seed accurately."

S. Ridgely Morison, Delmar, Del.: "My 1988 Case-IH 2250 loader can be mounted or removed in 5 to 10 min. from my International 656 tractor."

"My 1987 Case-IH 5100 grain drill does an excellent job of planting wheat, soybeans, and milo. The adjustable depth press result in an even crop stand in any soil type."

John Ennis, Brooklyn, Conn.: John's "best buy" is his Allis-Chalmers 333 Air Champ 6-row no-till corn planter equipped with a cross-mounted fill auger. "I bought it used for half the cost of a comparable Deere planter and it does just as good a job. How can anyone justify buying Deere when better equipment is available at a reasonable price?"

Michael Zacherl, Tionesta, Penn.: Michael isn't happy with Firestone tires on his 1990 Mercury Grand Marquis. "They get stiff in cold temperatures and cause the car to vibrate. Rebalancing the tires helps some, but not enough."

Edward Broderick, Waukeg, Iowa: Edward is impressed with his 1987 Nissan King Cab pickup. "It's got 92,000 miles and no expenses other than for regular maintenance."

Edward's had trouble with his "worst buy" Lester 40 by 50-ft. pole building. "I paid \$4,000 down (1/3 of purchase price) with the understanding that the building, which I intended to use as a farm shop, would be constructed by Nov. 22, 1989. I didn't even hear from the contractor or salesman until Dec. 3, 1989 - after I had hired an attorney to start action or have my down payment returned. I was told a salesman would consult me about placement of a walk-in door and an overhead door. I never heard from him. I was then told construction was behind schedule because it was deer season. I was without a shop for more than 7 weeks, and the ground froze on the Sunday before construction began so I still don't have a cement floor. It took three days to complete construction and much of the crew had no construction experience. I only received 10-ft. sections of eaves and they leaned on both sides of building. I can hardly open the walk-in door and I can't lock the end slider doors. I had to put many more nails in sides of building."

Allan Augustine, Port Colborne, Ontario: "It works great," says Allan, owner of a 1984 Krause 23-ft. disk equipped with cushion front gangs and Case-IH earth metal disc plates.

Allan also likes his 1988 International 720 5-16 auto-reset plow. "It does an excellent job in both sod and stubble and is a pleasure to use under all conditions."

Michael Bailey, Lancaster, S.C.: A Husquavarna model 50 chain saw equipped with a 16-in. bar is Michael's "best buy". "It's lightweight, well-balanced, has plenty of power and high chain speed. My only complaint is that it has a hard kickback when cranking cold."

Arthur Dietrich, Graceville, Fla.: "Our Deere 7200 Max Emerge air planter places seed evenly and accurately."

On the "worst buy" side, Arthur isn't happy with his Priefert model 85 automatic/manual headgate. "We couldn't catch many animals with it and it was hard to hold them when we did. We returned it."

Larry Larson, Woodville, Wis.: Larry's "best buy" is his 1987 Dodge Dakota pickup equipped with automatic transmission and air conditioning. "It gets up to 21 mpg. My children were so impressed that several of them also bought Dodge pickups."

Daniel Huschka, Brodhead, Wis.: "My Firestone bias ply rear traction tires work good in the field and on the road. The 23° bar angle is ideal. As these tires age they develop fewer small cracks than other brands."

Dan Rossiter, Ellisburg, N.Y.: "The \$2,000 we spent on our 1988 Palco hoof trimming table was well worth it. At first I

thought we'd have to replace the hand crank with a reversible electric motor, but it's quite well balanced. Used together with Roto-Clip hoof-trimming blades that we read about in FARM SHOW (Roto Clip, Inc., Box 193, Smithfield, Utah 84335), it makes a system that allows non-professionals to do a good job."

Hal Bumgarner, Hampton, Iowa: Hal's "best buy" is his 1989 Buffalo 6-row cultivator equipped with an automatic guidance system. "This cultivator is worth its weight in herbicides because of the savings in chemicals. It destroys weeds while protecting our groundwater."

Bill Knoff, Nashotah, Wis.: "My 1988 GMC Dually 454 automatic pickup offers

"This cultivator is worth its weight in herbicides because of the savings in chemicals."

excellent visibility and comfort and has a superb stereo. No problems after 10,000 miles.

"The grain loss monitor on my New Holland TR86 combine lets me push the combine to maximum speed without losing grain. I wouldn't be without it."

Larry Knickerbocker, Pittsford, N.Y.: Larry's 1989 Deere 9400 combine is a "best buy". "It went right through wheat that was loaded with quackgrass and badly lodged due to too much nitrogen. We're glad we didn't invest in a grain cleaner because it delivers clean grain. The grain loss monitor is excellent."

Keith Lilley, Otego, N.Y.: Keith's "best buy" is his 4-WD 1988 Chevrolet Suburban. "Handles well, has lots of power, and has been trouble-free over 20,000 miles."

On the minus side, "My 1985 Kuhn FC 300 disc mower was nothing but junk from the start. The discs, rotor, float springs, and frame broke, and the pto universal joints failed. The automobile-type tires weren't durable either."

Keith Schmitz, North Collins, N.Y.: "My best buy 1989 Deere 3970 forage harvester doesn't take much horsepower considering its large capacity. It's competitively priced, but still out of line with the price of milk."

Keith is disappointed in Surge rubber products made for milking machines. "They don't have the elasticity they once did."

Jack Cecil, Mt. Pleasant, Tenn.: Jack nominates a 1972 Deere 4020 tractor and a 1975 Deere 2030 as best buys. "I've worked both of them hard with no major problems."

Bunkie Smith, Philadelphia, Miss.: Bunkie's "best buy" is his Double 8 milking system from De Laval. "The plate cooler works well and the cooling compressors shut off 10 min. after milking."

"My worst buy is my 1986 Ford 1-ton diesel pickup. In just 50,000 miles it's gone through four clutches, four batteries, an injector pump, a starter, and a fly wheel. The company should be liable for this mess."

Tommy Wagoner, Jonesville, N.C.: "My 1989 Ford 13204-WD diesel tractor is a best buy. I use it to power a 60-ft. long grain auger, to pull a 5-ft. Woods mower, and to pull tobacco trailers through muddy fields where larger tractors would bog down."

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