

transmission drive belt, unsatisfactory gear ratios, a new starter solenoid, a head that fell off, and an engine that uses oil and won't idle smoothly."

Lyle Nickason, Olsask, Sask.: "It's the only disk I know of that works on rocky fields without breaking down," says Lyle, pleased with his **Summers** 28-ft. Diamond disk equipped with 3-pt. mounted harrows. "It's expensive but worth three of any other disk models that I've ever used."

Lyle's had problems with his 1987 **Ford F-150** pickup. "It uses too much oil. Ford has tried to fix the problem twice to no avail. It was supposed to be equipped with an automatic overdrive transmission, which the dash indicator shows it to be, but it's really equipped with a 3-speed automatic. The dealer and Ford refuse to replace it. Ford's warranty is a joke, and it gets only 10 to 13 mpg. I'm sorry I ever saw this pickup."

Carole Ruttan, Bracebridge, Ont.: "It's

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ideal for the part-time logger or wood cutter," says Carole, pleased with a pto-operated 1988 **FARM** 400 3-pt. mounted. "It hauls whole trees out of the bush and is especially good on hilly terrain too steep for a tractor."

Elvin Latta, Cory, Ind.: "This is a terrible tractor," says Elvin about his 1981 **Case** 1390. "Three months after I bought it the fuel tank split at the seams. I repaired it and it split again. This time the company gave me a new tank. Five years later the tank split again, and the fuel gauge fell into it. It's hard to start below 45°, the steering arm is constantly loose, and the pto pilot bearing goes out every 6 months."

"My 1979 **Case** 2290 is the best tractor I've ever owned - 2,300 hours without a breakdown. Uses no oil and has plenty of power for tough pulls."

Elvin says his 1984 **Deere** 6620 is "a great combine - easy to maintain, plenty of power, and never seems to wear out. The cab is quiet and dust-free."

Mike Hanley, Cashton, Wis.: Mike nominates his 1985 **Ford** LTD car as a "worst buy". "The V-6 aluminum engine is a piece of junk. In one year two heads cracked and one warped. The supplier told the shop man that these heads are such a hot selling item that he has a hard time keeping them in stock."

Mike Roberts, Ainsworth, Iowa: Mike likes his 1984 **Case** 3294, 2294, and 2094 tractors. "They're well made, easy to operate, powerful, and economical. I like the 24-speed transmission."

On the "worst buy" side, Mike's unhappy with his 1985 **Kane** 2 by 4-ft. heat mats. "We purchased nine of them, and eight went bad right away. The company replaced them, but those mats went bad too. We ended up buying **Stanfield** mats which we like."

Jeff Long, Hartsville, Mo.: Jeff's "worst buy" is a **Homelite** 340 chain saw. "The carburetor constantly fell off and nothing could hold it on. The saw was in the shop several times. Finally the plastic handle broke off so I took it to the dealer. He handed it back to me in a basket and said it was a 'throw-away saw' that had burned itself up. He told me it would be cheaper to buy a new model than to buy new parts for

it."

Bryan Saathoff, Ridgely, Md.: Bryan's "worst buy" is his **Better-Bilt** manure pump. "It should have been called the 'Worst-Bilt' manure pump because it's been nothing but trouble since I bought it. It must not have been designed by real engineers."

"The best tractor I've ever bought is my 1972 **Deere** 4620. It put on 6,500 hours before the engine had to be rebuilt."

Douglas Grant, Jr., Rupert, Idaho: "My 1987 **Deere** 8650 tractor is a sweetheart. I've used it only about 300 hours but the cab, controls, and seat are better than those on **Case-IH** tractors."

Paul Csiky, Kinsman, Ohio: "My **Kuhn** GRS 24 Gyrostar rake and tedder is a best buy. It lets me dry my hay sooner, rather than sit around and wait. Conversion of the tedder to a rake is a snap. It gently rakes toward the center, moving the hay only half the width of the machine and leaving room for the end windrows."

Gary Workman, Stockton, Iowa: "My **M & W** Earthmaster 1160 tears up stalks better than a disk-chisel and does a good job of breaking up soil compaction."

Elmer Blumenstein, Camp Hill, Penn.: A 1988 **Toyota** 4 by 4 is Elmer's "best buy". "Goes through ice and snow and gets good gas mileage. When are American manufacturers going to wise up?"

Martin Hogan, Wyaconda, Mo.: "My 1981 **Gehl** 1850 big baler is virtually trouble-free and a best buy. It'll bale anything, anytime, with no trouble at all. I've used it for seven seasons and spent only \$200 on parts."

E.D. Field, Mariposa, Calif.: He likes his 1988 **McCullough** 605 chain saw. "The 36 cu. in. engine has super power and starts right up without hesitating when you throttle it up. With a sharp chain it cuts seasoned oak fast at half throttle."

Thomas Williams, Reevesville, S.C.: "I've used my 1988 **Deere** 709 rotary cutter to cut roads through the woods. I like it because it's equipped with a slip clutch instead of shear bolts like my old rotary cutter."

Ernest Oakes, Cochran, Penn.: A 1987 **Elwood** TR 8000 add-on front wheel drive rates as Ernest's "worst buy". "Gear lube leaks out of all the seals and pins, and we have to constantly replace the universal joints."

Another "worst buy" is his **Mueller** bulk milk tank. "Problems with the compressor, thermostat, and leaking freon lines have cost us thousands of dollars. Our dealer received flyers regarding these problems but never passed the information on to us. The company won't help us either."

John Danielson, Waterville, Wash.: John likes his 1988 **Chevrolet** pickup equipped with a fuel-injected 350 engine. "It has plenty of power and comfort, and it rides and handles well."

His "worst buy" is a 1988 **Sears** 1/2-in. drill. "The gears locked up the second time I used it and cost more to repair than a new drill."

Chep Milam, Sandy Springs, S.C.: "My 1988 **Niemeyer** RW 321 hay tedder-rake combination is a best buy. It's 3-pt. mounted so when I come to a terrace or large rock I can pick up the rake without tearing it up."

Chep's "worst buy" is his 1979 **Deere** 4030 tractor. "I bought it used at an auction and it turned out to be a nightmare. When I got it home I changed the oil which seemed too thick. Six hours later the engine blew. After tearing it down I found someone had replaced the no. 4 rod bearing and the no. 5

main bearing and refilled the crankcase with thick gear oil. About \$2,300 later I seem to have a fairly decent piece of equipment, but I'll always wonder about the rest of the tractor. Check equipment closely when you buy at an auction."

James Bird, Grassvalley, Ore.: "My 1974 **Versatile** 800 tractor has 18,000 hours. We did an in-frame overhaul on the motor this spring. Before that we changed the fuel pump once and the injectors twice. Other than that, it's been trouble-free."

Troy Ingram, Franklinton, La.: A 1987 **New Holland** 782 silage cutter is Troy's "best buy". "It's a simple and rugged machine that's easily maintained and serviced. With good maintenance it should last at least 10 to 12 years."

Frank Ward, Vici, Okla.: "My 1989 **Dodge** diesel 3/4-ton pickup equipped with a Cummins engine is a best buy. It gets 20 mpg and is by far the best diesel engine offered in a pickup. Pulls loads super well. Thanks, **Dodge-Chrysler**."

Darwin Eggers, State Center, Iowa: Darwin likes his 1989 **Miller** Millermatic 200 welder. "I've used it to weld everything from 20-ga. to 3/8-in. metal. It does a fantastic job."

Lee Grant, Middleport, N.Y.: "I haven't hooked it up yet to anything it can't pull," says Lee about his 1987 **Ford F-150** 4 by 4 pickup equipped with a 6-cylinder 300 cu. in. engine and a 4-speed transmission. "I've used it to pull hay and gravity box wagons weighing up to 10 tons."

Dept. of Fish and Game, Delta Junction, Ark.: They like their 1988 **Agritech** Industries model 60 tractor-mounted fork lift with 2,500 lbs. capacity that was first featured in **FARM SHOW**. The forklift has no hydraulics yet lifts up to 5 ft. high mounted on a 3-pt. "It's a great little fork lift for general lifting. We use it on a **Deere** 4250. It's easy to mount, inexpensive, and virtually foolproof." (Contact: **Agritech** Industries, Inc., 135 Franklin St., Holland, Mich. 49424 (ph 616 399-8021).)

Christopher Kopet, E. Stroudsburg, Penn.: "My worst buy is a 1988 **Dodge** W-250 pickup. The rear main engine seal has leaked ever since I bought the truck. It's been to the dealer twice so far, but it still leaks. The **Goodyear** radial tires wore out at 20,000 miles."

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Bruce Noel, Leslie, Mich.: A **Remlinger** Track Eliminator designed to mount in front of **Deere** 8300 grain drills is Bruce's "best buy". "Simple, functional, and inexpensive."

Duane Forslund, Hawarden, Iowa: Duane likes his **Allis-Chalmers** 782 chopper. "Excellent reliability, low maintenance cost, good performance and capacity."

Leland Klinger, Pecatonica, Ill.: Leland has had bad luck with his 1986 **Ford** F-150 4-WD pickup. "Once you start it, it dies three or four times before you can even move it unless you hold the throttle half open. It's totally dead going uphill and has no power at all. The XL trim fell off before the pickup had 3,000 miles. The dealer replaced it but the new trim also fell off. It gets only 8 mpg. I bet I've been to the dealer 20 times to solve the problem, but so far all

they've done is set the timing. I asked them to look at the transmission, which slips constantly, and install a new carburetor, but they did nothing except wait for the guarantee to run out and it did. I put on 5,000 of the first 6,000 miles going to the dealer - 60 miles round trip."

Glen Oberholtzer, Rutledge, Mo.: "I use it every day of the year. It starts well in cold weather for a diesel and has fast-acting hydraulics," says Glen about his "best buy" 1988 **Case** 1835C skid steer loader.

Kurt Tewes, Frankfort, Ill.: Kurt says his 1985 **International** 1885 tractor "is a real joy to drive. It has plenty of power and great operator comfort. The 16 speed transmission offers plenty of speed selections."

Sebo Johnson, Albert City, Iowa: Sebo likes his 1982 **International** 5288 tractor. "It runs good and I haven't spent any money on it for repairs."

Sam Scarlett, New Market, Ind.: Sam's "best buy" is his 1988 **Deere** 1327 disc mower-conditioner. "It does a good job cutting downed tangled grain and mows in very wet conditions where regular mowers can't mow. Hay cures almost a day faster. I've mowed over 800 acres and had no expenses other than to replace the blades."

Allen Beruening, Elizabeth, Ill.: A 1987 **Case-IH** 3394 tractor rates as Allen's "worst buy". "The park lever doesn't work right. One time the lever let loose and put the tractor in gear. It went right through our shed where my wife and granddaughter had been standing only seconds before. The dealer tried to repair it several times without success. We've been fighting with them the whole while but they refuse to do anything."

Steven Williams, Rochester, Ind.: Steven's "best buy" is his **Hoelscher** bale accumulator (312 S. Main, Bushton, Kan. 67427). "It allows me to handle hay without any hired labor and bale when the hay is ready, not when my help is ready. It lets me stack hay in sheds which are too low for a bale wagon. A local welding shop built me a squeeze fork, mounted on a loader, which I use to handle the bales."

Craig Eppert, Madrid, Iowa: A 1988 **Case-IH** model 4800 25 1/2-ft. field cultivator is Craig's "best buy". "The leveling hitch keeps the cultivator level front to back. Also it has great trash clearance."

"My worst buy is a pair of **Goodall** crop dividers which I bought last fall for my **IH** 810 floating grain head. The brackets didn't bolt right on the head. The dividers do a poor job of keeping bean plants from dragging on the ends of the cutterbar."

Steven Schleis, Kewaunee, Wis.: "It was a lemon right from the start," says Steven, unhappy owner of a **Kools** KB58 forage blower. "The main bearing went out in a little more than a year. You've got to take most of the blower apart to replace it. The shaker pan is built so thin that I've had to reinforce it several times, and the shaker arm shaft broke."

On the positive side, "My 1988 **Deutz** 6260 tractor equipped with a cab, front wheel assist and **Deutz** 455 loader is a best buy. This tractor is fuel efficient, very maneuverable, and has a quiet, roomy cab that offers good visibility. The front wheel assist is well worth the money for a loader tractor. The only problem I had was a faulty fuel gauge."

Hjortur Hjartarson, Ethridge, Mont.: "My 1988 **Chevrolet** 1/2-ton pickup is a best buy. It has good power and fuel effi-

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