

# Best & Worst Buys

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does an excellent job of cutting weeds and grass around our buildings."

**Sammy Steel, Brownwood, Texas:** Sammy is satisfied with his 1988 Chevrolet 3500 1-ton pickup equipped with standard bed and extended cab. "This is a super-tough pickup. It handles a load well and goes right through mud. I feel I can depend on it whatever the conditions."

**Lee Horn, Stonewall, Manitoba:** "My 1987 Belarus 6 1/2-ton manure spreader is a best buy. The speed with which it unloads manure, and the distance it spreads manure, is unbeatable."

**Bruce Langhorst, North Battleford, Sask.:** Bruce is pleased with his 1987 Toyota SR5 pickup, as well as the dealer service. "The engine developed a barely noticeable ticking noise, and the dealer offered to replace the block, pistons, and crankshaft. I paid \$16 to cover the cost of oil and a filter."

**Robert Alexander, Edam, Sask.:** Robert likes his 1988 Case-IH 7120 Magnum 2-WD, 150 hp tractor. "I put 500 hours on it in one year. It has many excellent features, but the powershift transmission really stands out. It shifts exceptionally smoothly and really shines with pull-type combines."

**Ben Weich, Hanna, Alberta:** "Nothing on it works," says Ben about his "worst buy" New Holland 393 tub grinder. "The hammer mill is too small for the tub grinder and in the wrong place in relation to the tank. Also, the mill has the wrong kind of bearings."

**R.F. Maddocks, Surrey, British Columbia:** R.F. says his "best buy" is his Howard Paraplow. "We grow vegetables and the way we work the land is hard on the soil structure. Soil compaction, combined with our high rainfall, can cause the land to puddle and flood very easily. This subsoiler can be adjusted to do the work of a chisel plow, yet it provides better drainage. It also doesn't bring up lumps."

**David Beckie, Saskatoon, Sask.:** "My worst buy is my 1987 Ford Ranger XLT Supercab pickup. It only has about 56,000 kilometers but already I've had to replace all four tires and shocks. The valve covers

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continuously leak oil, no matter how many times I tighten them. The engine compartment is so compact that I have to hire my 3-year-old nephew to change the spark plugs oil, belts, etc. I've also had a lot of trouble with the brakes and wheel alignment."

**Jerry Solyma, Meadow Lake, Sask.:** "These Case tractors are total junk," says Jerry, unhappy owner of a 1981 Case 2390 tractor and 1982 Case 1490. "The 2390 engine blew up at 849 hours. It was under partial warranty thanks to a good dealer. The 1490 has had one problem after another with the water pump, cab blower motor, and power steering hoses. The front axle bushings and bearings have been repaired twice.

In 1,746 hours I've replaced three hydraulic pumps at a cost of \$630."

**Herb Spreitzer, Kitchener, Ontario:** Herb's "best buy" is his Karcher model 755 hot water pressure washer. "It's very reliable, but what I like best is that it shuts on and off automatically at the wand. You press a trigger when you want to wash and the motor starts right up - there's no need to turn on a switch."

**Eric A. Lang, Desboro, Ontario:** "My best buy is my 1987 Deere 2355 tractor. It has more lugging power and is a much better loader tractor than the 2350 we traded in. It also starts much easier in cold weather. The shift levers are further out of the way and it's much easier to get on and off the seat."

**Henry Temolder, Elmvalle, Ontario:** Henry nominates his 1987 Deutz round baler as his "worst buy." "The first day we used it the baler pulled the tying arms into the bale chamber and ruined them. It happened again last fall. It also doesn't cut the strings properly."

On the "plus" side, "My 1987 Deere 2750 tractor is the best handling tractor I've ever owned. It's comfortable, handy and has lots of power. The high-low transmission works great for seeding and haying."

**Charles Glass, Galena, Ohio:** My 1987 Mercury Marquis 4-door sedan has 35,000 miles on it but I haven't spent a penny on repairs. It runs like a top, is very comfortable, has lots of room and a huge trunk."

**Edward Thomas, Mayo, FL:** A 1987 New Holland model 900 silage chopper is Edward's "worst buy." "The feed roll shields and blower blades broke, and the feed roller housing spread apart. Now the magnetic header drive clutch has to be replaced."

Edward's "best buy" is his 1986 Butler Oswalt model 820 ensiler.

**Roger Kaeding, Churchbridge, Sask.:** Edward's "best buy" is his Flexi-coil model 1100 air seeder equipped with an 800 series cultivator. "This is one of the most accurate air seeders I've ever seen. It's easy to set and fully monitored, and it has plenty of fan power for heavy applications of fertilizer and grain. The cultivator is fully flexible to the ground, front to rear and end to end. One hydraulic cylinder sets it."

**Paul Mattson, Wamego, Kan.:** Paul likes his 1989 Chevrolet 4-WD pickup equipped with a 5-speed manual transmission. "It drives and rides like the highest-priced big limousine. The powerful 350 engine gets 17 mpg."

**Harvey Franz, Mora, Minn.:** Harvey likes his AquaTherm model 140 outside hot water furnace (AquaTherm, Box 281, Brooten, Minn. 56316). "We've used it for two full winters with minimal trouble and our house has never been more comfortable. The company stands behind their product. That means everything to us."

Harvey's "worst buy" is his 1987 Honda Big Red ATV. "It won't start if it sits more than three days. If I drain the gas from the carburetor it might start if it's 60° or warmer. Honda offers a winter starting kit to correct this problem. The dealer wants \$50 to \$75 to install it. However, I've learned that some dealers correct this problem before delivery. I feel this problem probably wouldn't have happened if I had purchased the ATV

from my local dealer. However, he was out of this model so I had to purchase it in the big city 70 miles away where customers are expendable."

**Pat Kietly, Jackson, Minn.:** "The whole thing is a piece of junk. Something is always going wrong with it," says Pat, disappointed owner of a 1981 Snapper 11 hp 30-in. lawn mower. "The engine oil seal leaked and allowed the friction drive to slip constantly. After installing three new seals, we finally discovered that the engine had a bad crankshaft. All the pulleys are built too light. Worst of all, this mower streaks the lawn because it doesn't cut level."

**Gerald Smith, Marienthal, Kan.:** "My worst buy is my Case-IH 2594 tractor. At 472 hours the shift fork wore out because there were overbeveled gears in the transmission. Case-IH issued a modification order to repair the transmission, but they won't warranty the transmission repair."

**Ransom Myers, Lula, Miss.:** Ransom's "worst buy" is a Deere 8640 tractor. "It was a lemon from the first day I bought it. The fuel tanks were defective, the transmission went out twice, the clutch went out, and the engine was completely ruined. I've owned Deere tractors from the 'popping Johnnie' days, and this is the only one I've had any trouble with. I traded it off and got nothing for it."

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Ransom says his 1988 Chevrolet 6.2/3-4-ton diesel pickup is a best buy.

**Robert Peckham, Woodstock, Conn.:** Robert's "worst buy" is his Allis-Chalmers 5050 tractor. "We rebuilt the front drive wheel and needed some new thrust washers. Deutz-Allis charged \$23.48 for each washer, but our Long dealer charged only \$3.86. There are 12 of these washers on the tractor so we saved \$235.44 by buying from the Long dealer. The Long dealer also sold a starter for only about half as much as the Deutz-Allis dealer."

**Brad Parking, Dresden, Ontario:** A 1980 Ford TW-10 is Brad's "best buy." "It has fairly good power for its size, good maneuverability and hydraulics. However, the manufacturer should install better gauges and reposition the gear shift."

**Wayne Waida, Victoria, Texas:** Wayne likes his 1983 Suzuki 125 ATV. "We use it for spraying, picking roasting ear corn, mowing the lawn, digging up transplants, building fence, ditching, and transportation from farm to farm. It's never been in for repairs."

**Ralph Yeager, Loveland, Ohio:** "My Allis-Chalmers 7020 tractor is a worst buy. I've owned it about two years and have broken the shift cable twice. It first broke about six months after I bought the tractor. I have no idea how long that cable had been on the tractor, but the second cable broke nine months later. I wasn't about to continue replacing \$25 cables every nine months so I developed a conversion kit which solves the problem. The broken cable is cut in half and rerouted to fit the kit so there's no need to buy a new cable. A pull spring is installed on the bottom of the parkshift lever to pull the shifter down a little farther. The pull

spring allows the range shifter to work much more smoothly and virtually eliminates binding when you shift to low range. (Contact: Ralph Yeager, 6725 Smith Road, Loveland, Ohio 45140.)

**Alan Irving, Murray Harbour, Prince Edward Island:** A 1988 Deere 2755 2-WD tractor is Alan's "best buy." "This tractor is a pleasure to operate. It has excellent power, convenient controls, and good lighting."

**Timothy Kochel, Mott, N. Dak.:** A 16-in. Montgomery Ward chain saw equipped with a self-sharpener and manufactured by McCullough is Timothy's "worst buy." "When this saw worked, it worked excellent. But keeping it working was a problem. The self-sharpening unit worked loose and jammed the chain drive so I bought a new sprocket and threw the self-sharpener away. Every time I used the saw I had to tighten every bolt I could get a wrench on. The bolts were metric, naturally. But I still lost bolts. Then the saw began to idle rough. I checked the carburetor, then disassembled the saw. The coil mounting bolts were loose and interrupted the ignition ground so I installed lock washers and reassembled the unit. It ran better than ever - for a while. Unfortunately the next time I took it apart, the threads had vibrated completely out of the block. The saw is now in the junk pile."

**Raymond Rumford, Ottawa, Kan.:** A 1988 Case-IH 885 tractor equipped with mechanical front wheel drive and a 2255 front-end loader is Raymond's "best buy." "This tractor has lots of lugging power, is economical on fuel and a pleasure to drive. It's small enough to fit into tight places such as my shed, yet it does the work of a big tractor. The front wheel drive is excellent for loader work."

**Paul Ropars, Winchester, Ontario:** "My New Idea model 279 conditioner is my best buy. I cut 300 acres with it this year without spending a penny for repairs. For capacity and reliability, it outmatches any other mower on the market. In 15 years all I've replaced is the drive chain, blades, and two roller bearings."

**David Schock, Holton, Kan.:** "One of my best buys of all time is my 1977 New Holland 479 hay conditioner. It's dependable and relatively maintenance-free."

**Walter Haselhorst, Gorham, Kan.:** Walter's "best buy" is his 1981 Volkswagen diesel 1/2-ton front-wheel drive pickup. "This little jewel has 97,800 miles and still gets 44 to 46 mpg. It's almost maintenance-free. We use it to round up cattle and to haul our 150-gal. fuel tank to the fields. It's

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always ready for more. Why can't the good old U.S.A. build something like this?"

**Kenneth Lebold, Kenabeek, Ontario:** A 1987 Micronta multitester from Radio Shack rates as Kenneth's "best buy." "You can use it to solve almost any electrical problem on a machine or around the farm. Every farm workshop should have one."

Kenneth's "worst buy" is a Briggs & Stratton engine, model 190702. "I purchased this 8 hp engine in 1987 for use in my riding lawn mower. The engine vibrates so bad that the bracket holding the fuel tank breaks constantly. I've welded the present bracket at least three times."