

## Randomly selected farmers "tell it like it is" in nominating their "best" and "worst" buys.

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# Farmers Nominate Best, Worst Buys

## OPINION

**Michael Comstock, Kenton, Ohio:** "A 1986 Ford F-350 Dually 4-WD 6.9 diesel pickup heads Michael's "worst buy" list. "This pickup is a piece of junk! The master cylinder completely broke off the firewall three times, and the front end shimmys so bad the truck goes all over the road. We had it in two different shops on three different occasions, replacing two sets of shocks and stabilizer bars and other steering parts, as well as three sets of Goodyear Wrangler radial tires. We also replaced three light switches, one transfer case, three speedometers, three oil pressure sending units, one glow plug unit, one slave cylinder, one master cylinder, one clutch, three sets of brakes, and one set of emergency brakes. Last year we spent more than \$3,000 on repairs, not including the cost of the tires. The warranty seems to cover all parts except those that break. The diesel engine pulls great in low range but has no power at higher speeds - you need a mile and a half of clear highway to pass someone. And if you're driving into a head wind, forget it."

Michael's "best buy" is his 1976 GMC Sierra Grande 25 3/4-ton 4-WD pickup equipped with a 400 cu. in. engine. "This truck has taken severe abuse but caused us few problems. Without a doubt, it's the best truck we've ever owned. It's now semi-

rate on both sides of the sprayer. The biggest problem is that after you get everything working, you can't see the marks while you're spraying."

**Gerald Casler, Fort Plain, N.Y.:** "We use our 1987 Deutz 7007 tractor every day and it always starts," says Gerald, who notes that the tractor has 3,500 hours. "Because it's air-cooled, it doesn't need anti-freeze and uses only slightly more than a gallon of fuel per hour. Also the 3-pt. hitch and hydraulics are easy to hook up."

**Gerald Keith, Leesville, Texas:** "It has better power and speed than I expected and gets 46 miles per gallon," says Gerald, whose 1985 Ford Tempo GL has nevertheless had some problems. The car is equipped with a diesel engine and a 5-speed transmission. "The transmission rattled from the beginning and then it started jumping out of second gear and stuck in reverse. Ford mechanics worked on it three times but still didn't fix it right. Shortly after the warranty expired the engine began using oil."

On the "plus" side, Gerald is pleased with his 1986 Kubota M8950 tractor. "It cost \$10,000 less than other comparably sized tractors and starts immediately in cold weather. It has a good selection of gears, excellent fuel economy, and a quiet cab. However it has a poor radio."

**Ann Neilson, Caledon, Ontario:** "Best machine yet for making hay," says Ann, pleased with her Forage King hay basket which is a hay wagon that gravity unloads an entire load of bales out of the rear end. "There's nothing to go wrong on it. Let's one person easily make hay and haul bales home."

**Keith Faoro, Mayerthorpe, Alberta:** "Why do they build this tractor with a glass door?" asks Keith, unhappy with his 1986 Deutz-Fahr DX6.20. "In the past two years I've broken two doors. The first one broke when the air cylinder that stops the door failed. The second one broke when the door froze shut. One quick jerk of the door and it shattered."

**William Douma, Beachburg, Ontario:** William says his 1984 Belarus 611 tractor "Outperforms any tractor in its horsepower range. We use it to power an irrigation pump and it uses less than half as much fuel per hour as my old Ford 4600 tractor used. No major breakdowns or repairs."

**J. Howard, Munson, Alberta:** Joe likes his 1988 GMC Suburban. "It's comfortable and does the job. Service has been excellent."

"My worst buy is my 1988 Ford F-150 pickup. It's expensive to operate and offers poor performance and driver comfort. An all-around total disappointment."

**Glen Mitchell, Moss Bank, Sask.:** "Glen's "worst buy" is his 1988 Makita rechargeable drill. "It took two months and three new chargers before we got a drill to work."

On the positive side, Glen is pleased with his 1988 Ford F-150 XLT pickup equipped with a standard 4-speed transmission and automatic overdrive. "The V-6 engine has twice as much power as V-8 engines, and the seat is the most comfortable one on the market."

**Don Smith, Red Deer, Alberta:** "My 1986 Dixon 624 lawn mower is a worst buy. It doesn't have enough power to run the grass catcher and the bearings and belts require lots of maintenance."

**Stan Rath, Medicine Hat, Alberta:** "I've driven Fords since 1967 but this will be my last one because the quality of the product is going down," says Stan, unhappy

retired and is basically a show truck, but we still use it on the farm whenever necessary."

**Ivan Bruder, Sauk Centre, Minn.:** "My 1970 Chevrolet 3/4-ton pickup up has 476,460 miles and should easily reach a half million miles," says Ivan, who notes that the pickup is now on its fifth set of tires. It's equipped with a 350 V-8 engine and automatic transmission. "When hauling grain I load the pickup and pull two gravity boxes. I change oil every 1,500 to 2,000 miles and it's paid off because the original engine went 187,000 miles and the present engine went 285,000 miles before it needed a valve job and rings. The engine still maintains normal oil pressure but it does use a lot of gas, getting only 12 to 13 mpg when it's empty."

**Lowell Allison, Delburne, Alberta:** His "best buy" is his 1987 Deere 8820 combine equipped with a pickup table. "We've operated this combine for two years, putting on 375 hours without stopping once for repairs. It has tremendous capacity and threshes all crops clean, including wheat, barley and canola."

**Michael Tarochione, London Mills, Ill.:** "My best buy is a 1988 Tye 15-ft. no-till drill. It's extremely well built, easy to adjust, and plants accurately. Also the company provides good followup service."

On the negative side, Michael has had problems with his 1988 Top Air sprayer dye markers. "The markers continually leak and don't consistently maintain the same