

Best & Worst Buys

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birds on our turkey ranges and to feed little poults in our breeder houses."

Charles Moncrieff, Nelson, B.C.: Charles is unhappy with his 1987 Dodge Dakota pickup. "It broke down five times in the first seven weeks and averaged only 12 mpg when the EPA rating says it should have averaged 28 mpg. I traded it for another new 1987 Dakota which has gone 42,000 kilometers without problems. However, this pickup also gets only 12 to 14 mpg."

Phillip Bannon, Dundalk, Ontario: Phillip has had problems with his 1984 Claas 60 round baler. "The first year the tongue broke, and the company fixed it. The second year the tongue broke again, but the company wouldn't pay for the repair so we repaired it and reinforced it at the same time. The tongue broke again during the third and fourth years, but the company wouldn't stand behind its product."

Edwin Perry, Regina, Sask.: Edwin is disappointed with his 1988 Lennox "pulse" gas furnace. "Exhaust vapor is sucked into intake pipe, freezes and shuts down the furnace. The furnace is noisy and its blower doesn't have enough volume."

Mart Geurts, Thornloe, Ontario: Mart likes his 1986 Zetor 12145 and 7245 tractors. "Good traction and 40 to 50% better fuel economy than North American tractors of similar horsepower."

John Penner, Morden, Manitoba: John has had trouble with his 1986 New Holland 855 round baler. "Its pickup is poorly constructed and the shear pin set up is a pain. It would be a lot better if you could replace shear pins on the pickup's belt drive rather than have to repair the chain drive. Also, the drum is too large for smooth feeding and the pickup teeth are poor quality."

Lloyd Russell, Leross, Sask.: "We've never owned a car that came close to the quality of this one," says Lloyd, happy with his "best buy" 1985 4-door Honda Accord equipped with a manual 5-speed transmission. "It has over 100,000 kilometers but still runs like a charm and gets 46 mpg on regular leaded gas."

Emile Bayet, Landis, Sask.: A 1986 Deutz Allis DX 7.10 tractor equipped with front wheel drive heads Emile's "best buy" list. "I was pleasantly surprised at the difference front wheel assist makes. We've had only minor problems with the tractor."

Tim Porter, Peru, Iowa: Tim likes his 1988 Parker 5500 gravity wagon. "It hauls 600 bu. without side extensions, and the unloading door works well even when the wagon is full of wet corn."

Freddy Daniels, South Wilson, N. C.: Freddy nominates his 1982 Deere 4640 tractor as his "best buy". "It hasn't given me a minute's worth of trouble in over 2,000 hours of heavy field work. It has plenty of power, is easy on fuel, and outhandles many smaller tractors."

Steven Gustafson, Boone, Iowa: Steven says his 1985 Deutz Allis 8050 and 8070 tractors, both equipped with front wheel drive, are "best buys". "With 1,200 acres of row crops and a farrow-to-finish hog operation, we needed tractors that we could use twelve months a year and still have 4-WD pulling power. Our only problem is that the local dealer went bankrupt,

causing us some financial problems. Now we have to drive 35 miles one way to another dealer."

Roger Hector, Humboldt, Neb.: Roger is happy with his International 1420 combine. "I like the simple electro-hydraulic controls and the fact that there are few belts to wear out and replace. We have 1,800 hours on the machine and have had few maintenance problems. We recently replaced two stripper bars and rasp bars. We simply slipped the entire rotor out of the combine to make the repair."

J. Westwood, Battleford, Sask.: "Our Lindsay Zimatic center pivot irrigation system has less than 1,000 hours on it and four planetary gearboxes have already self-destructed. The rest of the machine seems good, but this is an aggravating weakness. The company replaced the gearboxes promptly but this problem has left me less than lukewarm toward purchasing another Zimatic."

Ken Nicklas, Tavistock, Ontario: "We're pleased with this tractor and would recommend it to anyone," says Ken, happy owner of a 1988 Deere 2155 equipped with MFWD and a model 175 loader. "We traded off a Deere 1120 2-WD tractor equipped with a model 145 loader for this tractor. Both tractors are rated at the same horsepower, but the 2155 is a better tractor. It starts easy in cold weather and has much more torque than the 1120. The MFWD 'caster action' really decreases the turning radius. The raised gearshifts, located close to the steering wheel, allow easier mounting and dismounting. We purchased a canopy which makes the tractor more enjoyable to drive in the summer."

Jerry Popoff, Blaine Lake, Sask.: Jerry likes his 1983 International 4000 swather. "I'm exceptionally pleased with the ability of its large 24 1/2-in. table to float over rolling land without the table corners digging in."

Ken Faber, Kippen, Ontario: "The company should have offered a factory rebate to compensate us for putting up with such a primitive transmission," says Ken, unhappy owner of a 1984 Case 2290 2-WD tractor. "Even with regular dealer service checks, the powershift transmission still shifts too hard, lifting the front wheels."

Lawrence Benke, Leduc, Alberta:

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Lawrence's "best buy" is his Westfalia Bio Milker milk machine. "It does a fast, easy job of milking and cuts down on mastitis."

David Price, Sangudo, Alberta: "The water pump has failed three times in only 2,100 hours," says David, about his "worst buy" Massey Ferguson 2705 tractor. "Replacing the water pump is a costly job. You have to split the front end."

On the positive side, David likes his 1986 Wheatheart bin sweep. "It takes most of the work out of hauling grain. The hydraulic drive shuts off when the sweep hits a solid object, and I can control its speed from inside the bin."

Paul Ries, Mount Vernon, Ind.: Paul is pleased with his 1987 Deere 4450 synchro range tractor. "We use this tractor to pull our 12-row, 30-in. planter, a Shoup forward-fold model. It has plenty of responsive horsepower, good remote hydraulics, adequate electrical outlets, and an excellent cab. Its heavy axles handle our rear mounted cultivator better than a 4620 does."

Jackie Prince, Biscoe, Ark.: Jackie likes his Deere 222 flex header. "After cutting beans for years with rigid headers, we added flexible cutter bars. They worked alright; but required lots of maintenance. Last fall we purchased this flex head. It allowed us to increase speed, which alone was worth the price, not to mention the smoother crop flow and substantially less shatter loss."

Clifton Lang, Heber Springs, Ark.: "My 'best buy' 1987 Vicor CM-165 disc mower is durable and dependable. It cuts thick, wet grasses with ease and works well in rugged fields. No maintenance problems."

Michael Peterman, Onaway, Mich.: "Looking for parts for this tractor is like looking for hen's teeth," says Michael, unhappy owner of a Belarus tractor. "The driver can hardly see the rear wheels from the cab and all of the hydraulic controls are too far forward. The front shock absorbers are sloppy and lack traction. However, this tractor does run economically."

D.E. Thesen, Abbotsford, B.C.: His "best buy" is his New Holland 519 manure spreader. "During five years of constant use it's never broken down and I like its versatility. I use it not only for spreading manure but also for hauling corn silage and fresh chopped grass, as well as for feeding and mixing silage and delivering top soil."

Carl Andersen, Edgar, Neb.: "I own three of them, just to assure I'll always have one good one on hand," says Carl, unhappy with his Hinkler Comput-N-Acre cab-mounted acre-speed-distance computer. "I send in at least two models each year for repairs and the repair bill is always 30 to 40% of what a new one costs."

Marrel Bush, Lambertson, Minn.: "Our 1982 Dixon lawn mower was the worst piece of equipment we ever bought," says Marrel, who purchased the mower more than two years ago but recently traded it off. "The transmission parts were built too light and kept breaking and we couldn't hold the mower on a slope. Unless the company has improved these mowers, I'd never buy another one."

Lewis Tuitseh, Denton, Texas: Lewis says his "worst buy" is his 1987 Ford F-150 XL 4-WD pickup equipped with a 302 V-8 fuel-injected engine and a 4-speed transmission. "The engine had no pulling power. About the time I'd get rolling, it would die. The dealer tried to correct the problem eight times but couldn't. The windows leaked air and water, and the truck got only 8 mpg."

William Kellogg, Monango, N.Dak.: "My 'worst buy' Deere 1525 swather works fine on grass and alfalfa but is impossible to use on kochia and sunflowers. It took a mechanic three days to fix it so it wouldn't stop every two minutes. The engineers should try them out before they sell them."

Carvalho and Sons, Tranquility, Calif.: "It covers more ground than any tractor I've ever driven," says A.J. about his "best buy" 1987 Caterpillar Challenger 65 tractor. "It handles nice, has lots of power, and moves down the road like a wheeled tractor."

C.A. Constransitch, Abbott, Texas: "My worst buy is my 1985 Deere 2350 tractor. It has less than 500 hours yet I've already replaced two batteries, the alternator, and the clutch. The upholstery fell apart, the lights went out, and the gauges are inaccurate and sometimes don't work at all."

Gregory Schmidt, Madison, Neb.: "This tractor was a lemon right from the start," says Gregory, unhappy owner of a 1984 Case 2290 MFD tractor. "The first day the door handle broke, and the second day the drawbar broke during planting. Then the water pump and a gasket went out. At 600

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hours the engine quit. It had a flat lobe on the camshaft, a cracked piston and all the valve inserts were completely burned out. The transmission contained some metal filings so big that they barely went through the drain hole. The warranty was a lemon in itself. The company wouldn't stand behind one cent of the engine overhaul or transmission work. With this kind of warranty, a person would think twice about buying another tractor and getting the same kind of treatment."

Thomas Kropp, Rensselaer, N.Y.: "The breakdowns were unbelievable," says Thomas about his "worst buy" New Idea 9-ft. conditioner. "Both the input shaft and output shafts twisted off. The slip clutches were replaced weekly."

Doyle Moore, Bethersprings, Tenn.: "My 1982 Ford TW-30 tractor was a lemon from the beginning, having defective injectors, brakes and hydraulic system. It was in the shop most of the time while under warranty. When the warranty expired, I spent \$7,500 to repair the brakes and hydraulics and replace tires that blew out. The company worked on these problems faithfully, but the tractor never performed satisfactorily. Finally 2 1/2 years after buying it I took it to a sale and got just \$9,950."

Eugene Traynor, Middletown, Mo.: Eugene likes his Bryan outside furnace (Bryan Furnace Works, Box 32, Bryan, Texas 77806), a completely self-contained wood-burning furnace that goes outside the home and requires no home modification to install. "It warms air outside the house, then blows it into the home through a window-mounted duct. We use it to heat our entire house. It sets outside so there's no mess in the house and we don't have to pack wood into the house as it's piled near the stove. The outside temperature can be below zero and our house will be 76°."

Jeffrey Rash, Bristol, Va.: Jeffrey says his "best buy" is his 1988 Vermeer 5051 round baler. "Vermeer makes the best round baler on the market and it produces the tightest and best looking bales. I've used a New Holland round baler and there's no comparison."