

# Best & Worst Buys

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lar engine. "I've made only minor repairs to an injector tip. At nearly 5,000 hours the engine seems to work as good as ever and emits no diesel smoke unless pulled below governed speed."

**Elijah Gordy, Delmar, Del.:** A 1988 Case-IH 5100 "soybean special" drill heads Elijah's "best buy" list. "I've used it to drill 600 acres and it has done a super job, spacing the seed perfectly. The large seedbox means less down time for filling. I'd recommend this drill to anyone."

Elijah has also had good luck with his 1987 Case-IH 2096 tractor with front wheel assist purchased from Tull Bros, Seaford, Del. "The dealer has done an outstanding job of keeping us on the job. He replaced two oil seals on two separate occasions, and we were back to work in a short time. The tractor performs like a winner, particularly in wet conditions."

**Jack Kermes, Glenville, Minn.:** My 1988 Chevrolet 1/2-ton pickup with a 4.3-liter engine and a 5-speed transmission is my best buy. It handles well and has good power. We've gotten up to 23 miles per gallon."

**Don Deshong, McConnellsburg, Penn.:** "The best buy I've made is a 1987 Zetor 4-WD tractor (manufactured in Czechoslovakia). The price sold me, but the tractor has performed better than advertised and parts service has been great. I can't say enough good things about it."

On the negative side, Don is unhappy with the tractor's front end loader built by Leon. "The loader is built too light for a 4-WD. It's breaking at the corners and bolts are breaking. So far the factory has said they aren't having trouble with any other loaders. They've agreed to pay for fixing the present breaks. We're replacing 3/8-in. steel plate on the loader with 3/4-in. steel plate."

**Fred Dunlop, Stayner, Ontario:** "My best buy is a used Deere 2550 4-WD tractor. It handles a 5-furrow 14-ft. plow in fifth and sixth gears and uses only about 1 gallon of fuel per acre. The quiet cab offers excellent visibility."

"I also like my Allis-Chalmers WD45 diesel tractor."

**Richard Witkovsky, Caro, Mich.:** "The best buy I've ever made is my 1979 Ford 3/4-ton pickup with a 300 cu. in. 6-cylinder engine. It has 106,000 miles. I wasn't a Ford man until I bought this truck, but the price was right. The engine runs great, doesn't use oil and gets good mileage."

**John De Wolf, Baw Island, Alberta:** John is "generally satisfied" with his Case-IH 4494 tractor, but says the wheel base should be lengthened to smoothen out the ride. "The manufacturer should also add a seal around the radiator to keep dirt out. Otherwise this tractor has good power, comfort, and fuel economy."

**Kent Nielsen, Sisseton, S. Dak.:** "It picks up virtually anything that fits in the base," says Kent about his 1987 Sears 20-gallon wet and dry shop vacuum. "We've used it to pick up nails, plaster dust, water, etc. It can also be used to blow - worked great for defrosting our freezer!"

**William Flohr, Thornton, W.V.:** William nominates his New Holland 451 mower as his "best buy". "I owned a New Holland

mower for 18 years and this new model is living up to my expectations."

**Jim McRae, Vankleek Hill, Ontario:** "We've never had any trouble with it," says Jim about his father's International 454 tractor purchased used in 1980. "We only

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use it for light work now, but like dad says, 'It's as handy as a pocket on a shirt.'"

Jim and his father are also pleased with their Deutz-Allis 6260 tractors. "It was because of reader's comments in FARM SHOW that we looked at Deutz-Allis. We bought the first one in 1986 equipped with 4-WD and a loader. Last fall we bought a 2-WD model. We like the visibility. Also, the fuel economy and cold-weather starting of the air-cooled engines is second to none."

**Radcliffe Farmhin, Cardale, Manitoba:** Radcliffe says his Keho 24-ft. Air Reel (Calgary, Alberta) is his "best buy". "We mounted it on a Massey-Ferguson 760 combine equipped with a 24-ft. 1859 header and used it to harvest 375 acres of short wheat in 1988. It eliminated cutterbar loss."

**Ray Garrison, Delphi, Ind.:** "One of my worst buys ever was a Star hog waterer. It wasn't made to stand up to hogs. Everything went wrong - a hose blew out, lids broke, and the top came off. However, I've owned other Star tanks that performed well."

**Roger Neuman, Baraboo, Wis.:** "It has plenty of power and a smoother ride than any other pickup on the market," says Roger, pleased with his 1987 Ford F150 4 by 4 with a 302 cu. in. fuel-injected engine. "This pickup has been trouble-free over 25,000 rough and hilly miles. On most days we treat it like a tractor."

"Another best buy is our 1980 Ford 7700 tractor. It offers good power, fuel economy and reliability. It has more than 3,500 hours and all we've done is change oil and put in fuel."

**Elanco Warolin, Milaca, Minn.:** He's unhappy with the service he received from Wilson Trailers, Sioux Falls, S. Dak. "When I purchased a black tandem axle trailer from them last year, I was told it would have four wheel brakes as required in Minnesota. When I inspected the trailer I found only two wheel brakes. I wrote them about the problem but they never answered. After I made several phone calls, they exchanged my black trailer for a red one. It has three wheels of one kind and one wheel of another kind. I now have a red trailer with odd wheels that I didn't order."

**R.C. Korte, Ottawa, Ohio:** An International 5100 Soybean Special drill is R.C.'s "best buy". "I saved \$1,500 by buying it from a local machinery jockey instead of an International dealer. More even seed placement, combined with solid seeding, has increased my yields 10 to 20%."

**Clem Weber, Fingal, N. Dak.:** "My 1987 Dodge Dakota pickup rides like a car. Its powerful V-6 engine gets 16 to 19 miles per gallon."

"Another best buy is my 1986 Case 2394

tractor. Handles like a dream, rides nice, and pulls a good load."

**Jim Young, Morganfield, Ky.:** Jim says a Deere 1360 mower conditioner, borrowed from a neighbor, is a "best buy". "I used it all last summer to cut alfalfa. You never have to back up or circle on the corners with this mower. The hydraulic swing makes it simple to mow around obstacles."

**Henry Koch, Garden Prairie, Ill.:** "It has good fuel economy and reliability," reports Henry, pleased with his 1987 Deutz 4.70 85 hp tractor.

**John Cornea, Morse, Sask.:** "During 470 hours this tractor has given me trouble-free service," says John, owner of a 1988 4-WD Deere 8450. "This is my third 8450 and I've had good luck with all of them. A lot of the credit goes to my dealer in Swift Current because the tractors are always ready to go to the field when delivered."

**Gordon Cormack, Kenton, Manitoba:** He says a 10 by 50-ft. Farm King auger with side hopper has speeded up his harvest and is a "best buy".

**Delford Howling, Neustadt, Ontario:** A 1988 Husqvarna 268 chainsaw is at the top of Delford's "best buy" list. "Starts easy, has lots of speed and power and is equipped with excellent safety features."

**M.B. Martin, Elmira, Ontario:** "My new hydraulic Forage King self-unloading wagon is a best buy. I use the side discharge to control unloading speed. I can stop the wagon immediately to avoid plugging the blower without having to run to the tractor to shut off the pto."

"Because I receive FARM SHOW I'm enlightened or maybe lucky enough not to have bought a worst buy."

**Paul McCreary, Winter Haven, Fl.:** "I wouldn't work without it," says Paul about his "best buy" 1988 Skil model 2305 cordless screwdriver. "This lightweight, powerful tool is easy to recharge and each charge lasts a long time. It's equipped with convenient on-off and reverse switches."

**Eric Wilson, Wellsville, N.Y.:** "My Wright 1/2-in. drive metric impact socket set, 7 to 24 mm, is my best buy" says Eric, a dealership mechanic. "Deere and other manufacturers are using more metric bolts in their products, so this set of sockets really gets a workout at the shop. We sometimes use them on a 3/4-in. drive air wrench."

**Ron Klipfel, Gideon, Mo.:** "This seems to be the right size tractor for my entire farm," says Ron, pleased with his Deere 4450 power shift tractor, a 1985 model purchased new in 1987. "Its 15 forward speeds easily handle 8-row equipment. Although this tractor has 3,000 hours, I could probably sell it for almost as much as I paid for it."

Ron's "worst buy" is a 1988 Deere 9930 cotton picker which he used for 300 hours

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last fall. "It was designed for 40-in. center rows and will pick 38-in. rows, but the center-to-center wheel tread is 82 in. so I can't adjust it to fit properly within the row middles. As a result, the picker pushes mud and dirt up into adjacent rows to be picked and leaves deep cleat tire tracks and mud. The combine's automatic header sensing control shoes, which ride the ground sur-

face, vibrate as they jump over these tracks and shake the entire cab. Obviously no designer or engineer ever test drove one of these pickers. It's definitely not up to Deere's high standards."

**Elton Ballien, Frankenmuth, Mich.:** "The best buy I've ever made is a 1979 Ford F250 pickup with a 460 cu. in. engine. This pickup has 130,000 miles but it still has the original brakes and exhaust and there's no rust. I changed the water pump two years ago and the starter one year ago. It should get 250,000 miles easily."

**George McKarns, Montpelier, Ohio:** George says his Eftoda Grain Saver, Calder, Sask., is "the most worthwhile thing I ever saw. If there are any weeds it clogs up."

**Warren Paulson, Caledonia, Ill.:** "It has a more comfortable ride than any pickup I've owned and has good fuel economy," reports Warren, happy with his 1988 Chevrolet 1500 pickup.

**Henry Klehm, Chatsworth, Ill.:** "It produces clean grain, handles easily, and we can't believe how easy it is to set," says Henry, pleased with his 1986 Case-IH 1640 combine which he and his father bought used. They equipped it with a new 1020 bean head and a used 844 corn head.

A 1987 M & W 1160 Earthmaster ranks as their "worst buy". "The trip shanks don't work well in rocks or hard ground. We installed extra springs in the trips which caused the brackets holding the shanks to break. Last fall we traded this model in for a new M & W 1165 model with spring-loaded automatic trips which solved the problem."

**Don Myers, Spring Mills, Penn.:** "Excellent power and fuel economy, and it's the only 65 hp tractor on the market with a true power shift," says Don, pleased with his 1987 Case-IH 1394. "It's a real pleasure to drive, especially when we're using top-powered equipment. No problems."

**Ralph Evans, Decatur, Iowa:** Ralph's 1988 Chevrolet K2500 extra cab Silverado heads his "best buy" list. "Its aerodynamic lines are exceptionally pleasing to the eye. Everything fits together quite well, much better than on previous models. It rides nice, especially for a 4-WD. The fuel-injected 350 cu. in. engine offers good power and fuel efficiency - about 15 miles per gallon."

**Anthony Tiell, Tiffin, Ohio:** "Works great in tight places," says Anthony about his 1987 Bobcat 543 skid steer loader. "The diesel engine gets good fuel economy and starts well in cold weather."

"Our New Holland manure spreader equipped with an end gate hauls and spreads any kind of load. Works great."

**Lyle Smith, Defiance, Ohio:** Lyle's "best buy" is his free-standing Hearthstone stove, Hearthstone Way, Morrisville, Vt. 05661, ph 802 888-4586, for back-up home heating which he installed in 1986. "It has performed better than advertised because it actually heats the entire house. It's 97% efficient and produces very little ash."

Lyle is disappointed with his 1988 Chevrolet 1500 4 by 4 pickup. "Since day one there's been one mechanical problem after another. It gets only 400 miles to a gallon of antifreeze, 600 miles to a quart of oil and 14 miles to a gallon of fuel. Rides great but has poor brakes and no power although we never work the truck hard."

**William Denike, Boon, Mich.:** "My 1988 Dodge 7-passenger mini van, equipped with a V6 motor and automatic transmission, is easy to drive and offers great visibility."