

rear end so there's plenty of power. However, it uses too much fuel. We get 6 mpg pulling a trailer and 11 1/2 mpg otherwise."

Kevin isn't happy with his 1988 GMC 2500 truck. "It's too light and lacks power."

Roger Bachman, Hopedale, Ill.: "My 1986 Ford F-250 4 by 4 pickup rides good for a 4-WD and is a pleasure to drive. The 460 engine has plenty of power for pulling my 16-ft. gooseneck grain and livestock trailer."

Herbert Brown, Richey, Mont.: Herbert's "best buy" is his Coleman 4,000-watt generator powered by a 5 hp Briggs & Stratton engine. "It's easy to start, easy to move and offers plenty of current for field use."

Herbert's disappointed with four 1986 Haybuster 7000 series 7-ft. drills. "They're cumbersome, hard to move and won't stay level, preventing adequate packer wheel clearance. Their height makes them hard to fill and terribly hard to clean out. Hoses

"The combine just doesn't work like it should. It won't feed right and there's too much down time."

leading to the shanks tend to plug, especially with treated grain. Dealers don't stock enough parts."

He's also unhappy with his 1982 Gleaner N6 combine with a 370 engine. "The combine just doesn't work like it should. It won't feed right and there's too much down time."

Billy Averitte, Vanleer, Tenn.: Billy says his 1988 Hesston 1040 rotary disc mower conditioner is a "best buy". "It offers simple maintenance and amazing capacity - I've cut 100 bales per acre at 5 mph. I was afraid rocks might damage the blades, but not so. The original blades will be good for another season."

Rex Johnson, Hiawasse, Ga.: Rex, who builds kitchen cabinets, is unhappy with his Mikita 3 by 24-in. belt sander. "This sander is good for hobby and part time use only. It's available only with a dust catcher bag which interferes in tight places. With the bag removed, the whole room gets dusty and the sander blows dust in your eyes. I recently bought a Rockwell sander - Mikita should study this model."

On the positive side, Rex likes his used 1978 Long 560 DT tractor with front wheel assist. "It pulls a plow 4 to 16-in. deep in fifth gear with no trouble. It will also back a 1 1/2-ton feed grinder-mixer up steep, snowy hills. Fuel economy is good."

Jim Cochran, Adel, Iowa: Jim ranks his 1988 Wheatly gooseneck bale trailer and fork as his "best buy". "We've hauled hundreds of bales with it. We load the trailer in the field with a fork, then hook onto it without getting out of our tractor. A pickup can also tow it." (Wheatly Mfg., Cumberland, Iowa).

Lee Folland, Halma, Minn.: "My 1986 Ford 4-WD 150 pickup has been a joy to own. Not one iota of trouble."

Lee also likes his 1980 Ford TW20 tractor. "It's a gem - going on 5,000 hours."

Earl Roland, Bottineau, N. Dak.: "My 1983 Ford half ton 4-WD pickup has adequate power, rides good, and carries a load well," says Earl, who nevertheless has had some problems. "The pickup required a new engine at 40,000 miles and had brake

and rear axle problems. It does what I want to do well, but I guess my work requires a 3/4-ton pickup. I also wish it had full-time 4-

On the "best buy" side, Earl nominates his 1987 Deere 4450 tractor which is equipped with mechanical front wheel drive, power shift transmission and a 280 loader. "It does everything you expect it to regardless of mud or snow. It plows snow like a highway plow and handles two big bales with ease. The time it saves makes it a better buy than a smaller tractor."

Miron Ackley, Marble Rock, Iowa: Miron is pleased with his 1984 Mitsubishi 2-cylinder, 15 hp diesel garden tractor. It has a 6-speed transmission with two reverse speeds, a 3-speed pto with Cat. 13-pt. hitch. "It pulls a 60-in. 3-pt. lawn mower with power to spare. Runs 3 to 4 hours per gal. of diesel. Two hundred hours with no problems except for some engine vibration at low rpm's."

Darrell Larsen, Royalton, Minn.: Darrell nominates Cenex "Fieldmaster" diesel fuel and no. 518 motor oil as his "best buys". "We've used them for years without any injector nozzle, diesel pump, or engine problems. We've got almost 8,000 hours on our IH 806 tractor and have never put a wrench on the engine. Same results with our IH 560 and 1466 tractors - they start fast, burn clean and run efficiently."

John Cameron, El Dorado, Kan.: John likes his 1987 Mercedes 300 diesel turbo. "I drove the last one 10 years, replacing only three fan belts and batteries."

"We do our cow handling with horses and Yamaha 3-wheelers. Neither seems to wear out."

Donald Plett, Davenport, Iowa: "It's built like a tank and handles heavy loads easily," says Donald, pleased with his 1979 Ford F-250 pickup. "The 460 engine has terrific power, acceleration and speed. It's hard on gas but it's worth it."

Earl Foote, Cleveland, Ohio: A 1988 Monosem corn planter heads his "best buy" list. "We did all our sweet corn planting with it this year. It planted the new 'super-sweet' varieties uniformly, even though the seeds are light and shrunken."

Lynwood Davis, Picayune, Miss.: "My 1985 Deere 1050 diesel tractor is easy to handle, has plenty of power for its size, and is light on fuel."

M.W. Spradlin, Vinton, Va.: M.W.'s 1979 Deere 2040 tractor heads his "best buy" list. "It's the best 40 hp tractor made. In 5 years we've spent only \$60 on repairs. Great fuel economy, excellent handling and power."

A Troybuilt 7 hp 21-in. "Pro" rotary mower ranks as his "worst buy". "It arrived two months late and wouldn't start. When it did start, the drive chain ground a hole in the fuel tank. The drive system loses efficiency in wet grass, and the safety features are cumbersome."

Gale Carpenter, Union City, Mich.: "You should have seen the look on the service manager's face when my son towed my new 1988 Chevrolet 2500 4-WD in with a Toyota truck that's got 90,000 miles on it," says Gale. "This Chevrolet is the poorest truck I've owned since my 1981 Ford F-250. The rear differential has been totally disassembled three times, the buttons stick on the radio, the engine runs hot, the right front tire was shot at 15,000 miles, the truck whistles going down the road, and the automatic overdrive transmission shifts from forward to reverse with a slam."

"The dealer tells me I don't know how to push buttons, that a service bulletin says the

engine runs hot, that I'm out of warranty on the front end, that they don't hear the whistle, and as for the transmission, all the trucks on their lot shift that way."

Gale is also disappointed with a 50 by 100-ft. Morton storage barn. "The doors need adjustment every year. The white sheet metal is getting dirty and I can't get it clean. Leaves clog the eave troughs because the downspout holes are too small. Also, the door latches were installed wrong."

"The only good buy I've made since 1957 is our Steiger Panther PTA 325. It's been trouble-free."

Bud Reno, Pueblo, Co.: "I've owned tractors since 1938 and my Kubota M4500 DT 4-WD tractor is the best yet," says Bud. "We use it almost daily with hardly any down time and it's economical to operate."

Stephen Wallace, Heuvelton, N.Y.: "Our worst buy is a New Holland model 38 flail chopper. We had to replace three sprockets because the gearbox couldn't be properly aligned, and we had problems with the gearbox itself."

L.A. Fischhaber, Marshall, Mich.: "My best buy is a 1981 Oldsmobile Regency. It's the third used Olds I've owned in the past 10 years and all have run over 200,000 miles without major problems."

On the negative side, "Our 22 in. Ariens model LM215B power mower with blade clutch has been in the shop more often than at home. Ariens has replaced all parts twice, and the clutch assembly doesn't hold up under stop-start conditions. I'd buy another Ariens but not this model."

Ted Lippert, Delburne, Alberta: "I've been a Ford man since 1928 and my 1985 Ford Ranger 4 by 4 is the best they've built since the Model A of that year. The V-6 engine is fuel efficient. Handles nice and starts good."

Paul Dow, Oak Ridge, Mo.: Paul likes his 1986 Mazda SE5 V200 pickup. "It's got 35,000 miles and all I've done to it is change oil and filters. It has a tight body that doesn't rattle, a good ventilation system, a comfortable ride and good gas mileage. I get compliments on its good looks wherever I go."

Paul has had problems with his Homelite ST 200 string grass trimmer. "It's hard to start, won't idle properly and often wastes string."

Ronald Habegger, Monroe, Ind.: Ronald has had good luck with four mobile and two hand-held FM radios purchased

"The radios offer good range, easy operation and are reasonably priced. They've saved us lots of steps and time."

from Comtronix Corp., Indianapolis, Ind. "We have one base radio in our home and a mobile radio in each of our tractors and pickups. The radios offer good range, easy operation and are reasonably priced. They've saved us lots of steps and time."

Loren Taets, Osage, Iowa: "It has enough power to pull wagons," reports Loren, owner of a 1984 Toyota 4-WD pickup. "I bought it used last January with 50,000 miles, and have put on 13,000 miles without problems. It gets 15 to 18 mpg running around and 20 to 23 mpg on the highway."

Larry Myers, Shelbina, Mo.: "I've got over 4,800 hours on my 1972 Deere 3020

diesel tractor, which I bought new, and it's been overhauled only once because antifreeze leaked into the oil. I've used it to pull a 14-ft. Mulcher and a 5-shank V-ripper."

Alois Claseman, Long Prairie, Minn.: A 1987 Ford F150 XLT pickup is his "best buy". "It rides comfortably, is trouble-free and gets good gas mileage."

Derald Bugner, Reeder, N. Dak.: "The toughest little car I ever saw," says Donald about the used 1982 Chevrolet Chevette he bought five years ago. "I use it 70 miles a day on a country mail route. It's got over 120,000 miles now but still uses very little oil."

Alvin Pearson, Ellsworth, Wis.: "It almost melts its way through a log," says Alvin, pleased with his 1988 Homelite model 410 chain saw with a 24-in. chain bar and a 4.1 cu. in. displacement engine.

He's also happy with a 1988 Black & Decker 14-in. cut-off saw and a Century A.C.-D.C. reverse polarity welder. "When you position the welding rod within 1/8-in. of the metal, a high frequency stabilizer strikes an arc even if metal is rusty or dirty."

Randy Jacobs, Alden, Minn.: "Good volume and lots of pressure at a low price," says Randy about his Cam Spray gas-driven pressure washer from Northern Hydraulics. "The 5 hp Honda motor is a real improvement over Briggs & Stratton motors."

Randy is also happy with his Gehl 99 silage blower. "It makes blowing haylage into a 90-ft. Harvestore a breeze."

C.E. Bulette, Fawn Grove, Penn.: "It's a super saw - faster cutting than others I've owned," says C.E. about his model 028AV Stihl Super chain saw. "It's well balanced, easy to start and has never been repaired."

Bill Fisher, Bourbon, Ind.: "My 1984 Raydot heat exchanger was a real waste of money," says Bill. "It didn't heat the air one bit and seemed to create a draft."

On the plus side, "Our Shivers drying unit with a DMC Calc-U-Dri retrofit, purchased in 1987 with two 10 hp Caldwell heaters and fans, worked great last fall. It saved a lot of labor and dried consistently and efficiently. My dealer took care of any problems immediately. Also, I've never had an installation crew that was as efficient, quick, and pleasant to work with."

Robert Reynolds, Dexter, Iowa: A 1987 Deere 4450 with mechanical front wheel drive heads Robert's "best buy" list. "I bought this tractor having owned and used IH equipment all my life. I've gone through two planting and harvesting seasons with no major problems except for a faulty oil sender. I love the power shift transmission and cab."

On the negative side, Robert's unhappy with a T.L.C. folding hog panel he bought last winter. "The panel screws into the aluminum but the screws work loose and fall out of the hinge. They should use big pop rivets or weld it."

Robert Schum, Saint Meinrad, Ind.: Robert nominates his 1987 Deere 530 round baler as his "best buy". "I've used several other brands of round balers and this one makes the most perfectly-shaped, solid bales. It's trouble-free."

He also likes his 1987 Deere 1327 disc mower with flail conditioner. "It runs at high speed and there are no rubber conditioning rolls to wear out."

Steven White, Elk Horn, Ky.: He's pleased with his Shindaiwa LT-20 Weed Eater. "It starts every time and you can't wear it out."

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