

# Best & Worst Buys

(Continued from previous page)

On the "worst buy" side is his 1984 Ford Bronco II. "It wouldn't run from the start and three garages couldn't fix it. If all Ford trucks are like this one I won't buy another American-made vehicle."

**W. Hemstreet, Wawota, Sask.:** "My best buy is a 1987 Dodge Dakota 4 by 4 LE with a 3.9 liter engine. "It offers tremendous traction on ice, a comfortable ride, gets 20 mpg, and starts good in cold weather."

**Glen Holenski, Thornhill, Man.:** "My 1987 Honda Accord XL is comfortable and performs well."

**Elton Hickman, Terry, Miss.:** "We've had problems with this pile of junk since the day we bought it," says Elton, unhappy owner of a 1985 Oldsmobile Calais. "The transmission always leaked and was rebuilt at 34,000 miles. The car has had three alternators and all types of electrical problems. Dealer service was poor. You never see dependability mentioned in American car ads. Now I know why."

On the plus side, "My Case 1194 tractor is a dream to drive. No problems after 300 hours. It starts easy and shifts on-the-go. I also like my FMC Sidewinder and Bush Hog finishing mower."

**Leon Szmidi, Pine Island, N.Y.:** He says his PowerLite PL5 chain saw is a "best buy". "I use the saw to cut telephone poles into rails. I wore out six chains but the saw kept going."

Leon also likes his Ford 801 tractor. "Starts good in the coldest weather."

His "worst buy" is a Stihl 031 AV chain saw. "After a month of use the points burned out. The garage installed new points but they lasted only four months. I tried to put new points in myself - what a job. Never again!"

**Clairmont Hofland, Stoughton, Wis.:** Clairmont nominates his 1988 Ford Ranger Supercab XLT pickup as his "best buy". "It's trouble-free. It starts in any kind of weather, gets good gas mileage, handles nice and has a comfortable ride."

**Emmett Prestenbach, Houma, La.:** His "worst buy" is his 1988 Ford 250 diesel pickup. "The dealer claimed it would get 20 mpg, but it's really 5 mpg. The cab is so

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**Brent Giberson, Mt. Pleasant, Iowa:** A 1988 Yamaha Blaster 4-wheeler is Brent's "best buy". "With the manual clutch and trailer hitch, it can pull just about anything. My only complaint is the lack of a reverse gear."

**Jason Engler, Cincinnati, Ohio:** "My Amana 80% efficient furnace is my best buy. The tubular stainless steel heat exchanger has a no-fault 25 year warranty."

**Vernie Carlberg, Stratford, Iowa:** "It's a pleasure to drive and the cab is out of this world," says Vernie, pleased with his 1988

Chevrolet 1/2-ton 4 by 4 pickup. "Starts every time and gets good gas mileage."

**Bernard Martin, Willow Bunch, Sask.:** A 1987 Case-IH model 1010 25-ft. straight cut header is Bernard's "best buy". "We're in the custom combining business and have cut over 7,000 acres with this header without a minute of downtime. The knife is fast and cuts clean even at 6 mph. It's a top-notch product from a reliable company."

"Another best buy is our 1984 IH 1460 Axial Flow combine. The reliability of this machine is unreal. It has threshed about 15,000 acres with no downtime other than regular maintenance."

Bernard also is happy with his 1980 Versatile model 835 4-WD tractor. Very efficient, powerful and reliable."

On the negative side, Bernard is disappointed with his Wrenn 3/8-in. electric variable-speed reversing drill. "It's not built strong enough to handle even easy jobs. I used it to install two truck tarps and stripped the gears in the chuck."

**Walter Zurakowski, Thorp, Wis.:** "My best buy is a 1988 Gehl 1465 round baler. It picks up all the hay even at 8 mph. I really like the total density control feature which lets me adjust belt tension throughout the entire bale. I also like the hydraulic tie, and the crowder wheels really bring the hay in."

**William Oykes, Granton, Ontario:** William nominates his Ford F150 4-WD XLT Lariat pickup as his "best buy". "It carries a load well, rides good and has comfortable seats. I'm impressed with the fuel injected 302 V-8 - decent economy with tremendous power at all speeds."

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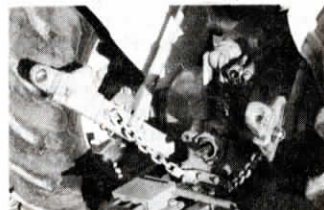
**Kim Lust, Seven Persons, Alberta:** "I custom stack 80,000 to 100,000 bales a year so I think I'm qualified to comment on the overall quality and performance of different makes of square balers. In my opinion, New Holland makes the poorest performing square baler. They produce the most inconsistent bales in terms of length, shape, and density. I think Hesston makes the best bales. Their baler is the most consistent for bale length and density and they eliminate 'banana-shaped' bales or bales with tapered ends. However, the Hesston baler is too light in the frame and drive knuckles. Deere makes the second best baler. It produces bales with a consistent length, but it will produce 'banana-shaped' bales and bales with tapered ends if overworked. It's the strongest built baler and the most convenient to repair. My third choice for best buy baler is Massey Ferguson. It produces good quality bales if given tender loving care and not overworked. However, its productivity is poor compared to the Hesston or Deere balers."

Thanks for your article in the last issue of FARM SHOW (Vol. 12, No. 5) on our revolutionary Stirling "external combustion" engine that gets 30 to 50% better fuel efficiency using virtually any fuel including gas, diesel, alcohol, LP gas, jet fuel, natural gas, fuel oil, etc. We've now installed the engine in a pickup and Deere & Co. engineers are evaluating the possibility of manufacturing the engine under license. I wanted to point out that the phone number in your article was incorrect. We can be reached at 518-785-2876.

Albert Richey Jr.  
Mechanical Technology Inc.  
968 Albany-Shaker Rd.  
Latham, N.Y. 12110

We made an adjustable filter wrench by welding one end of a piece of #50 roller chain to the back side of one jaw on a pair of vise grips and grinding a groove in the other to grab onto the rollers. Works great for any size filter.

Wesley Evans  
Rt. 1  
Raleigh, Ill. 62977



I reworked a spring-loaded "shock" hitch which we had on our pickup and mounted it on our tractor drawbar. It works great, taking the "slap" out when pulling wagons.

Jack Peters  
Grand Mound, Iowa 52751

Ever since catalytic converters were first required on gasoline-powered engines, farmers and ranchers have been unable to drive their gas-powered pickups on dry grassland because the converters start fires. The only legal way you can get around the problem with a new pickup is to buy a diesel. The problem is that they don't make small diesels anymore. All you can buy are big, rough-riding \$16,000 to \$25,000 full-sized models. Other than that, many farmers and ranchers either drive an old pickup made before catalytic converters were installed, or else they use a new pickup and take the converter off - which is illegal. However, I talked to a man who works for the U.S. Forestry Fire Department who told me that the Forest Service takes the converters off. I think it's terrible that our government has to break its own laws.

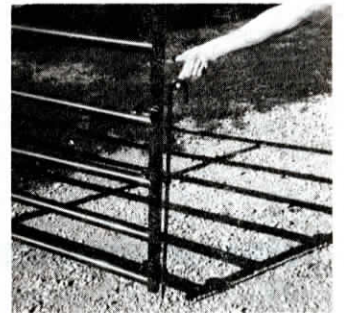
The problem isn't only with pickups.



We're custom bale haulers in the Canadian province of Alberta. We build our own bale hauling equipment that carries from 8 to 36 bales at once. The photo shows our long haul truck and trailer combination that hauls 36 bales at once. Our smaller, custom-built bale hauling trucks have self-loading side lift arms and unloading push-back conveyors so we can unload in a neat

Automobiles are also fitted with catalytic converters. Forest Service officials tell me they think many fires are now started by unsuspecting motorists who pull to the side of the road - to rest or look at a map - and then drive away.

In this age of advanced technology, you'd think somebody would make a pickup a rancher could use. One salesman recently tried to sell me a pickup which he said had a shield over the exhaust. When he showed me the shield, I just laughed. Grass would easily pack in through the edge of the shield and catch fire.



Keith C. Daulton  
P.O. Box 71  
Madra, California 93639

I got tired of the way my 18-ft. gates would swing shut behind me whenever I tried to drive through. I bolted a couple hinges to the opening side and inserted a pointed rod through them. It slides up and down easily. I raise the rod up to open the gate and let it down, poking it into the ground, to hold the gate open. This gate holder worked so well I've installed one on all my gates.

Dave Kovar  
Braddyville, Iowa 51631

FARM SHOW readers might be interested in the way I repair worn bearings in cars and tractors. First, remove the cap from the bearing, take out the bottom insert, cut strips of aluminum foil slightly smaller than the insert, and place as many strips in the cap as are necessary to take up the wear in the bearing. Place the insert on top of the foil and press it into place and then take a sharp file and file the insert so it is level with the top of the cap. You have to learn how to gauge the amount of wear in the bearing and you should be careful not to overdo it.

Russell A. Morton  
4408 Camass St.  
Boise, Idaho

I'm a retired farmer but I still enjoy reading about all the new products and farmer inventions in FARM SHOW. It's a wonderful magazine.

John Roise  
Madison, Minn.

Our "Bale Bandit" truck is very easy on bales when loading and unloading. We don't break strings or leave bales in a messy pile.

Stephen Went  
The Bale Bandits Inc.  
Rt. 2  
Bluffton, Alberta T0C0M0  
Canada