

reliable and relatively maintenance-free. We've had to fix the air conditioner on the 1070 a few times and that's about it. Both have plenty of power and we really like the power shift transmission and the comfortable cabs."

**Charles F. Jackson, Lerna, Ill.:** "The best buy I've ever made is our 1988 Chevrolet 3/4-ton Silverado pickup. It has an excellent ride for a 4-WD and performs great. The only problem we've had is that the contacts for the horn switch were positioned too close together. The vinyl cover-

**"The contacts for the horn switch were too close together. Cold weather sets it off."**

ing on the steering wheel would contract enough in cold weather to set off the horn. It usually happened late at night or early in the morning. The dealer corrected the problem by spreading the contacts."

**Duane Beune, Dodge, Neb.:** "My 1988 Ford 150 4-WD pickup is a best buy. It's got a good 6-cyl., 300 cu. in. engine and a comfortable cab. It drives and handles well except for the fact that it should have a way to manually slow cold engine idle speed. It races too fast."

**Raymond A. Schroeder, Washington, Mo.:** Raymond's "worst buy" is his Allis Chalmers 600 no-till corn planter. "I've had trouble keeping coulters at an even depth. One side digs in deep while the other side barely touches the ground half the time. Also, the units are too close to the ground for easy transport around the farm."

**Dale Dockter, Eureka, S. Dak.:** "My 1986 Suzuki 230 4-wheeler is a best buy. It turns much easier than the 3-wheeler it replaced. You don't have to lean into turns. Electric start and the reverse gear make it an easy machine to handle for any member of the family."

**Gordon H. Gardiner, Regina, Sask.:** "My Makita cordless drill is convenient to use and has lots of power. Recharges quickly."

**Gwen Brown, Hardwood, Mich.:** "We bought a Polaris Trail Boss 4-wheeler a year ago and it's been a great buy, in part because we've had outstanding dealer support."

**Jimmy Neuby, Ardmore, Tenn.:** "Our New Holland 855 baler will not have the life expectancy of our old New Holland 850 baler. The auto-tie and twine cutter is not too good and they've cheapened up the baler by lightening up the pickup and eliminating the slip clutch. The gauge wheels on the pickup are not well-supported and, in general, everything is built lighter and cheaper."

On the "best buy" side, "Our Deere 4840 tractor has performed perfectly with little down time and expense. At 5,000 hrs., I'm very pleased."

**Lee & Leola Gillins, Monmouth, Ore.:** "Our worst buy of a lifetime is a Harvestore silo purchased on a lease from Agristor. They promised us more milk production and said that if it didn't work after following their directions, they would take it out. Sixty-five of our 150 milk cows became ill, dried up, and had to be sold. Needless to say, we've never recovered and have been

paying for an empty structure for six years."

**Warren Lathé, Brattleboro, Vermont:** A Massey Ferguson 12 baler with a kicker heads his "worst buy" list. "It's a mechanic's nightmare. You name it and it's gone wrong. I completely disassembled it last winter and built it back up to specs. It would take many pages to list the things that have gone wrong with this baler."

On the positive side, Warren's happy with his 1986 Kuhn 3-pt. tiller. "It's a rugged piece of machinery. I've put it through hard, stoney ground with no problems. It's built to provide satisfactory service. I've recommended it to others who've purchased it with similar good results."

**Michael French, Dixon, Mo.:** He's happy with his 1988 Ford F-150 pickup. "The 6-cyl. fuel-injected engine and 5-speed overdrive has plenty of take-off power and gets good gas mileage, too. It's a good all-around truck although we do our heavy trailer towing with our 1983 Ford F-350 with a 6.9 diesel."

On the minus side, Michael's unhappy with his Homelite Super EZ chainsaw with sprocket tip bar. "I purchased the saw for fencing chores and right-of-way maintenance. In small brush you spend more time putting the chain back on than you do sawing, regardless of how much you tighten it. The fuel tank should be larger - after putting the chain on a couple times, you're out of gas."

"Milwaukee power tools are also best buys as far as I'm concerned. I have a portable grinder, model U179, that's been worked hard for 42 years. I have a new Milwaukee circular saw, a drywall screw shooter, and a 12-volt drill for tapping sugar maples. All are top-flight tools."

**Delmar B. McConkey, Malvern, Iowa:** "My best buy is Amsoil synthetic motor oil. I have a 1964 Pontiac Catalina with 348,000 miles on it that takes just a quart of oil every 1,500 miles. I also have a 1972 Pontiac Lemans with 185,000 miles that uses no oil."

**Gerald Wegener, Evansville, Ill.:** "I'm happy with my Fish carburetor (Brown Carburetor Co., P.O. Box 298, Grotton, S. Dak. 57445 ph 800 521-4347). I set it according to the instruction book and installed it. It started right up with no problems. I'm amazed at the smoothness at idle and at all speeds, and there is a definite mileage improvement. I have not adjusted the carburetor for maximum power or economy yet but I'm pleased with the operation so far. It's exactly like the book stated."

**Myron Hebbert, Chadron, Neb.:** "I needed a big bale feeder that would chop hay and feed it out in windrows. After trying several makes, I purchased a Haybuster Balebuster. It's easy to operate, is made quite simply, and you can run the pto at slow rpm's to 'roll out' grass bales and then also use it to chop alfalfa and poorer quality hay at maximum rpm's. Adding a couple extra breaker bars makes it chop finer. It feeds out a bale in 1 1/2 to 2 min. and will clean them out even if they're positioned on end. Baby calves like fine chopped hay in windrows while cows are a lot better satisfied when I roll the bales out. As a bonus, you can raise the deflector shield and do a good job bedding or mulching."

**Vincent Ahlholm, Warren, Maine:** "Two of our all-time best buys are Melroe skid steer loaders. Not a day goes by that we don't use them for various chores around the farm. The Wisconsin engines are tough and simple to rebuild. Both machines are 15

years old and just require normal repairs and maintenance."

"Another best buy is FARM SHOW Magazine. My wife hides it from me when it comes just to tease me."

Vincent's had trouble with a Stihl 038 AV chainsaw. "It never ran right for more than a tank full of fuel. I accidentally backed over it with a tractor while cutting wood and put it out of its misery."

**Leonard Berube, Saxon, Wis.:** "We have a WL44 Westendorf front-end loader on our big 4-WD tractor and it's superior to any other loader I've seen. Works great," says Leonard about his "best buy."

"We also have a 1988 4-WD Ford XL pickup with automatic transmission that runs like a top."

**Alton Larson, West Branch, Iowa:** "We bought our Grasshopper riding mower in 1979 and it's been a great best buy (Grasshopper Co., P.O. Box 637, Moundridge, Kan. 67107 ph 316 345-6301). It's durable and dependable. I have to mow around lots of trees so I especially like the zero turning radius and front-mount mower. All I have ever done to the motor is change plugs and oil. I've replaced the drive belts once and one powershaft bearing."

**Roy Murray, Osakis, Minn.:** Roy nominates his Brillion 10-ft. grass seeder as "worst buy." "The seed box is pure junk. I've had to weld it back together at least 15 times. The tin is so thin it can't stand the vibration."

**Kevin Heusser, Spencerville, Ontario:** "We bought a 1975 International 4166 4-WD 150 hp. tractor this year and it's our best buy. We used it this spring to work 650 acres of corn and small grain. It has loads of power and traction. We pull a 24-ft. set of Krause disks and can disk at 15 acres per hour. It's easy on fuel - at about 6 gal. per hour - and it's extremely maneuverable thanks to the 4-wheel steering."

**Allen Sheffer, Portland, Ind.:** "We've been installing Nissan 198 cu. in. diesel engines in our cars and trucks since 1974. Several of them now have over 265,000 miles on them and are still running good."

**Robert Gollehon, Conrad, Mont.:** "We bought an 8820 Deere Titan II combine with a 30-ft. header last fall. It's been trouble-free and a pleasure to run. We really like the hydrostat transmission."

**John D. Smollar, Columbia, S.C.:** "My 1986 GMC with a 350 V-8 uses regular gas and gives me good power, mileage and dependability at all times regardless of load or weather. It replaced my worst buy 1985 1/2-ton Chevrolet pickup with a V-8 305 engine. It didn't have the power to pull a dead hummingbird down a hill with a running start. That sorry excuse for a machine spent more time in the shop than on the farm and they never could boost the power."

**Gordon Warren, Wilmington, Ohio:** "My best buys are Makita power tools including a router, hand plane, palm sander, and power water stone blade sharpener. They all perform well and require no maintenance."

"Another good buy is my 1986 GMC short bed pickup with a 5-speed transmission. It drives like a sports car."

**S.W. Bjornson, Riverton, Manitoba:** Heading his "best buy" list is a 1988 Wagner W-500 Power Painter. "All you have to do is stir the paint, pour it into the tank, and spray it onto the surface to be painted. It works well, although so far I've only gone through about 40 gal."

On the negative side, "We had a bad experience with Spodnam, a chemical that's

supposed to keep crops from shattering. I applied the chemical according to manufacturer's recommendations on a birdsfoot trefoil crop. When I harvested the crop I found that I had lost 3/4 of the crop."

**Bruce M. Lovdahl, McGregor, N.Dak.:** "My 1981 Massey Ferguson 2705 tractor - bought used - had to be overhauled twice, mainly because of a poor overhaul the first time. This was at the dealer's expense. It also had many oil leaks and had to be split three times to correct them. It's taken a year to get all the bugs out of it but now I've very satisfied. It's economical, has air conditioning, a beautiful cab, a good 24-speed power shift transmission, and has all the features that I want, including an AM-FM radio."

"We also like our 1975 Deere 2030 diesel with a 145 loader that we bought used. It has a transmission that requires clutching to shift from forward to reverse, which is handy with the loader. The grapple on the loader is a real asset in handling manure and hay."

**Bob Schmidt, Renville, Minn.:** Bob's happy with his 1988 DMI 27-ft. "crumbler." "I pulled it behind my field cultivator the first pass over this spring on fall-plowed ground. It did an outstanding job breaking up large clods and leveling and sealing up the top soil to preserve moisture. It also eliminates the need for a second pass, which was my objective along with preserving top soil moisture for more even germination. I've also noticed that my planter's depth control is better because of the level ground and slight firmness of the soil."

**Ralph E. Jordan, Carmi, Ill.:** "My 1987 Deutz-Allis 830 lawnmower has good safety features and maneuverers well around trees and shrubs. A good all-around mower."

**Andrew N. Smith, Piffard, N.Y.:** "Our most recent worst buy is a Surge automatic soap and acid dispenser. It was purchased new in 1986 and discarded in early 1987. The unit would suck the seal down into the metering device instead of pulling liquid from the barrel. Dealer service was so poor we had to terminate our agreement with the local Surge dealer. We now deal with a Germania dealer who can fix Surge equipment."

On the "best buy" side, "Our 1986 Ford TW35 tractor with MFWD is one of the best tractors on the market. It pulls a 30-ft. cultmulcher at 5 mph and turns great without using the brakes. We also pull a 30-ft. field cultivator with it. The tractor is light enough to go over soft spots but has excellent traction."

**Robert Bell, Gardner, N. Dak.:** "We bought a Makita 4 1/2 in. portable hand grinder several years back. We use it almost daily and seldom ever use our bench grinder anymore. This Makita is lightweight and

**"Since delivery we've never had them all working at one time."**

small enough to get into an awkward position yet is powerful. It's an excellent tool."

Robert's had problems with General Electric Phoenix VHF business band radios bought in 1986. "At first we had trouble getting the radios delivered. Since delivery we've never had them all working

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