

King garden tractor. "It's the handiest garden tractor I've ever seen. The hydraulic 3-pt. hitch works especially well. My one complaint is that the front end is too light. I've weighted it with 125 lbs., which helps some."

Harold A. Miles, Silver Lake, Ore.: Harold says his 1985 Model 235 swing-tongue **Owatonna** swather, "Cut over 500 acres twice with only two sickles and they're still in good shape. It cuts grass as easy as alfalfa. Very low maintenance. Only broke 2 chain tighteners and 3 guards."

Dave Sewell, Blackie, Alta.: "It's really 'versatile,'" says Dave, happy with his "best buy" 1984 **Versatile** 256 tractor. "It has a front end loader and a 28-ft. swather header. It's also bi-directional which is unique and very handy. Has been problem-free."

Orville Franke, Litchfield, Ill.: "My New **Holland** 489 Haybine has been a pleasure to work with. It's built for long service and it's easy to adjust. Maintenance requirements are low because of the gear-driven crushing rolls."

Gerald Williams, Duncombe, Iowa: "My worst buy is a 1983 **Chevrolet** 20 pickup. Paint's coming off and it gets poor mileage."

On the plus side, "I'm really pleased with **Deere** 40 series tractors. We have a 4440 and 4240. They start so much better than the 30 series and are a pleasure to run. I'm also real pleased with our **Massey Ferguson** 850 combine. Has plenty of power and capacity."

Steven Rader, Canadian, Tex.: "This **International** 3382 2 + 2 is a great tractor and it's been our best buy for many years. Has good power, great comfort and has required only small repairs in 5 yrs. Really gets the work done."

Denver Dennis, Belleville, Ark.: "We only kept the truck 10 months. The 4-speed transmission didn't give us the power we needed pulling a trailer, especially going up hills. We had trouble with the brakes locking up and throwing the truck sideways. Also, we didn't get the gas mileage we were led to believe we'd get with a diesel," says Denver, unhappy with his "worst buy" 1984 **Ford** 3/4-ton truck.

But, he lists his 1985 **Ford** 3/4-ton with automatic transmission as "best buy". "So far we haven't had one bit of trouble with this truck. Has a super cab, is very handy and we've really enjoyed it."

Wayne Lake, Richmond, Ky.: "My best buy is a **Tye** Pasture Pleaser pasture renovator. It does a good job."

Ross O. Essary, Taneyville, Mo.: "One tire busted at about 10,000 miles. The dealer refused to do anything, saying there was no guarantee on them. The other three were completely worn out at 16,000 miles," says Ross about his "worst buy" **Genrich** pickup tires.

On the plus side he says, "We've cut about 200 acres of hay with our **New Holland** Haybine with no downtime at all. My **Sachs Dolmar** 112 chain saw is also a best buy. It's gone through many chains but still works good as new."

Kurt Kelley, Elroy, Wis.: "It goes just about anywhere. It's hard to tip and we've had no maintenance problems. A good buy for the money," says Kurt, pleased with his 1984 **Suzuki** 185 Quadrunner ATV.

Roy West, Dumas, Ark.: "I bought my 1985 **Ford** 4-WD diesel pickup last year and it's proven to be everything I'd heard it would be. It's required very little maintenance and has plenty of power, even at low rpm's. Handles well and never runs hot, even on hot summer days doing jobs that require lots of idling."

James Walker, Leonard, Minn.: "My only regret is that this kind of quality wasn't 'Made in America,'" says Jim pleased with his 1983 **Isuzu** diesel pickup. "It just turned over 51,000 absolutely, trouble-free miles. It's usually either severely over-

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loaded or dragging some piece of equipment around that's bigger than it is. We live at the end of the worst township road you ever saw, and it just keeps churning through. Couldn't kill it with an axe. It will start at 30° below sitting outside, without heat or help of any kind.

"I have less kind words to say about our **Miracle Span** farm building. Actually, I think the building is a good one, but the exaggerations, distortions, and promises made by the company's salespeople were exceeded only by their apparent lack of intent to carry them out. We still haven't received all of our materials more than a month after they were promised. There has to be a building dealer out there somewhere who's more committed to their customers than these folks."

Clarke Yearous, Fort Morgan, Colo.: "The **Yanmar** 336 D has the features of a big tractor but with good power and easy maneuverability for my small fields. The MFWD provides good pulling power in wet fields."

Jim Wood, Chandler, Okla.: Jim nominates his **Deere** 4440 tractor and **Honda** 200 M 3-wheeler as "best buys". "The tractor has good power, a good tight cab and is easy on fuel. The ATV is good for chasing and checking on cows, and for pulling a trailer to work on fences."

Robert Sproule, Listowel, Ont.: "I've had **Ford** trucks for 20 years and this is the best one yet. It's a real good, strong truck with lots of power which I use for pulling a fifth wheel trailer. With a 420 cu. in. engine, it gets good mpg at 20-22 mpg," says Robert, pleased with his 1985 **Ford** F-250 diesel pickup.

George Osgood, Coffeyville, Kan.: "My best is a **Mazda** B2200 pickup truck. It handles and rides nice and

manages to wring extra miles out of a gallon of diesel fuel. I average 40 to 41 mpg. It starts as easy in cold weather as in the summer."

Larry Lampe, Hillsboro, Iowa: He's disappointed with **Sonolan** weed spray by **Elanco**. "I used the recommended rate on 35 acres. It didn't do anything for the grass. A chemical representative came out and agreed it didn't work. Said they'd refund my money. After 6 months and 10 phone calls, no money."

Laurence J. Place, Perry, Mich.: "My best buy is a **Hesston** 4600 Beeliner hay baler. We pick up our bales with a **New Holland** automatic bale wagon which requires that bales be as perfectly square and uniform as bricks. This is the only baler I've seen that does the job. It's also able to go as fast as a round baler but without having to stop to eject bales. The baler is heavily built and small problems were had were immediately taken care of by our dealer and **Hesston Corp.**, even after the normal one-year warranty expired."

Donald Lindblad, Dawson, Minn.: He cites his Model L3 **Allis Chalmers** Gleaner combine as "best buy". "I purchased it new this year. It worked great and had been inspected and serviced completely before the dealer sent it out so I didn't have any starting out problems so often associated with new equipment. The cab and controls are comfortable, quiet and easy to use. The 2-yr. warranty is also a big plus. Hydrostatic drive is smooth and convenient and the 20-ft. flex head for soybeans does a good job cutting. The dealer installed a **Tiger Jaws** cutting bar and a plastic tooth reel on this combine and they both work great."

Gary Meyer, Freeport, Minn.: "My 1982 **Melroe** Bobcat 643 diesel starts easy, even at 25 to 30° below. I've had no mechanical problems with it. It's so easy to handle my 10-yr. old daughter can run it. It's also easy on fuel."

Doug White, Unity, Sask.: I've always had a soft spot for **Massey Ferguson** but it seems time to quit buying their tractors. Every recent **Massey** tractor we've bought has been worse than the last. I traded a MF 65 with 10,000 hrs. off on a 1978 MF 275 with 1,200 hrs. It was here less than a day before it was all tore apart in my shop because neither the interior nor exterior hydraulics worked. The motor was a poor starter compared with my MF 1080. The water pump soon went out and the right planetary had to be repaired within the first 100 hours of operation. That cost around \$3,000.

"I'd like to nominate my 10030-06 **Deutz**, my 100-06 **Deutz**, and my 3.70 **Deutz** as best buys. They all work great."

A.G. Vogt, Post Falls, Idaho: "I got a good buy on a 65-hp **Ditch Witch** tractor and am well-pleased with it. It's great for plowing snow, moving dirt with a blade, and is good for work in the woods. I made a drawbar for the back of it and it'd be easy to attach a winch to the back, too."

Marshall Magnold, New Tripoli,

Penn.: Marshall's happy with **PFS** software for his **IBM-PC** computer. "It's easy to work with. I can produce the same reports as specialized farm computer packages costing hundreds of dollars more due to the adaptability and flexibility of the software."

Hugh Chesney, Lakefield, Ont.: "I've put 6,000 hrs. on this tractor with no major repairs other than a water pump and clutch. It's still going strong," says Hugh about his "best buy" 1971 **David Brown** 880 Selectomatic tractor.

Darrell A. Hagan, Whitesville, Ky.: He's pleased with his 1985 model, 6-row, no-till **Kinze** planter. "Does a great job planting. Plus, the frame and markers are a whole lot heavier-built than the **Deere** planter."

Kenneth A. Hooley, Amelia, Virg.: "It'll pay for itself in a short time in feed savings. It's easy to set the amount of feed each cow gets and has been nearly trouble-free," reports Kenneth, happy with his **Bou-matic** 1500 computer feeder with 4 feeder stations for 100 cows.

William Halpin, Pontiac, Ill.: "I bought a **Westfield** TR 80 61-ft. grain auger new in 1984. With its direct pto drive, hydraulic lift and hydraulically driven hopper, you never have to unhook the tractor. Also, there's no gearbox to go out or leak. One man can set this auger on a bin by himself and be ready to unload in less than 5 min."

Renken W. Leners, Beatrice, Neb.: "The worst buy I ever made is a **Deere** Max Emerge plateless planter. It works alright for corn but, when it comes to planting milo, it's a disaster. At 4 1/2 to 5 lbs. per acre, it plants very uneven with lots of skips. We haven't

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been able to get this situation corrected. I figure we lost about 10 to 15 bu. per acre in yield due to the skips it made."

Gene Heneks, Mechanicsville, Iowa: "It's a shame these tractors were discontinued by **Case/I.H.** We're pleased with the power, traction, and ease of operating and handling. Gear selection is excellent and our dealer has given us good service," says Gene about his 1983 and 1984 **International** 5288 tractors.

John Siegler, Imlay City, Mich.: "After 35 years of pickups on the farm, my 4-WD 1984 **Ford** Ranger with V-6 engine is one of the best. I've put 27,000 miles of sometimes extra-hard use with no trouble at all."

Dale Wiens, Beechy, Sask.: He likes his "best buy" **Midland** FM radios. "They're reliable, noiseless, clear and priced right. A real asset to any farm operation."

As "worst buy" he cites his **Regency** Micro-Com 22 VHF-FM

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