

tractor. The only negative thing about it is that the rams are not chrome-plated and rust easily, which will shorten their life if it is left extended," says Henry, about his "best buy" 1984 Paulson tractor loader.

**John N. Pasek, Minden, Nev.:** "FARM SHOW Magazine and my Husqvarna 266 chain saw are my best buys. FARM SHOW is full of good ideas, new equipment and general information that I can use. The saw is very dependable. A good runner."

**Cecil Elliott, Villard, Minn.:** "Our Cultivator from Noble in Sac City, Iowa, really digs in. It has Danish tines with two stabilizing discs and really hugs the sidehills with the discs on. Excellent product."

**Earl Chapin, Battle Creek, Mich.:** "My 595 Owatonna is the best engineered and constructed big round baler I've ever seen. We bale several hundred acres of hay each year and it's so simple and easy to

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operate it's a joy to use. The design of the baler is outstanding. For example, I've never seen another pickup on any machine that has grease fittings on every bearing. It runs so quiet you can hardly hear it.

"I would rate the Gehl baler I had before this baler as the poorest round baler I've ever seen. I predict that you will not be able to give a belt baler away in the near future."

**Marvin Wagenbach, Tremont, Ill.:** "My White 2-62 tractor and White 1700 QA loader are best buys. We've used the tractor over 1,300 hrs. without even a minor problem. It's big enough to plant and cultivate with, yet its low profile makes it ideal for cleaning out our low sheds. The loader can be taken off in 5 min. and you're ready to use the tractor in the field."

**Melvin J. Fischer, Emerson, Neb.:** "After 15 years of use this spreader has given very little trouble. The total repair bill has probably been less than \$200 and yet this year I covered 160 acres with manure. The V-belt drive is quiet, efficient and nearly trouble-free and it continues to do a great job. As a bonus, the spreader doesn't cost as much as other machines," says Melvin, pleased with his Roorda 300 bu. manure spreader manufactured by Roorda Machine Shp., Rock Valley, Iowa.

**Kenneth Alt, Wamego, Kan.:** He's pleased with his 1984 Mercury Gran Marquis LS. "The ride is real smooth and quiet and handles very well. Gas mileage is not quite as good as the Ford Crown Victoria that I traded in on it but overall I'm well satisfied."

Kenneth also names his 1983 International 3288 as "best buy". "It had a few minor problems but my dealer took care of them in good time. It handles very well and the cab is

quiet and comfortable. I'm very pleased with its overall performance."

**S. Ridgely Morison, Delmar, Delaware:** He nominates his Midwest "Buster Bar" as "best buy". "It attaches to the back of a plow, disk, or other tillage implement and levels the soil. I attach mine to my Glencoe chisel plow and it does an excellent job of knocking down the ridges and allowing weed seed to germinate faster. Makes seedbed preparation much easier."

"I've made no worst buy purchases in the past 12 months. I've become more cautious over the past few years and have found that past product histories, such as featured in FARM SHOW, are the most effective buying tools available."

**Eddie Achtemichuk, Rhein, Sask.:** "I bought my Leon A-3000 rock picker new one year ago and it has done everything it's supposed to do with no trouble of any kind. I had one problem with a crooked chain tightener but they fixed it pronto. It picks up any sized rock from a pebble up to 20 in. in dia."

"My worst buys are two Century 4018 4-in. by 18-in. hydraulic cylinders. I installed these cylinders on a homemade rock digger and, 10 min. and 5 rocks later, the shafts bent to a 90° angle. The distributor wouldn't cover the warranty."

**Robert Bunch, Vernon, Tex.:** "My 1983 Ford 1-ton diesel truck has had five head jobs, one new crankshaft and is now 'blown' due to antifreeze traces in the crankcase — less than 200 miles after the heads were redone the fifth time. The dealer replaced the warrantied transmission with a rebuilt but denied warranty and responsibility for recent engine failure."

Robert lists his Deere 530 round baler and Deere 4250 tractor as best buys. "The baler builds a perfect bale in as little as 1½ min. We've had no down time in 1,250 bales and have had to replace only two belts. The tractor has a 15-speed power shift and puts out more power and is more economical than represented."

**Roy David Fricker, DeValls Bluff, Ark.:** "In 1979 I bought a 4440 Deere tractor. Like all new tractors, problems started small — with the water pump, alternator and clutch valve. At 1,850 hrs. the power shift gave out and had to be overhauled, costing \$1,800. Then, 180 hrs. later, the traction lock came apart. The dealer said they'd never seen one come apart before. It wouldn't be too bad, if it had ever been used. I'm afraid of what will happen next. Deere said the transmission trouble was caused by my not using their oil. Maybe it was, but water still gets in the transmission somehow."

**John C. Williams, Coyle, Okl.:** "My Vac-O-Vator works fast and efficiently with minimal dust, especially when cleaning out bins. Works like a vacuum cleaner on floors and the attachment saves much hand scooping. Makes it easier and healthier for those doing this work."

**Marvin Muntz, Beach City, Ohio:** "I have a beef. My 4-WD Chevrolet Suburban looks like cancer. It's

rusty badly. Why can't they make bodies that last as long as the engine. The engine has 90,000 plus miles and is going strong. To buy a new one, they want the price of a farm. I just wish they could use some product to preserve the metal so it'll last 20-30 years."

"My best buys are a 1964 International 706 gas tractor and a 1981 International 133 cultivator. The tractor has plenty of power and is a nice in-between tractor. The cultivator penetrates hard soils well and is the best cultivator for conventional or plowed corn and soybeans."

**Aubrey A. Ray, Creelman, Sask.:** "Every year you have to fix the hydraulics. It's the worst turning tractor I've ever driven. The cab is so noisy you can't hear the radio. Has poor access to the cab and the cab leaks dust. Does have power and a fast road gear," says Aubrey, who nominates his 1975 International 1066 as "worst buy".

"I only wish you could license them for road use," he says about his "best buy" 1983 Honda Big Red 200 ATV. "You can ride them all twelve months of the year. Top speed is about 35 mph."

**Ben Carpenter, Adrian, Mich.:** "It takes all the guesswork out of spraying and planting at the same time. When properly adjusted, the spray volume per acre remains the same, even when speed changes," reports Ben, pleased with his Raven SCS 400 sprayer control system.

**C. Derome, Kirkland, Quebec:** He's disappointed with his 1982 Belarus 820 tractor made in Russia. "The parts are not well-finished. It's so

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rough the O-rings do not last. Also, the gearing is poor. This is not a smooth-running machine."

**Homer W. Christman, Otterbein, Ind.:** "Our 1984 Snapper Hi-Vac yard riding mower with leaf pickup is our best buy because of the good job it does mowing and cleaning up my yard. The throttle could be handier to use, however. It doesn't idle very well when I'm emptying leaves."

**A.B. Brookes, Meadow Lake, Sask.:** He nominates his model 50 Husqvarna chain saw as "best buy". "It's easy to start in any weather, has a very good anti-vibration system, and has plenty of power even for large trees. It's got one of the best automatic oiling systems of any saw I've ever owned. Dealer service is good, too."

"Also on the best buy side is our 1979 GMC 1/2-ton pickup with a 250 6-cyl. engine which we bought new. It has over 145,000 kilometers on the odometer and has been trouble-free. Considering the rough roads and conditions in which it's been used, its record is remarkable."

**Dennis W. Baker, Chugwater, Wyo.:** Dennis nominates his herbicide applicator from Speidel Applicator Inc., Rt. 12, Lincoln, Neb. 68516, for wiping Roundup onto tall-growing weeds and volunteer corn, as "best buy". He read about the applicator in FARM SHOW. "It works even better than they say. Costs less than \$400, compared to another brand my father bought for \$1,800, and it works much better."

**Dale Caraway, Xenia, Ohio:** "My Deere 7000 16-row folding planter is my best buy because of the ease of transport. Folding and unfolding takes just 36 sec. and you don't have to leave the tractor. It'll plant my hills as well or better than the 6 and 8-row planters I've owned in the past because it flexes in two places."

Dale's "worst buy" nomination is a Deere 100 stack mover. "It has three long prongs that slide under the stack and after a little use they develop lots of side play. The dealer fixed it and after about the same amount of use it happened again."

**Armin T. Ens, Winkler, Manitoba:** "My best buy is an 8070 Allis Chalmers 2-WD tractor bought in 1982. We harvest 160 acres of alfalfa two times a year with an 892 New Holland forage harvester, towing a dump wagon loaded with 250 gal. of water, and we have yet to use more than 4 gal. of fuel per hour with this tractor."

**Michael Choate, Sparta, N.C.:** "In the past 1½ years I haven't spent a cent on it. It mixes feed very well and service is exceptional," reports Michael about his 1984 "best buy" Knight Augie feedmixer.

He nominates his 1985 Ford TW5 tractor as "worst buy". "It just doesn't have enough power. The operation of the tractor is just fine but, with a weight of 18,000 lbs. or better, the 6-cyl. engine is just not enough."

**Frank Roberts, Ontario, Ore.:** "We use our Honda Big Red for irrigating a 350-acre farm. It saves a lot of miles on our pickup and will go where no pickup will go."

**Rudy Brockmueller, Freeman, S. Dak.:** "We've used their gates for about 15 years. They're built strongly and have not rusted or bent. They're easy to hang and adjust. Many sizes are available and they'll build to specifications," reports Rudy, happy with hog and cattle gates from Rural Mfg., in Freeman.

Rudy nominates his 1971 Pride of the Farm combination hog and cattle waterers as "worst buy". "The first year we had to replace the entire heating unit. Then the brass fittings wouldn't shut off at the valves so the foundation would overflow. We replaced all the brass fittings with plastic several years ago and that remedied the problem. The only good thing is that the cast iron troughs don't rust out like on Ritchie Mfg. waterers. Ritchie waterers are more convenient to work on but don't stand up to hard water and hogs. The fittings under the Ritchie foundations are galvanized but still rusted through. However, the valves have

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