

# Best And Worst Buys

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wind noise and fuses keep burning out."

On the "best buy" side, Kent nominates his 6030 **Deere** tractor. "It's the best tractor we've ever owned. It easily pulls 43 ft. of vibra-chisel with tine harrows. It's good on fuel and has plenty of power. The cab isn't as nice as the new ones but it's nice to operate."

**Vern Mimms, Russellville, Kent.:** "I recently bought a **Deere** 672 6-ft. wide grooming mower to care for my 3-acre lawn. It really does a great job. It pulls easily behind a 30-hp tractor. One of the best buys I've ever made."

A **Westendorf** tractor loader is Dan's choice for "best buy." "I ordered it to fit a certain tractor. It came complete and fit perfectly. It's been great in every way and is the best-built on the market in my opinion."

**Martin Phillips, Drexel, Mo.:** "I nominate our **Honda** TRX-200 4-wheeler as best buy. It seems like it's going all day, every day, spraying, choring and checking crops. It does it on a lot less fuel than a truck or tractor."

**Burton Ackerman, Easton, Penn.:** "I had a problem with fall-offs and squawking inflations with my **Surge** milkers, I'd always have 35-40 cows, out of 120 milked, that needed to have the machine adjusted before they were done. Nothing seemed to solve the problem."

"Since I installed **Bodmin** NuPulse milkers with separate vacuum and milk lines, I only have to make adjustments 6 to 8 times per milking. Udder health is improved due to lower vacuum level. Lower somatic cell and bacteria counts have also resulted. Milking time is about the same or faster."

**Jake Humphries, Klondike, Tex.:** Jake lists his 1983 **Chevrolet** 1-ton, 4-speed, 350 cu. in. engine pickup as best buy. "I've had excellent service. I'm pleased with the way it handles my 32-ft. trailer. I installed a 2XT double-torque 2-speed overdrive that works well. The only thing I'd change would be to use 456 gears instead of 410."

**Wayne M. Drabic, Westminster, Md.:** "I purchased my first **Morton** building in 1976 and was well-pleased with the quality of material and building design. I was also happy with the foreman and crew that built it, so I've since purchased a second Morton, a 27 by 45-ft. open front livestock building."

**Garry Scarfe, Fort Vermilion, Alb.:** "The pickup has lower than advertised fuel consumption, handles very well and can carry a good load with no problems," says Garry about his F-150 4-WD **Ford**.

**Albert Heiser, Vesper, Wis.:** "My 520 **Jonsred** chainsaw starts good and is easy to handle. I'm also pleased with my **Kverneland** plow. It pulls easy and turns corn stalks under very well."

"Another best buy is my **Same** tractor. Easy on fuel, runs well and easily

maneuvers through wet fields."

**Mark Kurtz, Womesldorf, Penn.:** "Our Uni-System machines from New Idea are excellent, but we're not too happy with the **Allis Chalmers** engines that power them. At 2,300 hours, the crankshaft broke on our 709. When the dealer repaired it he said it was a factory defect from Allis Chalmers. We traded the 709 for a newer model 802. At 2,000 hours we had to replace the head gasket, repair the fuel pump, replace the rear engine oil seal and work on the injectors and valves. The company wouldn't cover any costs."

Mark nominates his **Deere** 4050 tractor as "best buy." "We're pleased with the tractor's all-around performance, especially the front-wheel drive. With no liquid in the tires, it has less soil compaction than other similar size tractors but lots more traction. The 15-speed Power Shift transmission is also a big plus when doing field work."

**Don Keiper, Palo, Iowa:** "I can see why **Massey Ferguson** is in trouble when they build such poor equipment. I owned my 750 combine for five years and it never made it through a season without major trouble."

"I traded it for an **International** 1460 combine that's a pleasure to operate. Very quiet in the cab and it does an excellent job in corn and beans. I had some trouble with the cornhead gearboxes, but IH stood behind their product. I'm very satisfied."

**Dan Steffen, Benson, Ill.:** "If I told you everything that went wrong with this combine, your magazine would be as thick as a Sears catalog," says Dan about his 550 **Massey Ferguson** combine. "I've owned four Massey combines. The first 550 I bought was a disaster. For three weeks straight in the fall, I never had one day without a breakdown. The company put out very little effort to check the problems. The dealer went out of business and I started doing business with another Massey dealer. He seemed to have all the right answers so I traded in my old 550 for a new one. I still wonder to this day how he talked me into another 550. However, this one has been excellent."

**"For three weeks straight in the fall, I never had one day without a breakdown."**

**Allen Imhoff, West Salem, Ohio:** "Ag Bags give us versatile, unlimited sealed storage. We've increased production and animal health and use less feed. The bagger allows us to put up feed whenever and wherever we want. We're also able to put up haylage at 70% moisture and still have

top quality feed, which helps us beat the weather, and gets the hay off when it's ready to be made. We also found that the company really stands behind their product," says Allen pleased with his **G200 Ag Bag** silage bagger.

"Another best buy is our **Deere** 1209 haybine with non-clog guards. We've used it several years with few problems. It really mows through bunches of hay or manure that may be in the field without plugging."

However, he's had problems with his **Deere** 950 12-ft. culti-mulcher. "The front gang shaft that supports the front set of rollers is constantly breaking. We had new shafts made up at machine shops and replaced them with Deere's replacement but still have problems."

**Dennis Hjelle, Newfolden, Minn.:** "I'm pleased with **Control Inc.**'s field monitoring services. Their professional agronomists check your fields for disease and insect conditions weekly, saving you money by advising against chemical application when not needed and making you extra money when finding a harmful condition you weren't aware of."

Dennis notes that he's always been pleased with the fuel economy of **Allis Chalmers** tractors. "But, I've had some bad transmission problems with my 190 XT and 200. You just keep on fixing them. The dealer has done his best."

**Jerry Darling, Perry, Mich.:** "I installed a **Fish** carburetor on a Ford 350, V-8 engine and found it to be extremely touchy to adjust and the engine very hard to start on cool mornings. When the carburetor was adjusted for economy the truck wouldn't go. When adjusted for power, mileage was terrible — no better than with a standard carburetor. We returned the carburetor under the 90-day refund program. Seven months later we still haven't received a refund."

**S.R. Manypenny, Beloit, Ohio:** "It's on its fifth set of tires and it runs like a top," says S.R., pleased with his 1962 D-14 **Allis Chalmers** tractor.

**Charles Woiczehowski, Bath, N.Y.:** "I sometimes wonder how we ever got by without it. It works better than a horse to chase animals. It also saves lots of time and fuel when we break down in a distant field. I pull it to the field behind the implement I'm using," says Charles pleased with his "best buy" Big Red **Honda** 3-wheeler.

**Alan P. Danbom, Hemingford, Neb.:** Alan's happy with his **Rear's** "pultank" field sprayer made in Eugene, Ore. "It's designed with the strength to meet the demands of a modern farm. Calibration is simple and accurate. The 100-ft. booms float without any variance in height."

**Ed Venner, Manning, Iowa:** "My 1983 **Chevrolet** diesel 4-WD is the worst pickup I've ever owned. General Motors will not do anything to correct its problems. Before this 1983, I owned four other 4-WD Chevrolets. All were bought new and gave good service with no trouble."

**John W. Ward, Trobisher, Sask.:** "I have a 1980 **Chrysler** Newport which runs great but has a very poor paint job and parts that get dull and can't be

shined up. I have an older 1968 that still has a better paint job and looks better than this newer model."

"I also have a 1975 **Steiger** Bearcat II. Its 3208 Caterpillar motor went out at 800 hrs. caused by a rubber hose on top of the tappet cover that got a hole in it. Now I replace this hose every year regardless of its condition. Also, the gears in the wheels went out last summer and it took 43 days to get replacement parts up to us here in Canada. Can't afford this kind of service."

**Wayne Hofer, Dolton, S. Dak.:** Wayne's happy with his television satellite receiver dish from **Automation Techniques**, a model GLR 560 with a 10½-ft. Hastings aluminum dish and a Hytek programmable antennae control. "I bought this system last spring and have been very pleased with it. It gets more than 80 channels plus many radio stations."

**Howard Colclasure, Farina, Ill.:** "My most recent best buy is a Pony

**"Does a perfect job and is very dependable."**

model **Troy-bilt** garden tiller with electric start. This tiller does everything the company claimed it would do and is very easy to handle. Does a perfect job and is very dependable. Company is also reliable and interested in their customers.

"My worst buy is a new 1983 **Ford** Ranger pickup with 2-WD and automatic transmission. I traded in a 1978 pickup for the truck. I was assured I'd get 26 mpg and plenty of power but it turned out to be a real lemon getting barely 16 mpg and it didn't have as much power as the Toyota. I took it back to the dealer so many times it was embarrassing and most of the time it was in worse condition when I left the agency than before I took it in. Six months later I traded it off for a 1983 Toyota. The Toyota is perfect in every way, with more power and much quieter operation."

**Glenn Busenitz, Roanoke, Ill.:** He's pleased with his **Massey Ferguson** 2805 tractor. "It's really a pleasure to drive and I've had no problems with it. Fuel consumption seems to be rather high unless we run it at 2,000 rpm's."

**Dennis Hupe, Perry Kan.:** "Our **Parker** 4500 grain cart is well-built to withstand bouncing and jarring when crossing fields to unload the combine."

**Ronnie Waterman, Kohoka, Mo.:** He names his **Makita** 2414 cutoff saw for metal as "best buy." "It cuts very well and is great for cutting pipe and channel iron. It leaves smooth edges and makes ends fit close together for easy welding. Saves lots of time."

**Richard Cronk, Harlem, Mont.:** "New **Holland's** 855 round baler is a high-capacity machine that makes dense round bales in alfalfa, grass hay, or straw. It was delivered ready to bale and hasn't needed any repairs."