

Best And Worst Buys

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know why Massey took three steps backward. Instead of a reliable fool-proof set-up, we now have sprockets to change on the clutch shaft, the jack shaft, the input shaft, the output shaft, and the seed shaft. This is an excellent piece of equipment but those drives are something else."

Lowell T. Merrill, Grantsville, Md.: He nominates his 6600 Deere sidehill combine as "best buy". "I can operate the combine day after day with a minimal amount of down time. The sidehill is a real grain saver on hills in this area."

James A. Wheeler, Norborne, Mo.: "This machine makes ultra low volume application a breeze," says James, happy with his **Spray Ram Hy-Boy** sprayer. "It's equipped with a 4-WD Mud Hog drive for wet conditions. Hydrostatic drive makes driving it a pleasure. Solenoid actuated valves, programmable monitor, and a rate controller aid greatly in simplicity and accuracy of operation. The 6-way seat with driver weight adjustment takes out the bumps nicely. At first, I was critical of the Volkswagen power plant but, after a season of use on over 2,000 acres, I have no complaints."

Wayne Henke, Elsberry, Mo.: "This tractor does everything it's supposed to do and has plenty of power. The best part is the dealer service, which is excellent," says Wayne about his "best buy" **Ford TW30** tractor.

He had trouble, though, with **Anchor** ear tags for cattle. "Three-fourths of the tags broke off just below the pin in the ear. In their ads, the company said the cattle would gain more because the tags would prevent flies. The company reimbursed us for the cost of the tags but nothing for the lost gains."

Brian Roe, Maquoketa, Iowa: He's pleased with both his **International 496** 19-ft. Flexwing disk with 9-in. spacing and his **International 684** tractor with front-end loader. "The disk pulls fairly easily and does a nice level job, especially through dips and hollows where the wings will flex up or down to allow for uneven ground. The tractor handles well and has plenty of power. The quick-attach loader goes on or off in minutes."

Gordon Vass, Goltry, Okla.: "In 1981 I bought an electric horn gate made by **Acme Manufacturing Co.**, Filer, Idaho. In May, 1983 the horn sensor stopped working. I sent the mechanism back to the manufacturer. I got very prompt service and was informed that I could purchase an update kit for the gate. The new kit greatly improved the gate's closing ability, especially in strong winds. It also eliminated the need for an air tank. The gate is now more reliable and requires less maintenance."

Frank Roberson, Millville, Minn.: His "best buy" is his **Ford** diesel ¾-ton pickup. "We do a lot of hauling and it performs extremely well. We

haul round balers from Iowa and you can hardly tell that you're towing anything. It's good on fuel. We've only had a few minor problems. We had a problem with the emergency brake but that was taken care of. It has so much power it's almost unbelievable."

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Neil Bateman, Mansfield, Ill.: "My best buys have been my **Deere 4630** and **4230** tractors. Outside of routine maintenance, the only thing I have had to replace is an injector line and two alternators in over 3,000 hours of work."

Myron A. Gocke, Waco, Neb.: He's pleased with his **Honda "Big Red"** 3-wheeler. "We use it every day to haul feed or straw bales, irrigating, checking cattle and all other kinds of errands. We've used it for a year with virtually no expense. I'm sure we would be surprised at the miles we have on it if it had an odometer. It's very economical to operate."

Vern Smith, Becker, Minn.: He lists his **6450 Hesston** windrower with auger and draper heads as both his best and worst buy. "It's an excellent running machine and, with the auger head, you can really cut a field of alfalfa in a hurry. The draper head works well in oats. However, it has the hottest cab I've ever ridden in. The air intake is in the rear, over the engine and it blows on the back of the seat. Not one breath of air hits the operator. Only one window opens. On a hot day, you could die of heat stroke."

Stephen Harlow, Gainesville, Tex.: "My **International 55** 3-pt. 13-shank chisel plow is a best buy. It pulls straight and level and leaves the ground loose and even. My **New Holland 1114** self-propelled windrower is also a best buy. It handles well, and the cab and air conditioner are great. It does a nice job of cutting hay and grain. Workmanship and quality are very good. My **8300 Deere** grain drill with 26 double disk openers and press wheels, produces excellent stands of grain and hay. The 36-bu. box and 13-ft. working width cover a lot of ground."

"One bad buy was a **Modern** brand pasture mower. The blades are flat and don't lift up grass and weeds that the tractor tires run over, which results in streaks."

Winton Simon, Quicksburg, Va.: "The worst buy I made in the past year was a 1983 6.2 diesel **Chevrolet** pickup. The gears are geared too fast to pull anything and the dealer doesn't provide service."

Karl Koch, Cadet, Mo.: He nominates his **Ford 3600** diesel tractor with a **Bushhog QT 2400** loader as

"best buy". "It's very versatile, has plenty of power, controls are easy to reach, it's great for smaller jobs, and it's a pleasure to operate."

Robert Bell, Hamiota, Man.: My "best buy" of all time was a **Massey Super 27** combine. "My Grandpa bought it in 1952 and it has never missed a crop since. It still has the original engine with no major repairs. The only things needed are the occasional bearings, belts or pulleys."

Allan Thomas, Turon, Kan.: He's had good luck with his **Stihl** gasoline-powered weed and brush cutter. "It does a beautiful job on weeds and small brush, and its operating range isn't limited to the length of an extension cord. It cuts off plum bushes and multi-flora rose with ease."

Ronald McCoy, Crookston, Neb.: "My best buys for 1983 are two **Ford F-250 4-WD** diesel pickups with 4-speed transmissions. We pull heavy trailer loads down the road with up to 28,000 lbs. and get 14.5 mpg. When empty, I get 21.1 mpg. We have over 12,000 miles on both. They're virtually trouble free, start good, ride nice and the synchronized 4-speed shifts beautifully. After owning a 1981 **F-350 Ford** I never thought I'd ever own another **Ford**, but they really put these pickups together well."

Jim Lacey, Dell Rapids, S. Dak.: "I have to defend **Chevrolet's** 6.2 liter diesel pickups. We own three of them," says Jim. "We have two ¾-ton 4-WD models and one ½-ton 2-WD. The smaller model is just a basic pickup. However, we turned the two big ones into trucks by putting in torque splitting transmissions that give their 4-speed transmissions 8 speeds. I think many of these engines have been damaged by operators who lug them under heavy loads. We have had minor problems but our dealer has fixed them. The three pickups have over 100,000 total miles. Average mileage is 17 to 19 mpg."

Harold Beach, Leonard, Mo.: "I could probably plow with this truck if it had a 3-pt. hitch," says Harold about his "best buy" **F-250 Ford 4-WD 6.9** liter diesel pickup with 4-speed transmission. "The engine has worlds of power. I get 14 to 16 mpg just driving locally with lots of starts and stops. The truck is well-built and handles and drives great. The only bad thing about the truck is the price but, after driving it 6 months, I've gotten over that."

Thomas D. Figi, Browntown, Wis.: "My worst buy is a **Barcol** overhead door purchased from **Madison Overhead Door Company** in 1981," says Thomas. "The door comes with a coat of paint on it but you are to cover it within 30 days with a second coat of oil base paint. The door completely warped in every section. We purchased two doors, one 16-ft. wide by 14-ft. high and another 8 ft. by 10 ft. high. We had no trouble with the small door."

"Another worst buy is our **Ritchie** hog waterers. They just don't seem to be able to take the abuse hogs give them."

"Our **DeLaval** pipeline milking

system and automatic washer is a best buy. We've had it since 1977 and it does a wonderful job of milking with a minimum of expense. We really think a lot of it. It makes milking much easier."

Gregg Williams, Lancaster, Penn.: "My worst buy is a 1982 **Chevrolet Camaro** with a V-6 2.8 liter gas engine. During the engine warm-up period the engine backfires through the carburetor, stalls when pulling away from a dead stop and hesitates until the engine is warmed up. The car has been in the shop seven different times and I just made an appointment for the eighth. GM personnel have worked with the dealership but have been unable to correct the problem. The warranty just expired. The car has approximately 9,500 miles on it. I can't say anything good about the performance of this lemon."

Duane Lennon, Owatonna, Minn.: "Milking is faster and easier and it works great due to the fine equipment and excellent installation by the dealer," says Duane, pleased with his new "best buy" **Surge** pipeline milking system.

Daryl Alger, Palmyra, Penn.: "Our best buy has been our **International 1460** rotary combine. It has excellent capacity, turns out a superb grain sample and is very simple to service. We're also well pleased with our two **Krause** disk harrows. They do a real good job of cutting and leave the ground level for planter or drill."

Miron Ackley, Marble Rock, Iowa: He likes his **Case 885** utility 3-cyl. diesel tractor equipped with a **Case 55** loader. "This tractor has lots of power for its size with real powerful hydraulics. It is also economical on diesel fuel. The only problem has been a burned out alternator."

James Wall, Hillman, Minn.: "The phone lets you make and receive calls up to about 750 ft. from your base unit. You can get a ring further away," says James, pleased with his "best buy" **Freedom Phone 550**.

Robert Gotzman, Ellsworth, Wis.: "I consider my **Snapper** riding lawn mower to be one of the world's worst buys," says Robert. "You can't mow

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your lawn decently because, if the mower is not scalping clean across the cut, it gouges on one side or the other. That's because the cutting deck is suspended from the mower itself and does not have slides or wheels to prevent it from gouging. Whenever a wheel hits a low spot, it digs in."

B.B. Jones, Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island: "Though I encountered some tying problems initially, the dealer I purchased the baler from was right on the job. The baler has since given perfect satisfaction. I recently baled 1,200 plus bales in one session without a single miss or mis-