

have to make many adjustments to it when switching crops. The Cummins engine has adequate power. The company's new 2000 series combines have power brakes and improvements made to the cab, which I think were needed. I use a model 983 corn head on it. It's an older model but I like it because it's aggressive and trouble-free. I use an 820 flex head in beans. It works alright but I'm sure the company's new heads work better. I installed a new-style cleaning fan and really like it. It increases the air flow under the sieves and makes the air flow more uniform. I also used the fan on my 1480 model which I owned before."

John Hohmann, Pataskala, Ohio: John likes his **E-Z Trail** self-loading basket wagons for small square bales that eliminate the need for a bale thrower (E-Z Trail, Inc., R. 133, P.O. Box 168, Arthur, Ill. 61911). Bales are pushed up an angled chute and gravity-unload through a rear gate. "The bales unload in seconds with no need for extra help so they're real labor savers. It really helps me out because my adult kids are rarely able to help me bale hay any more. We use the wagons to make 4,000 to 7,000 bales every year for the local horse market and for our own livestock. Our hay baskets are safe - no chance for anyone to fall off a wagon - and simply designed - no 'bale kicker' mechanisms to wear out - way to get our crop gathered up."

Peter Postl, Brucefield, Ontario: "I like my 1993 **Gehl MS 325** manure spreader. It's equipped with a hydraulic apron drive which is a feature I wouldn't be without."

Frank Stehno, Stratton, Neb.: Frank's had problems with his 1992 **Ford F-150**

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pickup. "The door handles and electronic door locks on it are a joke. The problem is that a part on the handle wears out, allowing the handle to break away from the door. In order to replace the part I have to replace the entire door latch mechanism. The electronic door locks quit working a long time ago. The dealer says new parts would cost \$116. The clutch pedal is another problem. Due to wear I can't push the pedal down far enough in order to start the pickup. I had to replace the clutch before the pickup had 50,000 miles on it. I replaced the muffler and exhaust pipe even earlier."

Ardell Amundson, Dovray, Minn.: "We like our **New Holland 499** Haybine. No problems after three years."

Steve Matthews, Berthoud, Colo.: "My best buy is my 1996 **MigMaster 250** wire feed welder. It's made in the U.S. and is less expensive than the big name models, yet it does twice as good a job. I can use it on everything from heavy to light metals."

Jim Guthrie, Lindale, Texas: "Our 1994 **Kawasaki** Mule ATV is one of the best pieces of farm equipment we own. We use it continuously to feed cows, check fences, carry tools, etc. It's reliable and economical to operate, and the posi-traction rear axle lets me go almost anywhere in all kinds of weather. It feels like it has enough power to climb a tree."

Robert F. Pardoe, Jr., Milton, Penn.: "My 1996 **Deere 1600A** mower-conditioner handles nice and leaves a uniform swath.

No problems so far."

James E. Greuel, Trilla, Ill.: A 1991 **New Holland TR86** combine equipped with rear wheel assist rates as James's "best buy". "I use it in a variety of crops including wheat, corn, soybeans, and buckwheat. The 7.8-liter 6-cyl. engine has a lot of power. The combine has twin rotors and a grain pan under them which, along with a straight-out grain auger, results in excellent grain quality. That's especially important to me because I grow soybeans for seed. It turns short and the hydraulics, controls, cab comfort, and visibility are excellent. Last year most of my buckwheat was wet and green at harvest and a lot of the soybeans were short, but I didn't have any problems. I had to use the feederhouse reverser only once in about 130 hours of operation. It also did a nice job shelling corn with minimum loss. Corn quality was excellent."

"I use a **New Holland 973** 20-ft. grain platform and a 6-row **Deere** corn head with the combine. The grain platform is one of the best on the market today. The lateral float feature works great. The machine is easy to service and repair and is also easy on fuel. I recommend using a chaff spreader with the combine."

Pete Gilliland, Ludlow, Mo.: "Our 1996 **International 8465** round baler is easy to operate and maintain and is a joy to use in any kind of hay or straw. We made about 650 bales with it last year. I really like the baler monitor."

"My 1972 **International 666** tractor equipped with a diesel engine is a best buy. The engine has never been touched and can go for days on a tank of fuel. We use the tractor to do a lot of different jobs including chores around our feedlot. Too bad the company doesn't go back to making a simple tractor. I don't need a lot of bells and whistles on a chore tractor."

"All of our **International Axial Flow** combines are best buys. We've owned two 1460's, a 1660, and a 1680 with no problems on any of them."

Reginald E. Wilson, North Gower, Ontario: "I sold my **Case-IH 7110** 4-WD tractor to get rid of the payments and then I fixed up my **Oliver 1855** tractor with a new engine, radial tires, and lights. I also mounted a **White 105** cab on it. I'm very happy with it. It's doing the same work we did with the 7110."

"My 1984 **Deere 6620** combine is my worst buy. Last year the rubber drain line at the bottom of the oil filter blew out, causing the engine to lose oil. We had to make repairs, including installation of a new crankshaft. The company should have used steel-braided line instead of rubber."

Leonard J. Arenz, Streator, Ill.: Leonard's had problems with his 1980 **Chevrolet K-20** 4-WD pickup. "I've replaced everything on it except for the paint, but the pickup still causes me a lot of trouble. I've replaced the engine three times, the transmission twice, and the transfer case. It now has a factory-rebuilt engine that uses about a quart of oil every 100 miles. I'll never buy a GM product again."

"I'm also not happy with my **Deere 7000** planter. It works okay but not like I expected. To get adequate performance I've had to install a lot of 'kits' on it. It's an expensive planter to operate."

Dave Pohlmann, Deshler, Neb.: "I like the trailer I bought from **Deere** last year to pull behind my 4-wheel ATV. I use it to do chores in the mornings and to pick up leaves and sticks around my yard."

"My worst buy is a 1993 **Pride of Ply-**

mouth feedbunk. There's no place for water to drain out and calves can move it around too easily."

Ralph Hinz, Burr, Sask.: "Our 1995 **GM** extended cab 4-WD pickup starts poor, is hard on fuel, and shifts hard. One time it stopped on the road for no apparent reason. The 4-WD never has worked, even after it was repaired."

"Our **Gleaner R62** combine is underpowered and has weak concaves and a poor stone trap."

Terry Cofer, Searcy, Ark.: "My best buys are my **Comtronix FM 2-way** programmable radios. The programmable feature allows me to pick up the weather channels or my neighbor's frequency as well."

"These radios don't cost as much as the fancy brands but are built just as tough."

These radios are real time and money savers. They don't cost as much as the fancy brands but are built just as tough."

"My worst buy is **Ag Bag** silage inoculant. The company said the inoculant would make good silage even better. However, after I used it on my silage I found moldy chunks as big as basketballs all throughout the bags. I've been custom bagging silage for fourteen years and have never seen this happen before. The company didn't know what caused the problem and didn't seem to care."

Paul Ervin Cherrington, Jr., Oak Hill, Ohio: Paul's disappointed with his 1995 **Chevrolet 2500** 4-WD pickup. "My troubles started immediately with the brakes and wheel hubs - they've been turned or replaced numerous times. The pickup has only about 24,000 miles but is already on its fourth set of shocks. An ignition wire burned out while I was driving which left me stranded on the road. However, the worst problem is with the brakes. Occasionally in wet weather one of the front brakes locks which causes the pickup to pull drastically to one side. I've had one wreck and several near-misses. The company still insists that they can fix these problems."

Ron Myers, Minot, N. Dak.: "My 1992 **Dodge Ram 250** pickup equipped with a diesel engine and 5-speed transmission is my best buy. It has a lot of power and is easy on fuel. It's the best-starting diesel pickup I've ever had. No problems after 75,000 miles."

John Steinberger, Kenmare, N. Dak.: "I like the **Gen** replacement points that I installed on my **Case-IH 8500** air seeder (Gen Mfg., Coaldale, Alberta, Canada). One of the points that rode in a wheel track lasted over 5,000 acres. The points form trenches which allow the seed to always be placed in moist soil."

Clark Dysle, Scio, Ore.: "I installed a **Caterpillar 1160 V-8**, 225 hp remanufactured engine in my 10-year dump truck. It starts easy, has a lot of power, is fuel efficient, and easy to maintain."

"My 1987 **Ford F-250** pickup equipped with a diesel engine is my worst buy. The pickup runs good but has a hydraulic clutch that's poorly engineered. The master and slave cylinders are made from plastic and wear out about every 50,000 miles. It costs about \$200 to replace them. Perhaps a system could be designed that uses hydraulic pressure from the power steering system."

Why not go back to metal cylinders with stainless steel liners?"

W. Gene Davis, Broadway, Va.: "My 1996 **Vermeer 504** round baler makes nice, tight bales that are easy to load and haul on the highway. I've used it to make about 1,000 bales with only minor problems that were easily corrected."

Marlin Martin, Penn Yan, N.Y.: A **Woodmaster** outdoor wood-burning furnace rates as Marlin's "best buy" (Northwest Mfg. Co., Box 124, Red Lake Falls, Minn. 56750 ph 218 253-4328). "We kept hearing news reports about house fires that were caused by faulty wood stoves or chimneys, and the chimneys in our house were old so we finally decided to invest in an outdoor furnace. No more ashes, dirt, or fires to worry about. We fill the furnace once a day with 4-ft. or longer wood chunks. Heated water runs through underground pipes from the furnace to three different buildings. The pipes can be connected to an existing hot water system or to a forced air furnace. I liked it so much I became a dealer and will gladly mail free brochures to anyone who's interested (4076 Taylor Rd., Penn Yan, N.Y. 14527)."

Robert Legler, Vernon, N.Y.: Robert nominates his 1990 **Kubota L2850** 4-WD tractor equipped with a diesel engine as his "best buy". "It does every job flawlessly and has needed only minimal repairs. I just turn the key and it's ready to go to work."

Pat Robert, Dillon, Mont.: "My 1994 pickup-mounted **Hydrobale** has been completely trouble-free (Triple C Mfg., Rt. 4, Box 4A, Sabetha, Kan. 66534). I can pick up and haul two round bales at a time and then pull a horse trailer with no changeover whatsoever."

"The **StockDoctor** I bought in 1994 is my worst buy. It consists of a syringe connected to a pole by a retractable tether line. After you inject the animal you use the retractable line to retrieve the syringe. The problem is that it's not easy to sneak up on the animal and inject the syringe, and even when you do, the medication will only get into the animal about half the time. The rest of the time it drops onto the ground."

Werner Harrsch, Clyde, N.Y.: A 1994 **Claas Rollant 46** round baler equipped with net wrap and a front-mounted "Rotocut" chopper is Werner's "best buy". "I've used it in my custom baling business to make about 8,000 bales, many of them silage bales."

Bill Race, Crook, Colo.: "My **Deere 3-pt.** quick hitch saves a lot of time hooking up implements and is safe to use. It eliminates the need for my wife to help me hook up implements."

"My **Deere 2280** self-propelled swather is my worst buy. It was in the shop for repairs two summers in a row. We had to spend about \$10,000 on repairs which is about as much as we originally paid for it. All the downtime we had last summer put us way behind schedule. At one point our frustrated Deere repairman discovered that there were three 2280's in shops along the I-80 interstate highway in our area."

Leland R. Gappmayer, Spanish Fork, Utah: Leland nominates his 1995 **Chevrolet** pickup equipped with a diesel engine as his "best buy". "It's easy on fuel and has a lot of power. I've owned both Chevrolets and Fords over the years, but this one is the best ever. Another advantage is that Chevrolet pickups have great trade-in value."

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