

both irrigated and ridge-till fields. We band our herbicides and let the cultivator eat the weeds between the rows."

On the "worst buy" side, he lists his **AGCO-Allis 9815** tractor. "It's cumbersome to use in the field because it has about a 40-ft. turning radius. The air conditioner leaks moisture onto my right shoulder. This tractor has a lot of power and an excellent powershift transmission. However, the cab is small and cramped and the hydraulic controls are placed in an awkward position."

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**Chris Palmer, Enumclaw, Wash.:** "My best buy of all time is my 1962 **Massey-Ferguson 65** tractor equipped with a front-end loader. It's small but it has a lot of power for doing chores around our barns. The big loader really works great for doing odd jobs. It uses 6 gal. of fuel per day. At 52 hp this tractor is the minimum size for doing major field work."

**Allen Reimer, Capron, Ill.:** "I'm well satisfied with my 1995 **Deere 7600** tractor. It's been trouble-free so far. It has a lot of power and handles well. My only complaint is that it could be priced lower. I mounted front fenders made by **M & D Products** on it and am very satisfied with them (Midwest Fender & Supply, Inc., 104 Main St., Schaller, Iowa 51053 ph 712 275-9910)."

**Andy R. Hodges, Galax, Va.:** Andy's a farm machinery mechanic so his "best buy" 1996 **Black & Decker 3/8-in.** drill gets a lot of use. "I really like it. It's lightweight and fits comfortably in my hand. I've also used the company's 3/4-in. and 1/2-in. drills for years with no problems."

**Tom Graham, Henderson, Minn.:** Tom likes "Color Back" paint renewer sold by **Apollo Sales & Service, Inc.** (P.O. Box 113, Bismarck, N. Dak. 58502 ph 800 283-4521; in Canada Apollo Distributing Corp., Box 528, White City, Sask. S0G 5B0 ph 306 781-2644). The clear liquid brings faded paint back to original luster in minutes. It can be used on metal, fiberglass, aluminum, rubber, vinyl, or canvas. It leaves a hard, glossy finish that will keep a new look for two years or longer. "I first saw the product in **FARM SHOW** (Vol. 13, No. 5). It works almost like magic. I use it on old trucks, cars, and tractors. If there's any paint left on a machine this product will bring back the original shine immediately. No polishing or buffing is necessary. All you have to do is spray it onto a clean surface."

**Dave Aspegren, Harvard, Neb.:** "It's been 13 years since I bought my **Deere 55V** chain saw (made by Echo) equipped with a 20-in. bar, and to this day it still starts on the first or second pull. Hands down, it's my best buy ever."

**Don Booth, Leoville, Sask.:** A 1994 **GM 4-WD** extended cab pickup rates as Don's "best buy". "No problems except for two recalls for minor problems. It rides like a car and gets a respectable 17 to 20 mpg."

**Marshall Forren, Marshall, Ill.:** Marshall's the satisfied owner of a 1992 **Dodge Ram 150 1/2-ton** pickup. "It's always ready to work. It starts and runs good and the 318 cu. in. engine doesn't use any oil. It has 49,000 miles."

**David M. Munson, Jr., Paris, Texas:** "I like my 1993 **Case-IH 5130 4-WD** trac-

tor which is equipped with a powershift shuttle transmission. It has enough traction to climb a 45 degree slope up silage in our silo bunker. I mounted a **Great Bend** loader and grapple fork on it and really like them."

**Mark Busscher, Zealand, Mich.:** Mark says his 1986 **Long 610 4-WD** tractor is neither a "best" nor a "worst" buy. "It does everything I ask it to do and with 4-WD it doesn't get stuck. However, the transmission isn't geared right. The high gears go too fast and the low gears go too slow. The hydraulic system works good but is very slow. It also should have an air ride seat. The original seat was so weak that I got a sore back. I replaced it with a seat that I bought for \$100 from our TSC store."

**James Perley, Little Sioux, Iowa:** James is the owner of a 1991 **Ford Escort** station wagon. "It's not a luxury car, but it provides good, economical transportation. It's fuel efficient which I like because my wife drives it every day to work and we use it on long vacation trips. It has enough luggage space for a family with two teenagers. We've used it to haul up to 20 seed bags and also to haul machinery parts. It has over 100,000 miles on it but still doesn't use much oil and starts right up even when it's 15 degrees below zero. Its main weakness is that the door latches tend to break unless we oil them regularly."

**Lorenzo G. Ball, Bonduel, Wis.:** Lorenzo's happy with his 1995 **Mercury Grand Marquis** which is equipped with a trailer towing package. "I love this car. It gets 25 mpg and has automatic temperature control, a lot of power, and good brakes. I think it's the best car one could buy at any price."

**Eldon L. Miller, Adrian, Mich.:** Eldon likes his 1988 **Chevrolet** extended cab 4-WD pickup equipped with a 350 cu. in. V-8 gas engine but has nevertheless had some problems with it. "It has over 200,000 miles on it without an overhaul and still has the original clutch and pressure throwout bearing. It gets about 20 mpg. However, the body has rusted away and the turn signals work only when they want to. The company made a big mistake when they stopped making this pickup with a straight front axle and replaced it with a car-style front "A" frame. I've had to have the front end aligned 39 times and replace three axle boot covers and a lot of wheel bearings. The on-the-go system for shifting to 4-WD is a joke. I have to drive one mile before I can lock the wheels in or out."

**Robert Schultz, Columbus, Kan.:** "My 1966 **Deere 4020** tractor is not necessarily my best buy, but it's the closest to my heart. It was my main tractor for many years. It has been semi-retired for quite a few years although I still use it for loader work almost every day. It's the only piece of machinery I ever bought that increased in value after I bought it."

**Robert Bach, Barriere, B.C.:** "My **Stihl 026** chain saw is my best buy. It's very dependable and always starts even at temperatures down to 30 degrees below zero. It's lightweight and has a lot of power for its size. It has the best chain tightening system of any saw on the market and the air cleaner is easy to service."

**John Jaffary, Lacombe, Alberta:** "I'm completely satisfied with my 1994 **Deere 7800 MFW**D tractor equipped with a 19-speed powershift transmission. I use it winter and summer for both pto and field work. It's a lot easier to service than the **Deere 4450** model that I traded in for it."

**Robert Hauswirth, Calgary, Alberta:**

"My **Homelite** string trimmer starts well and does an excellent job. It has a lot of power."

**Randy Brown, Hanford, Calif.:** "Our 1995 **White 6195** mechanical front wheel assist tractor handles great and the powershift transmission works flawlessly. The 200 hp Cummins engine is exceptionally easy on fuel. After 2,000 hours we haven't had a single problem."

**Jim Johnson, Cologne, Minn.:** Jim's owned 1993 and 1995 **Chevrolet Astro 4-WD** vans in the past and liked them. Now he says he's also impressed with his 1997 model. "They're superior vehicles to the 15 cars and seven pickups we owned previously. They ride like luxury cars and pull like tractors. They go through more snow than 4-WD pickups and cost \$10,000 less than Chevrolet Suburbans. I don't know why everyone doesn't drive one."

**Frank Aylward, Ruthilda, Sask.:** "Our best buy is our 1995 **Honey Bee SP36 36-ft.** header (fitted with a 112 pickup reel) which we mounted on our **Deere 9600** combine. It's easy to operate even in hilly, rough fields and adds many acres and bushels to the capacity of our combine. It's exceptionally well designed and built. Also, it's easy to take off for transport."

**Keith Kelley, Baxter Springs, Kan.:** "I'm well pleased with my 1997 **Ford F-150 4-WD** pickup equipped with a 4.6-liter V-8 gas engine. It gets 16 to 18 mpg and rides and handles like a car."

"I also like my 1994 **Deere 4760 MFW**D tractor. It handles well and is fuel efficient."

**Arthur Middleton, St. Claude, Manitoba:** "My **Kubota 199** tractor is equipped with **Farm King** attachments. It's a good tractor that's reasonably priced."

**R.C. Schlatter, Hutchinson, Kan.:** "My 1995 **Chevrolet S-10** pickup equipped with a 4-cyl. engine is neither a best nor a worst buy. Sometimes the engine will idle at a high 2,800 rpm's and won't drop back to normal idle speed until I start driving. I often have to drive at least 10 miles before it works properly. Another problem is that the engine makes a peculiar rattling sound whenever it operates at a certain rpm. The dealer hasn't been able to find out why it idles fast and the company won't help. The pickup does have a very comfortable cab and excellent fuel economy."

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**Caswell Booe, Yadkinville, N.C.:** Caswell's "worst buy" is his **Homelite** pump equipped with a Briggs & Stratton gas engine. "It's a simple and inexpensive piece of equipment but it has caused me a great deal of trouble. I bought it new from a local dealer intending to use it as a spare. About a year later I wanted to use it but it wouldn't start so I sent it to the shop for a tune-up. I was told that something was wrong with the head but that they couldn't determine exactly what. I've taken it to several certified Briggs & Stratton mechanics. All of them have been unable to diagnose the problem. In four years no one has been able to get it to run long enough to burn the paint off the muffler."

**Alden P. Vincent, Nashville, Mich.:** "My worst buy over the last few years are **Excide 1000** batteries. I bought a half dozen

of them and put them in all my vehicles and every one has gone bad."

**Howard Woehrer, Centertown, Mo.:** "My 1987 **Deutz-Allis 7120** front wheel assist tractor has a lot of power, a nice cab, and is easy on fuel. The front wheel assist is well worth the extra cost."

"My 1991 **Dodge D250** pickup equipped with a Cummins diesel engine is fuel efficient and has a lot of power. The Cummins diesel is the best starting engine I've ever owned. It always starts, even in cold weather."

**Terry Darnell, Thorntown, Ind.:** "It's the best tractor I've ever owned," says Terry, happy with his 1996 **Deere 8200**. "It's a pleasure to operate and has a quiet, roomy cab with a great view. The engine has a lot of torque and is fuel efficient. The transmission shifts a little rough in 13th gear but the working gears shift smooth. Deere has updated the transmission and I'm sure they'll get this problem solved. My wife operates this tractor and also likes it."

**Dennis A. Klahr, Holton, Kan.:** Dennis nominates his 1978 **White 2-135** tractor as his "best buy". "I bought it used in 1982 with 1,500 hours on it. It now has 4,900 hours and has never been touched except for the rear seal in the pto housing. It drives comfortably and the cab offers a good view. It has a lot of power and the weight seems to be distributed just right for maximum traction - there's no need to add weights. My only complaint is that when I work it hard it uses a lot of fuel."

**Wes Suddarth, Lebanon, Tenn.:** "I bought a new **Deere 720** front-end loader for my **Deere 4020** tractor and am well satisfied with its performance and ease of operation. I bought the optional quick tach bracket for the bucket and bale spear and also the optional joystick hydraulic control lever. I wouldn't buy a loader without these options."

"My **Deere 752 17-ft.** hay tedder is a best buy. It covers a lot of acres fast and tedding the hay lets me bale one or two days sooner than I could without tedding it."

**James L. Jeffcoat, Blythewood, S.C.:** James is the owner of a "best buy" 1995 **Dodge Ram 2500 4-WD** pickup equipped with a Cummins diesel engine. "It has a soft, comfortable ride and the diesel engine has unmatched power. It has great towing and carrying capacity so I can pull or haul virtually anything with it. Also, it looks great."

**Byron Morris, Mitchell, Ontario:** "I'm totally satisfied with it," reports Byron about his 1988 **Case-IH 7110** Magnum front wheel assist tractor. "The 1988 model was the first year they started making this tractor. The first three years I had it the company put on all the updates that came on the following models, including a new computerized dash that shows the gearshift range. This tractor is well designed and well built. No problems at all. I use it to pull my 6-bottom moldboard plow, 30-ft. cultivator, and 2-row corn harvester. The Cummins diesel engine is easy on fuel."

"Our 1981 **Deutz 6807** front wheel assist tractor equipped with a front-end loader is extremely rugged. The air-cooled engine is stingy on fuel. No problems after almost 5,000 hours. We use a 7-ft. utility bucket and a home-built bale fork with it. The bale fork can easily handle 1,500-lb. round bales. I built a boom for the loader that allowed me to lift trusses up to 25 ft. high when building our house, shed, and barn. I also made a bucket for the boom that lets me pour

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