

1995 Ford F-150 4-WD pickup equipped with an in-line 6-cyl., 4.9-liter engine. "It's easy on fuel, has a lot of power, looks good, and was priced lower than many used Chevy and GM pickups that I checked out."

Edwin H. Rissler, New Enterprise, Penn.: "We bought our 1972 Ford 4000 tractor used and it now has over 5,000 hours on it. It's still a solid tractor with very few problems. We converted both our 4000 and 7600 Ford tractors to hydrostatic power steering which we find a lot more satisfying than the original power steering system."

"Our New Holland 680 manure spreader works great."

Kenneth G. Foreman, Bluffdale, Texas: Kenneth likes his 1994 Country Home 5 hp electric start DR trimmer equipped with a "beaver blade". "The Briggs & Stratton engine starts easy and has a lot of power. The trimmer/blade combination lets us cut through mesquite brush up to 4 in. in diameter with ease."

Harold Swank, Toulon, Ill.: Harold's impressed with his 1994 Case-IH 7220 Magnum front wheel assist tractor. "Even with single rear wheels set for 30-in. rows, it's the best riding tractor I've ever owned. We mounted extendable outside mirrors on it made by Farmer's Factory Co. of Lee, Ill. The mirrors are made with heavy square steel tubing and provide a clear rear view. My only complaint is that the gauge lights on the dash are green and glare in my eyes at night. I wish the cab was as big as the one on the 90 and 94 series tractors that it replaced. Also, the fuel tank is awkward to fill - the tractor should have a larger platform for you to stand on while filling the tank."

Donald Woehl, Morrison, Ill.: "I like my 1992 Ford F-250 4-WD pickup, but I'm disappointed with the quality with which it was built. The front bumper fell off. It was held on by four bolts about the size of a pencil and the nuts were the metal clip type. I was lucky the bumper didn't fall off while I was driving."

Ralph L. Tau, Saegertown, Penn.: Ralph's the satisfied owner of a 1990 Woods 5182D riding mower equipped with a

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Kohler engine and 52-in. deck. "It's easy to get on and off and it has a comfortable seat. I always have a good view of the deck so I can mow close to objects without having to do any trimming later on. I use it to mow under electric fences and along roadsides and to mow corn stalks in my garden. It starts well and is easy to service. I'd hate to do without it."

Wayne Yost, Stapleton, Ga.: Wayne bought a 36 by 70-ft. soft-sided building from Diamond Equipment 1 1/2 years ago and says it's his "best buy" (Dueck's Mechanical, Box 214, Elevator Road, Whittemouth, Manitoba, Canada ROE 2G0). "It's easy to assemble. We use it as a portable shop for our earthmoving equipment business. It's a handy place to repair equipment on rainy days. It's stable in high winds and at night we can lock it up. The same building can also be used to store hay, raise hogs, store machinery, etc."

Art Thomas, Stryker, Ohio: "My 1973 Ford 4000 tractor was in good shape ex-

cept for the gas engine, which was worn out. I replaced it with a new 3-cyl. 52 hp engine from Ford. I had to make a new fuel line and a new air intake tube for the air cleaner, but other than that it just bolted in and I was ready to go. It's a very fuel efficient tractor and one of my all-time best buys."

John Schneider, Smithton, Ill.: John's pleased with his Homelite XL12 chain saw equipped with a 24-in. bar. "It'll compete with my neighbor's 24-in. Stihl chain saw. However, the Stihl model is almost impossible to crank when the engine is hot whereas my Homelite always starts right up with only one or two easy pulls."

"I like my 2-year-old Snapper zero radius 48-in. riding mower except for the Briggs & Stratton twin cylinder engine - it always starts hard. I recently replaced the original 16 hp engine with an 18 hp one that doesn't have solenoid fuel shutoff. The new engine always starts right up and it also idles nice and accelerates easily. The cost to replace the engine was well worth it. However, the manual for the new engine recommends removing the cylinder heads every 100 to 300 hours in order to remove carbon. I think that's unrealistic. This engine must be a 90-day wonder. Another problem is that Snapper parts are high priced. For example, the mower uses a different kind of spindle bearing that isn't available at auto parts stores."

Carroll Crum, Littlestown, Penn.: "I installed a Kelderman air ride suspension kit on the front and rear axles on my 1990 Dodge W-250 4-WD pickup. Now it rides as good as the new Dodge models (Kelderman Mfg. Inc., 2686 Hwy. 92, Oskaloosa, Iowa 52577 ph 800 334-6150)."

"The three 3/8-in. air ratchet wrenches I bought from Harbor Freight are my worst buys. One wrench never worked at all and the other two failed within two months. I traded them in for an Ingersol-Rand model and haven't had any problems with it."

Marge Newhart, Madison, Ohio: Faced with the chore of mowing about six acres of grass around her house and buildings, Marge bought a 3-pt., pto-driven Ford 907 flail finish mower. "We can use any Cat. I or II tractor to pull it, and it has only one drive belt to maintain. I'll never buy any other kind of mower."

Sean Heywood, McIndoe Falls, Vt.: "My best buy ever is my 1941 Case 5C tractor. I don't even have to choke it to start it. I just press the starter button and it starts right up every time. It's a reliable, well-built tractor."

Lawrence Wirth, Appleton, Wis.: He's the owner of a 1994 Ford-Versatile bi-directional tractor. "It works great with a loader, and it works especially well when used with a push-type cultivator."

Victor Wolf, Tomah, Wis.: "My 1984 Ford F-150 pickup equipped with a 6-cyl. engine is my best buy. It came equipped with a Motorcraft battery that lasted 10 years and two months. By that time the pickup had 70,000 miles on it. In 65 years of driving I've never had a battery last that long."

Kenneth Koenen, Burlington, Wis.: Kenneth's impressed with his 1996 Chevrolet C1500 extended cab pickup equipped with a Vortec engine. "The extended cab allows it to seat four or five people fairly comfortably. The Vortec engine has a lot more power and is more fuel efficient than previous models. The bucket seats are comfortable. Overall this pickup is fun to drive."

On the "worst buy" side, he's had problems with his 1995 Cub Cadet 2185 riding

mower. "It does an excellent job mowing but the engine hasn't worked properly from the day we got it. It backfires whenever I shut it off and then surges. I just got it back from the dealer for the third time and it finally seems to be running better."

Vernon H. Gober, Adamsville, Tenn.: "This tractor is everything the company says

"The engine hasn't worked properly from the day we got it."

and more," says Vernon about his 1992 Case-IH 7120 Magnum. "It rides comfortably and has a tight, quiet cab. My only expense was a few dollars for a new oil dipstick tube. It has a lot of power and is a much better tractor than the International 1486 I traded in. I can operate the pto at either 540 or 1,000 rpm's which I really like."

"My 1995 Husqvarna 970 riding mower is a best buy. The front-mounted deck and rear wheel steering let me trim close, even all the way around a telephone pole. The 12 1/2 hp Briggs & Stratton engine runs quiet and has a lot of power. All four wheels are the same size so the mower rides smooth and leaves the grass nice and even. It works better than any other mower I've ever used."

Jody Lagerquist, Westby, Mont.: A 1995 Dodge extended cab 4-WD pickup rates as Jody's "best buy". "It has over 30,000 miles and the only problem was a bad switch on one of the electric windows. It rides like a car and gets 17 mpg."

Gary F. Thom, Beldenville, Wis.: "It's my best buy ever and just keeps on running with very little maintenance," reports Gary, pleased with his 1964 Wheel Horse garden tractor. "The Kohler engine has a lot of hours on it but has never had problems. Same for the drivetrain. It does a great job of mowing."

On the minus side, "I've had a lot of problems with the front drive wheels not engaging on my 1989 GM 3/4-ton pickup. The problem is that the front driveshaft is poorly built. The pickup gets only fair mileage and it rides rough. I had to install a new, expensive alternator soon after I bought it."

Ray Rauenhorst, Easton, Minn.: "It's trouble-free and does an excellent job placing seed in all soil types and conditions," says Ray, pleased with his Deere 750 no-till drill. "It has massive downpressure springs that allow it to hug the ground in uneven terrain. I mount it on a Mauer 3-pt. hitch which makes it easy to attach and detach the drill and also allows me to turn shorter in tight spots."

"My Pardner 65 chain saw works good but has one problem - the needle valve adjustments on the carburetor stray from their 'starting' settings. Whenever I shut off the saw and restart, it floods. I have to constantly readjust the high-low settings in order to get it started. Sometimes it takes 20 minutes to reinstall the carburetor's cover plate because I can't find the small hole that the hold-down screw goes into. Once I have it running I make sure that I never shut it off until I'm done with the job."

Grant McMurphy, Clarksburg, Ontario: A Deere 6300 tractor rates as Grant's "best buy". "It has a quiet cab and a lot of power. I use it a lot to spray orchards and to do general field work. It's a pleasure to drive. I really like the power shift trans-

mission."

Don McKinlay, Alvinston, Ontario: "I like my Hardy sprayer. I've used it for five years with no major problems. It works like a charm."

Robert Blankespoor, George, Iowa: Robert's had good luck with his 1981 International 5288 tractor. "It's built solid and the pto speed selection works great for chopping silage. It has a lot of power. I bought it used with 1,800 hours and it now has over 3,400 hours with only minor repairs. One complaint - I wish the cab door opened the other way like on the new Magnums."

"My International 800 12-row planter places seed accurately and gets it down in the ground. I really like having to fill only two seed boxes instead of 12."

Craig S. Simons, Huntington, Ind.: Craig mounted Yetter no-till coulters on his Deere 7000 planter. "They've been well worth the money. I've no-tilled into wheat stubble and alfalfa sod with no problems and always get a nice clean seed row that warms up quickly for good seed emergence."

Quinn H. Becker, Horse Shoe, N.C.: "It drives tight and has a lot of power," says Quinn, owner of a 1996 Toyota T-100 extended cab 4-WD pickup. "We used it on ice and snow in Colorado and it did a super job. It's built with quality and is comfortable to drive on long trips."

Harold West, Tucson, Ariz.: Harold nominates his 1995 Ford F-350 extended cab 4-WD diesel pickup as his "best buy". "It rides smooth and drives great. It also has a lot of power."

Allen Gullickson, Lone Pine, Mont.: "Our best buy over the last few years is our 1985 Woodmizer sawmill. We've used it to cut over 750,000 board feet. It still has the original 14 hp Kohler engine and doesn't burn any oil. The company has sent us at least four updates over the years at no charge to make sure that our saw will keep working in tip-top shape. We use it to do custom work and also on our own place. We use the wood to build pole barns, chicken houses, vacation cabins, and even furniture. It also works great for splitting corral poles."

Gary Molnar, Leonard, Mich.: "I really like my 1993 Lincoln SP-100 wire feed welder which plugs into any 110-volt outlet. I've run a lot of no. 10 spools of wire through it with no problems. It's as easy to use as an electric glue gun and lets me weld metal up to 1/4 in. thick."

Terry Eyjolfson, Steep Rock, Manitoba: A 1995 Deere 4600 MFD tractor equipped with a 460 front-end loader heads Terry's "best buy" list. "It has a lot of hydraulic power which allows the loader to work fast. It also has a roomy cab and rides smooth. I really like the powershift transmission - it shifts smooth even at full throttle. The tractor had a few hydraulic problems but my dealer fixed them right away. It's the best all-around tractor we've ever owned. However, the rear fenders could be improved."

"My 1957 Caterpillar D2 is on its third set of rollers and chains but still works great. In the early years it had a problem with the dry clutch - after a hard push the clutch wouldn't release. I solved the problem by sealing the bottom release shaft and pouring light oil into the clutch housing. No more problems with the clutch after 30 years."

On the minus side, he lists his Deere 3150 MFD tractor. "It bounced up and down the road like a rubber ball and was hard to shift on-the-go. It also had poor hydraulic

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