

stock trailer and get 15 mpg."

Richard Witkovsky, Car, Mich.: "I like my 1989 Oldsmobile Cutlass Sierra 4-door car equipped with a 4-cyl. engine. The original tires lasted 89,000 miles and the brakes lasted 120,000 miles. I change oil on it every 2,000 to 2,500 miles."

"My 1991 Dodge 3/4-ton pickup equipped with a Cummins diesel engine is a best buy. It has 34,000 miles on it. I used it to pull a 34-ft. fifth wheel trailer through Canada and North and South Dakota. I encountered a lot of hills and headwinds but still averaged 15 mpg going 60 mph. It has a lot of power."

Allen Beiler, Stuarts Draft, Va.: Allen's impressed with his 1993 Case-IH Maxxum 5240 tractor. "It's the best tractor on the market in its horsepower class. The 4-speed powershift transmission, smooth-running Cummins diesel engine, convenient controls, and excellent visibility make it a pleasure to operate. A lot of thought went into

"It's the best tractor on the market in its horsepower class."

the design of this tractor.

"My 1989 Chevrolet 4-WD pickup is my worst buy. First we had trouble with the electronic ignition. Then when we did get the pickup running it didn't have enough power. It also ran rough and guzzled a lot of gas. Last year the automatic transmission went out and this year we had to replace the engine. Now we finally have a decent truck again."

Truman Roberts, Elk Creek, Va.: "It works perfect and does what I expected it to," says Truman about his 1993 Deere 375 round baler.

On the "worst buy" side, he lists his 1993 Spreadmaster fertilizer spreader. "The settings on it don't work like they should."

Sanford Halverson, Deerfield, Wis.: "I nominate my Deere 70 tractor which I bought new in 1956 as my best buy. No problems. I wish I could buy another one. This tractor is still ready to do a full day's work."

Earl West, Edgerton, Mo.: An Aqua Therm outside wood-burning furnace rates as Earl's "best buy" (AquaTherm, Brooten, Minn. ph 800 325-2760). "It pumps hot water some 60 ft. to our house. Lets us keep all the ashes and dirt that go with wood burning stoves outside. We fire it morning and night and maintain any heat setting by using the thermostat. Having the unit outside also lowered our insurance."

Stan Vandebos, Caledonia, Ontario: "After three years of use it's still a trouble-free machine," says Stan, owner of a Tye Series 4 15-ft. no-till drill equipped with 3/4-in. fluted coulters. "It does an excellent job of seed placement in no-till or conventional tillage. Works great at high operating speeds."

Larry A. Bartell, Waukesha, Wis.: Larry owns a 1995 White 31-ton commercial log splitter equipped with an 8 hp Briggs & Stratton gas engine. "I do a lot of wood and log splitting and this splitter has gone through every kind of wood that we have around here - oak, maple, hickory, and elm. It splits even the knottiest stumps. We haven't found anything that it can't handle. It's my best buy."

Richard Harder, Fremont, Ohio: "My

best buy of all time is my International M tractor which I bought used in 1961. The only repairs it has ever needed were to grind the valves and have some minor work done on the transmission. I switched it from a 6-volt system to a 12-volt system in order to start easier."

Chris Tschumperlin, Watkins, Minn.: A 1994 Case-IH 8530 small square baler equipped with an 8511 belt thrower rates as Chris's "best buy". "Last fall we used it to make 1,600 corn stalk bales for bedding. Our old baler never tied properly when making corn stalk bales, but this one has no problem with them. This year we put up 12,000 bales of 23% protein alfalfa without rain. No problems. I haven't even broken a shear bolt yet."

Gene S. Bontrager, Kalona, Iowa: Gene says his Allis-Chalmers WD-45, originally purchased by his father in 1954, is the best buy he's made over the years. "It was the primary tractor on our farm until I replaced it with an Allis-Chalmers 170 diesel tractor in 1977. My father had purchased a 3-bottom, 14-in. Snap-Coupler plow, a 9-ft. Snap-Coupler disk, and a model WD 2-row cultivator to go with the WD-45. I still own the cultivator and tractor. In the 41 years this tractor has been in our family it has never had a major breakdown. It has been overhauled twice but has never let us down during a busy planting or harvest season. It doesn't have an hour meter but I'd estimate it has over 15,000 hours - and still counting."

"My 1981 Allis-Chalmers 185 tractor is also a best buy. The only major repair was to replace the water pump last year. It's fun to drive and easy to maintain. I use it to pull a 15-ft. disk and a chisel plow. We pull the chisel plow 15 to 18 in. deep and go 5 to 5 1/2 mph. I've also used it to do a lot of other tasks with no problems."

Douglas Sommers, Millersburg, Ohio: "We've used our 'best buy' Claas Rollant 46 round baler for the past three years to make about 2,500 bales of hay, both silage bales and dry. The only repair was replacement of a light bulb on the bale indicator control."

Lisa Gast, Shawano, Wis.: "We like our 1989 Suzuki LT160 ATV. We use it to bring fresh cows in from the field, placing the calf right on the machine. We also use it to check fields and to haul feed to animals at another barn. The only problem is the carburetor has needed adjustment three or four times."

James R. McMillan, Phillipsburg, Mo.: James has had good luck with his 1993 Grasshopper 725 lawn mower equipped with a 25 hp Kubota engine. "We used our old Grasshopper for 12 years. The new one is even better and has been trouble-free. I don't think we'll ever have to buy another mower. It's far better than any other mower on the market."

Gene Wiemers, Melbourne, Iowa: Gene is the satisfied owner of a 1994 Case-IH 7220 front wheel assist tractor. "I really like the new 72 series tractors. They shift nice and are comfortable to drive. The 7220 does what it's supposed to do and has good hydraulics."

"I bought a Sukup no-till cultivator last spring and like it a lot. It's easy to adjust. It's hard to believe how fast you can run it without covering the crop."

Troy Ward, Lakin, Kan.: "My 1987 Buick LeSabre is the best car I've ever had. It has nearly 220,000 miles on it but still uses very little oil. I think that's because I've always used Mobile Synthetic oil in it. I've only had to replace the water pump,

fuel pump, and tires. My wife drives it to work and back and wants to see how many more miles she can put on it. I've become a believer in GM products since I bought this car."

Peter M. Kemmer, Lime Springs, Iowa: "My best buy ever is my 1964 International 2606 tractor equipped with a 3000 loader and 3140 backhoe. I've used it to install miles and miles of drainage tile and water lines and also to open and close graves. I've had few problems with it. The engine has been overhauled twice. I'm 84 and will probably have to quit operating it one of these days."

Larry A. Maiers, Stewart, Minn.: "I like the simplicity and capacity of my 1994 Feterl 10-in. dia., 60-ft. grain auger."

"My 1995 Deere 7300 12-row Vacuum-Meter planter is a best buy. It places seed accurately and with precise depth control."

Bill Voedisch, Marine, Minn.: "My best buy is my 1993 Allied 594 loader that's mounted on a Deere 3020 tractor. They make a super combination. I use it all year long to move snow and manure and to do landscaping work. It starts right up even in 20° below temperatures."

"My worst buys are small machines powered by Briggs & Stratton gas engines. I've had brand new 4 and 5 hp engines fail on my lawn mower, sprayer, and rototiller. The problems were everything from a bad carburetor to dead ignitions. In the future I won't buy anything powered by a Briggs & Stratton engine if I can help it."

Chuck Younger, Columbus, Miss.: Chuck likes his Case-IH 7210 (130 hp) and 7220 (150 hp) Magnum front wheel assist tractors. "Both are solid tractors that pull great and are comfortable to drive."

On the "worst buy" side, "My Yamaha Kodiak 4-WD ATV equipped with a 400 cc gas engine is a piece of junk. The driveshaft wore out in less than a year. The company wouldn't pay for the repair so I called its trouble shooter and got no help there, either, so I spent \$1,000 on it the first year. My Polaris Magnum 425 2-WD ATV is equipped with a 4-stroke engine and can go

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places in 2-WD that the Yamaha can't go in 4-WD."

Richard Bohn, Luck, Wis.: "It has a lot of power and a roomy, quiet cab," says Richard, pleased with his 1977 Case-IH 1086 tractor.

"My Knight 712 manure spreader can spread manure in 35° below temperatures with no problems. It's also a best buy."

Mike Scanlon, Oskaloosa, Iowa: "I'm impressed with my Posi Lock gear puller. It's easy to use and doesn't slip off the pulley or gear."

"I've also had good luck with my 1993 Deere 535 round baler."

Luther Weisman, Ottwell, Ind.: Luther is pleased with his 1994 J & M 750 bu. grain cart equipped with weigh scales. "It unloads quick and pulls easy. The scales are accurate and easy to calibrate."

"My 1993 United Farm Tools 750-bu. hydraulic grain cart is my worst buy. It didn't work good at all with our Deere tractor's closed hydraulic system. Extremely slow. We also had trouble with the accuracy of the scales. Our dealer made sure

we were happy by charging us only a 1-year rental fee and then refunding our purchase price and taking the cart back."

Jeff Merwin, Clarksburg, Calif.: "I'd like to nominate Deutz air-cooled engines as a best buy. We have 10 irrigations pumps, two Deutz tractors and a Deutz-Allis combine, all powered by these engines and we're very happy with all of them. Our oldest Deutz irrigation engine (an F6L912) had over 13,000 hrs. on it before we did a top end overhaul on it. That was two years ago and it still runs like new. They're fuel efficient and have no water pump, radiator, or hoses to leak and no coolant to check. Just an excellent, low-maintenance, economical engine to operate."

Edwin Ruff, Moses Lake, Wash.: "I have a 1990 Ford Ranger with a club cab and a 4-liter V-6 engine. I get 22 mpg on the road and have pulled a trailer with approximately 2,000 lbs. over a mountain pass with no effort. It has 32,000 miles on it and I've had no trouble with it. It handles well and is a joy to drive."

Dean Werner, Jamestown, Penn.: "My 1989 Ford Ranger supercab pickup has over 117,000 miles on it with few repairs. It rides comfortably and still drives nice and tight."

"My 1993 Ford Escort station wagon is my worst buy. The automatic transmission went out at 40,000 miles, just after the 36,000 mile warranty. It took three weeks to repair and cost us \$800. My dealer refused to provide a loaner car. Six weeks later the transmission went out again and the car was laid up for another week. Two weeks later we traded it for a new Chevrolet Lumina."

Richard Gilda, Bellingham, Wash.: Richard nominates his Stihl backpack brush cutter as his "best buy". "It's far superior to other grass and brush cutters I've used. I can cut and trim up to 10 ft. high and reach down into ditches, etc. I use it a lot on wetlands including ditches, creek banks, etc. Anyone who uses a conventional brush cutter is missing out."

"My worst buy is my 1994 Woods 6-ft., 3-pt. rotary mower. I had previously owned another Woods mower and liked it, but this one is a piece of junk. The metal is soft and bends easily and the welds are poor. Even though the slip clutch works, the pto yokes get twisted because the mower blades are too long and bend. The company wasn't interested in helping me."

H.I. Jones, Silver Creek, Ga.: "I'm well satisfied with my 1995 Dodge Ram 1500 SLT pickup equipped with a 360 cu. in. engine. It rides smooth and engine response is great. The overdrive transmission is smooth and handles a trailer in the field better than any other pickup I've ever owned. The pickup doesn't lean or sway on curves. They should have better instructions on how to control the defroster in high humidity conditions."

Barry Bogle, Hamilton, Ontario: "I like my 1995 Parker 2000 gravity wagon which is equipped with a rocking bolster. We needed a 400-bu. gravity wagon for loading and unloading our crop dryer. This one has the steepest slope on the market so we never have to enter the box to shovel out grain, even if the grain is damp."

On the negative side, Barry lists his Karcher 555 pressure washer. "It's been a headache from the day we bought it. We were never able to get 750 psi output, and

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