

into reverse or come to a dead stop I hear a slight 'clunk'.

"My 1975 GM pickup is also a best buy. It has over 80,000 miles and looks like new since I rebuilt it from bumper to bumper. It continues to perform faultfully."

**Glen Laskey, Indian Head, Sask.:** "It takes the place of an extra driver around our farm," says Glen, pleased with his 1985 Polaris 250 Scrambler ATV. "We've never had to replace the spark plugs, belt, or battery. It's a reliable machine."

**Norbert Hogbin, Joice, Iowa:** "My best buy is my 1991 Dodge Dynasty which I bought as a program car with 15,000 miles on it. It now has 102,000 miles. The only repairs have been to a thermostat oil pressure sending unit and a speed sensor. The car still has the original exhaust system, shocks, and brakes and all its original belts and hoses. The original tires went 72,000 miles and were never rotated, and the front wheels have never needed alignment. I change the oil and filter about every 3,000 to 4,000 miles and have never had to add oil between changes. This is my fifth Chrysler vehicle and they've all gone over 100,000 miles with no major problems."

**Bob Sharp, Bashaw, Alberta:** Bob nominates his 1993 Shelbourne Reynolds 20-ft. stripper header as "best buy". "I've used it on small grains and canola and am quite impressed with it. I can go 8 to 9 mph in a standing crop. Last year much of my grain was laid flat, and I found that if you're not afraid of rocks it will pick up down grain better than a swather equipped with a pickup reel."

**Mike Rinker, Redkey, Ind.:** Mike's impressed with his 1993 J & M 525 grain cart. "I like it because I can unload on-the-go which saves a lot of wear and tear compared to having to stop and unload. The cart is just as efficient for my harvest operation as having another combine. It's big enough that it can unload two combine grain tanks yet is built light enough to minimize soil compaction."

"My worst buy was my Massey Ferguson 760 combine. I couldn't use it for even a day without it breaking down. It got so bad that I had to buy a service truck for it. Now that I run a Deere combine, all my hand tools in the service truck are rusty."

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**Clarence Elbert, Washington, Mo.:** "It's the most fuel efficient tractor I've ever owned," says Clarence about his 1988 Hesston 55-66 diesel tractor.

**Martin D. Yeager, Danville, Penn.:** "My best buy is my Bush Hog 5-ft. rotary mower. I've used it in extremely tough conditions such as on ground overgrown for 20 years with brush, yet it's never had any problems and just keeps on going."

On the "worst buy" side, Martin's disappointed with a Yukon Husky multi-fuel furnace that he bought in 1993. "It arrived in damaged condition due to a shipping problem. The company sent me parts to repair it. The first year a grate broke and the oil burner malfunctioned. The second year the firebox burned through and the oil burner again malfunctioned. The company sent me

a new firebox, but I had to pay the shipping charges and have to do all the installation work myself. I'm very dissatisfied."

**W.F. Dove, Bunker Hill, W. Va.:** "My 1994 Polaris 300 4-WD ATV performs well and is a best buy. I use it to check on livestock and for light hauling jobs. It goes where nothing else can go and the 4-WD really helps in snow or mud. It's also easy to learn to ride. My only complaints are that it could have wider fenders and the headlight could be mounted higher so that when the front rack is loaded I can still see."

**Gene Eckmann, Bloomfield, Neb.:** "My 1989 Deere 185-hydro lawn mower is my all-time worst buy. I bought it used four years ago for \$2,500. After a short period of time it started using a quart of oil every time we mowed. The 17 hp engine was completely overhauled, but then it wouldn't start. It mows the lawn unevenly, leaving strips between the blades. The front axle assembly fell off and it took an entire day to put it back on because two small bolts were located in a hard-to-reach position. The next time we used it, the engine leaked a quart of oil and started making a clanging noise like it was going to throw a rod. I'm disappointed with this product and feel that the cost of parts and repair work is too high. I plan to replace it."

"My best buy is my 1973 Ford F-100 pickup equipped with a 390 cu. in. engine. It's on its second engine and runs like a charm. It's the most reliable vehicle on our farm."

**John D. Parker, Gates, N.C.:** "I like my Deere 4230 tractor. It has 10,000 hours on it and the engine has never been overhauled."

**Randy Kinzler, Hebron, Neb.:** "It's well designed and should last for many years," reports Randy, pleased with his 1993 Troy-Bilt Pony 5 hp garden tiller. "It takes only one hand to operate it, just like their ads say."

"My Skil 6225 3/8-in. variable speed drill is my worst buy. It was cheap and I got what I paid for. It got hot and started squealing after only five hours of use. It's not nearly as well made as the Craftsman 3/8-in. drill that I had previously owned. I exchanged it for a Black & Decker 3/8-in. 'Blockbuster' drill which I really like."

**Larry Woodman, Kenesaw, Neb.:** "I like my M & W 20-ft. rotary hoe. The individual wheel mounting arms allow it to penetrate well. It's a much better rotary hoe than the model 50 that I previously owned."

On the "worst buy" side, Larry's disappointed with his RCA "direct broadcast" 18-in. satellite dish. "The receiver went out after only six months. The store we bought it from told us we'd have to deal directly with the company. It took almost a day of constant phone calls to make contact with them. The company said we'd have to pay for the repairs. I wouldn't buy another one."

**DeWayne Easter, Richmond, Kent.:** "It's as perfect as a vehicle can get. Not even any minor problems," says DeWayne about his "best buy" 1993 Toyota pickup.

**Richard Jackson, Circleville, Ohio:** Richard's all-time "best buy" is his 1978 Kubota L185DT tractor. "I use it almost every day to do chores. It has over 3,800 hours. I've used it with a Woods rear mount mower to mow 3 1/2 acres ever since 1988. I've spent only \$146 on repairs."

**Randy Catron, Jackson, Mo.:** "My best buy is my 1974 Honda XR-75 motorcycle. I hopped it up with a big bore kit, stroker crankshaft, and many other goodies, then raced it for three years. It has one

of the best engines ever made and still starts on the first crank. It has brought me many hours of priceless enjoyment and memories."

**Dale W. Downey, Inman, S.C.:** "I really like my gas engine-powered E-Z Go golf cart. I never have to worry about charging the battery and my wife can start it by simply turning the switch. My kids also love it. We don't worry about them driving it because it doesn't go real fast."

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**Harold Nold, Oconee, Ill.:** "My best buys are my 1975 Deere 4230 tractor, 1968 Deere 2510 tractor, and 1990 Remlinger RTC-600 M-roller tine cultivator. No down time on any of them."

**Dan Mayer, Beloit, Ohio:** A 1983 Bobcat 743 skid steer loader rates as Dan's "best buy". "I bought it at an auction and had some problems with it which I expected. However, after I made a few repairs it works pretty good."

"My Stihl 024 and Husqvarna chain saws are both best buys. They've held up to a lot of hard use."

**Larry Timm, Union City, Mich.:** "I've owned all colors of 4-WD tractors over the years, but the one I'm proudest of is my 1995 Ford-Versatile 9480. It's a hybrid of the best technology offered by Versatile and Ford. I wouldn't hesitate to buy another one."

On the "worst buy" side, Larry lists his 1994 Ford F-250 pickup. "It rides well and is dependable but isn't built heavy enough for farm work. It seems to me that any pickup lighter than one ton is only a glorified car."

**Lester Myers, Marquand, Mo.:** Lester's happy with his 1992 Case-IH 395 tractor. "I especially like the shuttle shift transmission but I wish it had more than 8 speeds. The power steering is the best I've ever used."

**Tim Ward, Missouri Valley, Iowa:** "My 1979 Ford F-150 4-WD pickup, which I bought used in 1985, still runs like new. I've used it to haul 4,000 lbs. while at the same time towing a 12,000-lb. trailer load. No problems. It's really made me a believer in Ford."

**Ray H. Kroft, Medaryville, Ind.:** Ray likes his 1994 Lincoln wire feed welder. "It does a great job and can be used to weld very thin material. Works great for doing fine repair work on my farm machinery."

**Harold Sikma, St. Anne, Ill.:** Harold nominates his 1992 Chevrolet S-10 long bed pickup equipped with a 2.8-liter 6-cyl. engine and 5-speed manual transmission as his "best buy". "It's easy on fuel and has been reliable over 33,000 miles. It's a solid pickup with a good ride. I also liked my 1984 Chevrolet S-10 which I drove until it had 87,000 miles."

**Mike Bailey, St. John, Wash.:** "I bought my 1983 Deere 510 round baler used three years ago and it's my best buy. Anyone interested in buying a used round baler should check out this model. The sprockets and bearings can be easily removed, and belt tension can be released fast which makes it easy to splice belts. Best of all, bale starting is almost 100% positive. The baler

handles hay gently - I've baled a lot of hay when the temperature was 95 degrees with little loss. This baler can be bought used at reasonable prices compared to the high cost of new ones."

**Jack Paskvan, Orr, Minn.:** Jack's impressed with his 1994 Belarus 572 tractor. "It's a tough tractor with plenty of power and many good features, yet it sells for only about half the price of other models its size. I'm well pleased with it. I hope to have it for a long time."

"My 1985 Ford F-250 4-WD diesel super cab pickup is the worst pickup I've ever owned. I've had to replace almost everything on it and got no help from the dealer. It has 101,000 miles on it, with 90,000 of them coming after the engine was overhauled at 11,000 miles. It uses a quart of oil every 200 miles."

**Dale Steenblock, Campbell, Minn.:** Dale's the owner of a "best buy" Seed Vac bulk seed conveyor (Christianson Systems, Inc., Blomkest, Minn.). "It's convenient and easy to use. We have a 50-ft. grain drill and I can get off the tractor, move the truck ahead, fill the drill, and be back on the tractor and seeding again in only 30 minutes. With a brush auger it took me almost an hour to fill a 40-ft. drill."

**Clark E. Zipse, Freeport, Ill.:** "My 1994 Stihl 025 chain saw is lightweight, cuts fast, and starts easy."

"I've had more compliments on my 1995 Chevrolet Blazer S-10 than on any other car I've ever owned. It drives nice."

**Frank Hofmann, Oxford, N.Y.:** Frank likes his 1989 double rack hitch manufactured by Ernest Steiner that he read about in FARM SHOW (E. Steiner, 1202 Dalton Foxlake Road, Dalton, Ohio 44618). "It eliminates the need for another tractor and works on odd-shaped fields and steep hills with no problems."

On the negative side, he's had problems with his 1995 New Holland 575 baler. "The baler works fine but the company made some major engineering oversights when they designed it. In some conditions, long hay tends to wrap up on the forks that carry the hay across to the chamber, causing a pin to shear. It's almost impossible to replace in the field. Also, it's almost impossible to move the wagon hitch into position for road transport."

**Robert Pricer, Oakwood, Ill.:** Robert's happy with his 1995 Bush Hog ZT 2200 lawn mower equipped with a 22 hp Kohler gas engine and 60-in. deck. "I like how the deck flips up for maintenance and sharpening of blades. The mower has a lot of power and maneuvers right around trees, etc., virtually eliminating the need to trim up afterward. Next to my wife, I love my Bush Hog."

**Scott Jay Claussen, Denison, Iowa:** "My 1992 Vermeer R-23 twin hay rake is a real time saver and handles hay gently. In thick hay it makes baling almost too easy because I can make windrows that cover the width of the baler. There's no need to weave back and forth with the baler. I can roll two 14-ft. windrows together and save a lot of driving time with the baler."

"My 1991 Chevrolet 2500 4-WD pickup is my worst buy. I've had to replace the rear end, transmission, starter, and alternator. There also were electrical problems. The warranty took care of the rear end, transmission, and electrical problems. Also, it isn't very fuel efficient. It gets only 8 to

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