

cyl., 4.2-liter engine runs smooth. It has a lot of power and doesn't require much maintenance. I tuned it up at 45,000 miles and it still runs good even though it has 132,000 miles. It gets 24 mpg on the highway.

"My worst buy is my **Deere** field cultivator. It's equipped with 6-in. sweeps and spring shanks with coil springs that break easily. The springs cost quite a bit and don't last long. The arms on the wheels are held in place by copper bushings which wear out.

"My **New Holland** 275 baler has trouble tying bales in dry, springy hay which pushes the strings off the knotter so it won't tie. The baler should come with gears so that the knotter can be speeded up to tie the knot before the plunger returns in those conditions. However, in normal hay conditions it ties good."

Richard D. Nemecek, Midland, S. Dak.: Richard's impressed with his **DeWalt** 3/8-in. 110-volt electric drill. "It has a lot of torque and the chuck is made better than on most drills. Also, it has a double level that reads horizontally or vertically.

"My **Makita** 12-volt 3/8-in. cordless drill is my worst buy. I couldn't keep it operating for more than a half hour without having to replace the battery. I sent it back to the service center but they said there was nothing wrong with it. I returned it and got a full refund."

Lloyd Jark, Stratford, S. Dak.: A 1995 **Deere** 7200 tractor rates as Lloyd's "best buy". "It handles easy and drives comfort-

"I couldn't keep it operating for more than a half hour without having to replace the battery."

ably, and the cab has excellent visibility. I really like the 16-speed Power-Quad transmission. It has clutch-free shifting from forward to reverse and offers the right speeds for my farming operation. It's a real comfort to drive this tractor."

Karl Wangen, Soldiers Grove, Wis.: Karl nominates his 1991 **Claas** Rollant 66 round baler as "best buy". "It's easy to operate and dependable. I've used it to make over 1,600 bales with no problems other than replacing a few sets of pickup teeth. My only problem is that when I wanted to buy some extra splicer links to have on hand, I couldn't get them right away because the dealer had to order them."

Jack W. Griffith, Arlington, Texas: "My best buy is my **Belarus** 400 tractor equipped with a 57 hp air-cooled engine. It uses 20-year-old technology but has a 20-year-old price. My only complaint is that I wish the shuttle shift transmission was more convenient to use."

David John Egge, Ulster, Penn.: David says **Rohn** steel cattle gates and panels head his "best buy" list. "They're absolutely the best gates on the market. They're made from heavy gauge steel pipe with excellent welding and fit. Each weld joint has its own weep hole which allows water to drain out in foul weather. The gates are hot dip galvanized after assembly is completed. They're built super strong in all areas including the hinge, latch, and the gate itself. Livestock can't damage them. I don't think I'll ever have to buy another gate again."

"My 1993 **Diller** round bale feeder wagons are also best buys. They're made from heavy gauge steel and have great workmanship. Up to three 1,000-lb. bales are placed in a bale basket over two troughs that catch loose hay below. The wagons have a low profile with slant bar cattle entries. Cattle don't move around when they eat hay but instead pull it down from the basket, thereby preventing hay waste. Also, the wagon can be moved to prevent mud holes and manure build-up."

Jim Engel, Beatrice, Neb.: Jim describes his 1985 **Deere** 4450 tractor as "a lemon that's painted green". "It's the most undependable tractor we have on our farm. The first year we had it one of the rear wheel rims cracked at the bead form line. It doesn't come close in quality to the 4010, 4020, 4430, or 4440 models that we've used in the past. Our 4020 equipped with a front-end loader has 8,900 hours on it with only normal maintenance, and our 4440 has 5,400 hours on it and is a real gem. The list of other repairs is endless."

Rick Wallace, Shelburne, Ontario: "My **Posi Lock** gear puller is an excellent product. It's well made and is a must for any farm or business.

"**Pederson** vise grips are a time-tested, superior tool. They work better than any copy cat model and deserve an award. (Peterson Mfg., 108 S. Pear, DeWitt, Neb. 68341 ph 402 683-2325).

"On the worst buy side I nominate my 1991 **Ford** F-150 pickup. The paint is falling off it and the dealer won't help. I've written directly to the company with no results. I even sent them a copy of the story **FARM SHOW** published regarding paint peeling off Ford pickups. I'll never buy another Ford again."

Joel Lust, Marion, Ohio: Joel likes his 1991 **Deere** 8960 4-WD tractor. "We haven't had any real problems with it after 1,300 hours. It has a lot of power and drives comfortably. Maintenance is simple and quick. It replaced an **International** 4586 4-WD tractor and is superior in every measurable way. It was like going from a Subaru to a Cadillac.

"My 1990 **Sunflower** 5331 36-ft. field cultivator is my worst buy. The biggest problem is that we've never been able to get it to work evenly in the ground over the entire width of the implement. One side of the center section sucks down which pulls the other side up. We've tried everything we could think of, including cylinder stop combinations, measurements, adjustments, etc., with no luck. Our dealer gave us a kit to solve the problem but it didn't help. It must be a design flaw because a neighbor had the same problem. It's a shame that it won't pull evenly because it's built heavy."

William J. Davis, Sheridan, Ind.: "I've had excellent yields from crops planted with my **Deere** 750 no-till drill," says William about his "best buy".

William Finch, St. Johnsville, N.Y.: "My **Deere** 2355 tractor equipped with front-end loader is a pleasure to operate and is built rugged. Accessories are convenient to operate. It's big enough to handle all my hay raking yet compact enough for routine chores around the farm. I continue to find more uses for the loader."

Earl Rahn, Beaver Dam, Wis.: Earl's the satisfied owner of a **New Holland** L455 skid steer loader. "It's my favorite helper on the farm. It's small enough that I can use it in small places, yet it's built strong enough that I can use it to lift big, heavy

items and move machinery. It's economical to operate."

Ned Strange, Alton, Va.: "My **New Holland** tedder-rake is my best buy. It gently teds or rakes hay with hardly any shattering of leaves and runs quiet. After I use it the crop cures quicker and is ready to bale sooner."

Dan Wasson, Selden, Kan.: Dan's "best buy of all time" is his 1979 **International**

"It's big enough to handle all my hay raking, yet compact enough for routine chores around the farm."

1086 tractor equipped with a **Farmhand** 235 front-end loader. "The tractor and loader work great together. We've used it practically every day and it has never refused to start. It has 7,800 hours. We've installed several new clutches and a torque amplifier, and at 6,000 hours we had to replace the oil pump and a rod and main bearing. The left hand gearshift makes it a perfect loader-tractor."

Mark C. Alberts, Gothenburg, Neb.: "Our 1989 **A & L** 556 grain cart speeds up harvest and also reduces wear and tear on trucks and our combine. We can harvest 30 percent more corn per day with it. New models have the auger at the corner for better visibility. I think it's an improvement."

On the negative side, Mark had problems with **DeKalb** DK 554 seed corn. "Even though the bags were labeled for 95 percent germination, we had only about a half or 2/3 stand. Other corn planted on either side of this hybrid had perfect stands so the problem wasn't anything mechanical. I should have replanted it, but it was getting late in the season. If this wasn't bad enough, the attitude of the company stunk. They came out to our farm and agreed there was a problem with the seed and that they would make it right after we were able to measure yields. Well, that fall the district man came out with the dealer. Yields fell way short. However, the company said there was nothing they could do about it. My landlord wasn't too impressed."

Carl Van Zee, Russellville, Kent.: "We're pleased with our **International** 'Captivator' electric fence controllers (American Farm Works, Rochester, Minn.). It's nearly impossible to short them out even when they're completely covered with weeds or grass. We've even had tree limbs holding the wire down to the ground and they still worked. We use only one light barbed wire on our electric fences. Once cattle get a shock they leave the fence alone. Saves hours that would otherwise be spent keeping fence rows clean."

Lynn Simonsen, Sleepy Eye, Minn.: Lynn nominates his 1981 **International** 986 diesel tractor as his "best buy". "I bought it in 1991 with just 600 hours on it. It now has about 2,000 hours. I'm well satisfied with it. It's very dependable. We use it to do all our field work except for planting. No problems."

Fred Eggers, Brooklyn, Conn.: A 1985 **Allis-Chalmers** 8070 front wheel assist tractor rates as Fred's "best buy". "It's been an excellent tractor. I bought it with about 2,500 hours. I spent only about half as much as I would have on a Deere and it's a better

tractor."

Bernie Zacharias, Winkler, Manitoba: Bernie nominates his **Land Pride** rotary mower as his "best buy". "I've used it to shred corn stalks and mow ditches. It has a rugged gearbox and slip clutch which really makes it a dependable machine."

Tim Rott, Ashley, N. Dak.: Tim likes **Andersen** low-energy argon-filled windows. "I bought seven windows as well as a patio door for an addition we made to our house last year. They're so efficient that the sun is able to heat the room during the day, even on cold days. No drafts at all."

Steve Hoke, Walkersville, Md.: "My worst buy is my **Chevrolet** S-10 Blazer. The dealer-installed 5-speed manual transmission lasted only about 9,000 miles. When I tried to find out why it went out with so few miles on it, all I got from the company was lip service. My Blazer is now on its second engine and third transmission. Why can't we buy quality-made products in this country? If I'd have bought a Landrover I'd have spent about the same money, but I'd have paid it up front instead of being nicked and dimed to death because of inferior parts."

David Miller, Red Lake Falls, Minn.: David's impressed with his 1995 **Honda** Foreman 400cc 4-WD ATV. "It has excellent traction and low-end torque and shifts much easier than previous ATV's I've owned. It has a shorter turning radius and steers easier than 2-WD ATV's. It's a joy to drive and reduces operator fatigue."

Glenn F. Speer, Franklin, Penn.: "My best buy is my **Bobcat** 440B skid steer loader that I bought used two years ago. It has a lot of hydraulic lift for a small loader. I use it for cleaning hog pens, removing rocks from plowed fields, and plowing snow. I also use it to move hogs with my own shop-built hog loading crate. One side



of the crate has attachments to fit the loader arms on the skid steer loader. The other side has fittings to fit the 3-pt. hitch on our tractor. Each side of the crate has a sliding end board for loading and unloading hogs. I used angle iron to make the frame and welded hog wire panels to the sides and top of it. I used 5/8-in. plywood to make the floor and end boards. Roscoe Speer and Chris Weber of Dempseytown, Penn., helped me build it."

Harry E. Nye, Union City, Penn.: "Our 1989 **Ford** van has over 80,000 miles and is a best buy. Our 1994 **Ford** Crown Victoria has over 21,000 miles and has never been back to the dealer."

Gaylen Quam, Northwood, Iowa: Gaylen's the owner of a **Farmall** B tractor equipped with a **Woods** belly-mounted

Herbert Pumfrey, Rolla, Mo.: Herbert's disappointed with his 1994 **Troy Bilt** shredder/vac. "After about 25 hours the engine blew up."

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