

**Marshall Hemmes, Humbolt, Minn.:** A 1990 Ford-Versatile 876 4-WD tractor heads Marshall's "best buy" list. "It's fast and powerful and controls are easy to reach."

**Earl West, Gladstone, Mo.:** "One of my all-time best buys was a 1984 Ford Ranger 2-WD pickup equipped with V-6 gas engine. I drove the truck 144,000 miles with no engine or brake trouble. I sold it at my farm sale for \$4,000 three years ago. The new owner now has 177,000 miles on the truck and it's still going strong."

**Laurence Sanderson, McLouth, Kan.:** A 1993 Case-IH 5220 tractor and a 1980 Vermeer 650F round baler are two of Laurence's "best buys". "The Case starts at low temperatures with no problems. The 3-pt. has tremendous lift capacity, so much that I've already bent two mounted implements. The Cummins diesel engine is very fuel efficient. The Vermeer baler is built like a tank. I've had to replace only two bearings and the drive chain in 15 years. In my opinion it makes a tighter wrapped bale than any other baler on the market."

**Elbert Proctor, Catlett, Va.:** "One of my worst buys was a 1985 Buick Century. It was a lemon from the start. After overhauling the engine three times, I sold it. I've since had much better luck with Chrysler products."

"I'm also disappointed with a Tri-H mower blade that I ordered last August after reading about them in FARM SHOW. I waited two months to get them. Then I called the company and was told they would get the blades right out to me. I waited another six weeks, then called again. That time I was told they'd get the blades out to me first thing Monday morning. Well, now it's spring, and I'm cutting grass with an old blade because I still haven't gotten my Tri-H blades. Am I the only one in this situation?"

**Editor's note: Tri-H president Joseph Hladik says the company had production problems early on due to tremendous demand for the innovative new mower blade, but that they're getting caught up. "We appreciate the patience of thousands of FARM SHOW readers who've sent orders," says Hladik, adding that the company is catching up on back orders. "Everyone who ordered a blade will receive it." Contact: Tri-H Corp., Rt. 1, Box 145-A, Hennessey, Okla. 73742 (ph 405 853-4563 or 4561).**

**Thomas Lindenberg, Weekes, Saska.:** "We bought a Bourgault 3225 air seeder and Bourgault 8800 cultivator last year and we'd recommend them to anyone. We seeded 2,200 acres and banded 1,000 acres of fertilizer with the air seeder. We were extremely impressed with its accuracy and performance."

**John Knebel, Junction City, Ore.:** John's "best buy" is a 1993 Saturn 4-door sedan equipped with a 1.9-liter twin overhead cam engine and automatic transmission. "Nothing has gone wrong with it in almost 20,000 miles. It's agile in traffic, gets 33 mpg on long trips, and uses no oil between scheduled 6,000-mile changes."

**Tim Jenkins, Quincy, Wa.:** Tim nominates his 1992 New Holland 426 baler as "best buy". "We make about 17,000 bales a year with it and all we've ever had to do is routine maintenance. I don't think it's missed tying more than three bales since we've had it."

**Gene Clerc, Prairie Du Rocher, Ill.:** "My Westendorf TA-26 front end loader bought new in January 1993 is a best buy,

but the company's factory service is the worst I've ever seen. I had a problem with a pin that was furnished with the self-leveling kit for the bucket. The pin was too short for the bucket leveling bracket. The dealer made repeated attempts over an entire year to get the company to send me the right pin. Finally, we gave up and had a machine shop make one at my own expense."

**Barton Gessaman, Troy, Ohio:** A 1994 Gravely 985 2-wheel tractor/mower combo is one of Barton's "best buys". "It handles easy with good balance. It has plenty of power and many useful attachments. I like walking behind it as a way of exercising and relaxing."

**Mel Kastella, Whitefish, Mont.:** "The Ford 8-N tractor I bought used is like the Energizer bunny - it just keeps going and going and going. I use it to plow, cultivate, and clear snow. It also works well with my 5-ft. Bush Hog. It's simply the best piece of farm equipment I've ever owned."

"I wouldn't call it my worst buy, but my

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1993 Chevrolet 1/2-ton pickup is certainly the most perplexing. At 15,000 miles the engine began to cut out. I took it back to the dealer and they put in an updated computer chip and replaced the distributor cap. They told me the cap was full of white chalk. I'd never heard of such a thing."

**Mike Bailey, Saint John, Wa.:** Mike's unhappy with his New Holland 358 grinder/mixer. "The hand crank on that raises or lowers the unloading auger is a man killer. It has a lock inside to release the auger. There's just enough room to get your finger inside to release the lock to let the auger down. Everyone who has used this machine at one time or another has had the lock fail to latch, causing the auger to slam down and either hit the operator in the face or bruise his fingers as the crank spins around."

**Jon Wahlberg, Merville, Iowa:** "My 1994 Demco sprayer has auto-leveling booms with coil spring flotation. Good boom suspension makes for a better spray pattern and adds to the life of the boom. It's a best buy. I like my Hiniker no-till cultivator too. It can be adjusted to suit any field condition."

**Charles Lemke, Glencoe, Minn.:** "We like the Deere 318 lawn tractor we bought new in 1992. It's an excellent machine that our whole family loves to use. Power steering and power lift are great features."

**Archie T. Thompson, Whitaker, N.C.:** A Case-IH 3900 19-ft., 6-in. disk is one of Archie's "best buys". "It's a well-built piece of equipment that does an excellent job of cutting and turning under crop residue. It's a lot better than the IH 475 disk I traded in. I would recommend this disk to anyone. However, you should have at least a 140 hp tractor to pull it."

**W.F. Blackman, Dothan, Ala.:** "Our 1988 Chevrolet S-10 pickup equipped with a 4.3 liter V-6 engine has plenty of power and is fuel efficient. It's nimble in traffic, too."

**Leon Jones, Britton, S. Dak.:** A 1993 New Holland 308 manure spreader is one of Leon's "best buys". "It does a very even job of spreading, no matter whether it's handling liquids or solids with a moderate amount of straw."

On the negative side: "We've put 3,600 hours on our 1991 Case-IH 7140 front wheel assist tractor. In four years, we've had to replace both front and rear wheel seals, completely overhaul the engine after it threw a rod, and fix a slipping transmission. We've also had to replace both load boxes on the 3-pt. hitch. Fortunately, our dealer and the company have been very good about fixing things under warranty. The most we've spent is \$250. However, it has cost us a lot in time and inconvenience."

**Roy Peters, Tower, Minn.:** Roy's pleased with his 1986 Ford 150 pickup equipped with a 6-cyl. 300 cu. in. engine. "It has 176,000 miles on it and it's only needed a couple of minor repairs. It still doesn't use a drop of oil."

On the "worst buy" side, Roy's dissatisfied with his Sears 10-in. flex drive table saw. "I like everything about the saw. However, as soon as the warranty expired, the flex cable twisted off. It cost me \$87.97 for the cable and housing because Sears won't sell the cable separately. The cable alone probably wouldn't have cost more than \$10. Anyone know who makes flexible cable?"

**Michael Duelette, Chesterville, Ont.:** "After a recent kickback scare, I retired my 1982 Pioneer P26 chainsaw. It has a guard that looks like a chain brake and the owner's manual refers to a chain brake. But there is no chain brake nor any other method for stopping the saw. In some ways, an imitation chain brake is worse than no chain brake at all."

**Jack W. Griffith, Arlington, Texas:** Jack's impressed with his air-cooled Belarus 57 hp tractor. "It's not fancy, but it is tough and inexpensive. I'm also impressed with the comparable-sized Zetor tractor. However, they're a little more expensive and they have a water-cooled engine."

**Irwin McCullough, Sharpville, Penn.:** An old 6-bottom 595 White plow is one of Irwin's best buys. "It'll plow down corn stalks, weeds, hay - just about anything - without plugging."

**William Miller, Ashton, Idaho:** William's pleased with his New Holland 375 14 by 18-in. square baler. "It makes good uniform bales and ties them tight. We've made 36,000 bales with it and it's been trouble-free."

"My Pioneer Farm & Ranch chain saw didn't work very long before I had to have it completely overhauled. Of course, the warranty had just expired so I had to pay for the repairs. This saw will never hold a candle to the Homelite XL 12 saw I've had for 30 years. It's still going strong."

**Jerry L. Culver, Iroquois, S. Dak.:** Jerry says his 1992 Case-IH 3900 cushion gang disk is neither his "best" nor "worst buy". "It does a good, level job of disking. The cushion gang handles rocks easily. But when it was new the pins that hold the depth control hydraulic cylinder in place came off and the hydraulic fitting was sheared off the cylinder. The pins holding the ends of the cylinder only had holes big enough for small cotter pins, so I replaced all the pins with ones that had bigger holes in them. Also, the mulcher on the disk is a joke. Bolts are always falling out."

**Herb Cressler, Hoxie, Kan.:** "A 1989

Chevrolet S-10 pickup that I bought in 1992 with 2,100 miles on it is one of my best buys. I had problems with the brake module and paint peeling, but Chevy took care of the problems under warranty."

**Michael L. Smith, Fulton, Mo.:** One of Michael's "best buys" is his 1993 Polaris 350 4-WD ATV. "I know Polaris now makes bigger ATV's than mine but this one has never failed me on low-end power, agility, mid-range torque, or top-end performance."

"Also on the best buy side, I purchased a Panel Bender made by Vic Stratman (HCR 71, Box 54, Argyle, Mo. 65001). It turned what was once a flimsy wire livestock panel into a rigid gate-like structure that's very sturdy. I read about this product in FARM SHOW."

**John O. Darcy, Coal City, Ill.:** "My worst buy is my 1989 Ford F-250 4-WD pickup equipped with a 7.3-liter diesel engine. The rear axle seals leak so much I have to replace them about every 10,000 miles. I had to have the engine replaced at about 100,000 miles - the block rusted

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**Russell Bredekamp, York, Neb.:** An Ellis (Ellis Mfg., Box 246, Verona, Wis. 53593) 1200 metal band saw heads Russell's "best buy" list. "I bought this saw in 1986 and have used it every day since in my fabricating and repair shop. I've never had to replace anything other than the blades. It has a special angle cutting device built into the saw which saves a lot of time."

**Donald A. White, Hartford, S. Dak.:** Two of Donald's "best buys" are a 1990 GM 150 pickup and a 1992 Krause 8-row cultivator. "I haven't spent a dime on repairs for the pickup in 42,000 miles. I just love the Krause cultivator because it's so easy to keep on the row."

**R.E. Charlton, Jr., Dillwyn, Va.:** "My Micronta voltage indicator from Radio Shack is definitely a best buy. It indicates hot wires without penetrating walls - even when no current is flowing."

**Myra Neal Morrison, Rockwell, N.C.:** "The pto shaft on my 1993 Deere 7600 tractor is dangerous. It can't be released to spin freely when hooking up and the shaft on my Deere 535 baler won't budge an inch either," she says. "It takes forever to hook up the baler when you can't turn either end of the shaft. The design engineers should try hooking and unhooking a pto for days on end before they finalize their designs. Another problem with the newer pto's is that they're so heavy it's easy to get hurt if

**Donald Murray, Milan, Mich.:** Donald's worst buys are retractable "poly fingers" that clamp on combine cross augers from May Wes Mfg. "I bought one set plus two extra fingers for the header on my Deere 7720 combine. I made five rounds in a 32-acre wheat field and they

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