

out one day and told me the machine wouldn't cut my hay but couldn't figure out why. They were prepared to give me my money back, but apparently some of the company brass thought differently. I had to keep after the company - one official even had me investigated for some reason - for nine weeks before I got my money. Then, I got only \$13,500 back because, the company argued, I'd cut hay with the machine. That's the last piece of New Holland equipment I'll ever buy."

Jim Haines, Bremen, Ind.: Jim says the best piece of equipment he's purchased in 40 years of farming is his 1989 Toyota 4-WD pickup. "I've put 90,000 miles on this pickup, most of them on our farm or on

"It won't start when it gets below 40°, even if we use ether."

our hunting preserve, and all we've ever done to it is replaced the front brakes and kept it lubed.

"My worst buy is my Deere 2750 tractor. It won't start when it gets below 40 degrees, even if we use ether. All I can do is hope for the best and expect the worst."

Fentress Goforth, Covington, Tenn.: A 1993 Deere 6200 tractor heads Fentress's "best buy" list. "The cab is comfortable and provides the operator with exceptional visibility."

Richie J. Gess, Fort Atkinson, Wis.: "A 1993 Packard Bell multi-media computer is our best buy. We use Microsoft software and also bought a program from Pioneer. We're finally nailing down our income and expenses."

Norvin L. Carter, Gallipolis, Ohio: "A 1992 Dodge 250 2-WD pickup equipped with a Cummins turbo diesel engine is my best buy. It rides and handles well, and has a lot of power. It's twice as fuel efficient my 1976 Ford F150."

William Ries, Castor, Alberta: William's "best buy" is a 1988 White 2-120 tractor equipped with front wheel assist and White front-end loader. "We use this tractor every day in the winter to load silage and round bales. The Cummins diesel engine starts easily in cold weather, and is fuel efficient. The tractor has been trouble-free for 2,200 hours, as has the White loader."

Paul D. Morrow, Clarksville, Tenn.: "This is the first new GM product I've owned in 40 years and I'm very pleased with it," says Paul about his 1993 Sonoma pickup equipped with a 4.2 liter V-6 engine, automatic overdrive transmission, power steering, power brakes, power windows, air conditioning, and cruise control. "It has a lot of power and is fuel efficient. It's given me 19,000 miles of trouble-free driving."

Walter Bockwaldt, La Moure, N. Dak.: "Deere set farming back about 40 years when they came out with the 730 air disc drill. I bought one in 1993 and found it leaves an uneven seedbed and does a very poor job of packing soil around seed. "My best buy is my 1993 Case IH 9270 4-WD tractor. It's quiet, easy on fuel and has a lot of power. The power shift transmission is a dream come true. This is a tractor you can put any hired man or kid on and not worry about them hurting it."

Paul Klingenberg, Parkersburg,

Iowa: "Sowjoy farrowing crates and nursery decks equipped with flushpans are well-made and functional. They do everything they're supposed to do. Also, the people at the company are knowledgeable and very helpful."

"Our **Schuld-Bushnell** 17-ton welded bulk feed bin is our worst buy. The main problem is that it's not built heavy enough. The side panels wrinkle under load. The legs are off center for the bolt hole pattern. The company is totally unconcerned about our problems with its product."

Robert Marriott, Sr., Perkiomenville, Pa.: Robert nominates his Miller Bobcat 225G AC-DC welder and 8,000-watt generator as his best buy. "This machine makes welding easy. It's compact and easy to transport on a two-wheeled undercarriage. It also provides standby electric power."

Daniel Gillen, New Richland, Wis.: "On a scale of one to 10, this is a '10' for farm equipment," says Daniel, pleased with the "Agri-Speed" automatic wagon hitches (**Bergman, Mfg. Inc.**, Box 82, Arthur, Iowa 51431) he uses on four chopper boxes. No hydraulics or 3-pt. hitch is required to activate the hitch. "We've used them for two seasons making 350 acres of alfalfa and 100 acres of corn silage a year. These hitches easily save up to one hour a day and countless trips getting on and off of equipment. They're built to work hard and last, plus the company is great to do business with."

John W. Elias, Standard, Alberta: John's happy with his 1994 Hesston 8100 SP swather equipped with a 30-ft. shiftable table, but says it could use a few improvements. "I'd like to see foot-controlled height adjustments for the table and reel drop, as well as side-to-side flotation so the table corners don't dig in when crossing ditches. Otherwise, the swather is comfortable, easy to operate, cuts well, lays a good swath, and has adequate power and good fuel economy."

David Rudy, Warwick, N.Y.: "My worst buy was my Deutz-Fahr KH 500 17-ft. folding tedder that I used in the past. It uses knuckle-pin drive on the arms and the pins were always breaking and the knuckles cracking. I bought new ones but they broke, too. I welded the knuckles to provide a harder surface, but it didn't help. Finally, I disconnected the two swing arms and the tedder worked. Trouble was, I could pick up only one row at a time. The factory should have kept my tedder, put it out on their front lawn, and planted flowers around it."

Douglas White, Unity, Sask.: "It's by far the best pickup I've ever owned," says Douglas about his 1985 Chevrolet Wrangler 1/2-ton pickup equipped with 305 cu. in. engine. "It gets about 23 mpg on the highway and has excellent performance."

"My worst buy was a 1980 Deutz DX 160 tractor that I purchased in Sept. 1988. It's especially discouraging because I've been such a die-hard Deutz customer."

When the transmission went out on it, I decided to trade up two models, to a new 7145, rather than repair it. I thought that Deutz would have solved their transmission problems by then. However, I learned recently that the transmission in my 7145 is basically the same as in the old DX 160, which had a lot of problems. I haven't had trouble with the 7145, but I'm very skeptical about how long its transmission will last. So I wrote to Deutz and asked for a commitment from them to pay for most

or all of the repair costs if the transmission on this tractor fails, too. They refused. If the company doesn't care to stand behind its product, especially with a problem that should have been corrected by the time the 7145 came out, that's fine by me. But my next tractor won't be a Deutz, as the last five have been. Also, the tractor caught fire last summer due to a design flaw. An electric wire was crowded around a sharp corner and wore through, causing a short that started the fire."

William T. Jones, Dumas, Texas: One of William's "best buys" is his 1991 Ford F-150 pickup equipped with a 302 liter engine, 4-WD, and Super Cab. The pickup has 86,000 trouble-free miles on it. "As soon as the new model comes out, I'll trade for another one."

Allan Beatty, Richland Center, Wis.: Allen's disappointed with his New Holland 310 baler. "The first year I had to replace bearings and belts. After that, repairs got more expensive. I understand they've improved this baler. But for the same money I could have bought a Deere 336 baler and saved myself all the headaches."

Robert Troxel, Mount Vernon, Mo.: "Since I last wrote to FARM SHOW to nominate my Jamestown wood pellet stove as a best buy, I've come to the conclusion it was really my worst buy in many years."

"One thing, the stove is overrated at 4,800 sq. ft. heating capacity; it'd have to work hard to heat 2,400 sq. ft. Maintenance on the stove is difficult and must be done often - including tearing the stove's burning chamber completely apart after every ton or so of pellets and cleaning it thoroughly with a long-handled bottle brush and vacuum cleaner. My dealer refused to take the stove back but did help me sell it outright for half price to another party. I felt fortunate to get that. The lesson to be learned here is never purchase a pellet stove until you learn how to operate it, how much fuel it burns, and how often you have to clean it."

Tim Broer, Iowa Falls, Iowa: Two Mirafount energy-free hog waterers rank as Tim's best buys. "You can put hot water in them before dark if it's going to get really cold at night and they stay thawed all night. They work like a big thermos jug. The electrical savings is nice."

"The heavy duty planter markers on my Deere 7200 Max Emerge were not engineered too well. The frame to support them

"I put five new clutches in it. Turns out the pressure plate was warped."

is inadequate, as are the bolts that hold the telescoping portion of the marker. In addition, shear bolts work loose all the time."

Dowayne Brigham, Litchfield, Mich.: Dowayne's worst buy is his Belarus 420A tractor. "I put five new clutches in it. Turns out the pressure plate was warped. The company sent new parts, but I was supposed to have them machined down to make them fit. I finally gave up."

Among Dowayne's best buys: a Westfield auger with swing hopper that's "well-made and easy to use."

Robert Williams, Morral, Ohio: "My 1994 Deere 750 drill is built strong and works great for no-till. I plant at 7 to 9

mph and this drill puts the seed exactly where I want it. The only problem I've noticed is that you have to change the location of the openers over the rows on 30-in. spacings to keep the gauge wheels from hitting stalks and inhibiting population in rows. It shows in the operators manual what openers to change."

Ronald Wyatt, Tahoka, Texas: Ronald's best buy is his 1988 Miller Matic 200 wire welder. "It does a superb job of welding and requires very little upkeep."

A 1991 Massey 3680 4-WD with front wheel assist heads the list of Ronald's worst buys. "The front differential went out twice. I've had to overhaul the engine. It overheats. The brakes are hydraulic and keep getting dirt in them. And there are many other little things that keep going wrong."

Ed Staudt, Vibank, Sask.: The only complaint Ed has about his 1988 Ford Ranger XLT equipped with a V-6 engine, 5-speed manual transmission, air, conditioning, cruise control and tilt steering wheel, is that he doesn't get to drive it enough. "It has over 98,000 miles on it and all it's ever needed was regularly scheduled maintenance and tires. It handles great and consistently gets me 28 mpg. I only wish my wife wouldn't always use it so I could drive it more."

Edward Tomlinson, Marion, Va.: A 1994 4630 Ford equipped with shuttle shift transmission is one of Ed's best buys. "The tractor has a lot more power than the 4610 I traded for it and it's easy to get on and off. The transmission is extremely smooth, but may be a bit too noisy for some."

Louis Ehlers, Sedgwick, Kan.: "The Kennametal Slicer furrow openers I bought for my Deere MaxEmerge 7200 are my worst buy. They're supposed to keep the furrow open until seed drops to the bottom, but all they do is pack soil between the two opener disks. My 7200, which is one of my best buys, wouldn't plant corn with the Slicers. I spent hours trying to make them work and finally took them off after planting only three acres."

Dennis DeRolph, Glenford, Ohio: One of Dennis's best buys is a 1994 Polaris 300 4-WD ATV he bought last year. "It rides like a Cadillac compared to other ATV's I've ridden, and the transmission and one-lever brakes make it smooth and simple to operate. The 4WD has been great in snow this winter."

John Witzel, Pleasant Dale, Neb.: "I wish I'd kept track of all the wood my little 1978 Stihl 015 chainsaw has cut. I've worn out chains and bars on it and all I've ever done is general maintenance."

Urban Snyder, Storm Lake, Iowa: "We're more than satisfied with the 40 by 17 by 16-ft. Lester pole building we put up in 1991 to use for a shop. It's as sturdy as the Lester building we put up in 1976. The only trouble we ever had with that one was some loose tin on the roof, which was taken care of by the company as soon as I called them."

Fraser Summers, Fonthill, Ontario: An Agri-Master feed wagon from H.B. Welding, Wallenstein, Ontario, is Fraser's best buy. "The wagon is strong and well-built with a good coat of paint. We use it in our heifer pasture, and it makes it easy to catch or hold animals for breeding, pregnancy, etc."

Robert Bunnell, Eustis, Fla.: A Lely

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