

pto on the mower has also been trouble-free.

"If anyone's interested in buying a used mower, I'll consider almost any offer for my **Modern** (Beaumont, Texas) 8-ft. rotary mower. It's called the "Super Commando," but I call it my super worst buy. We've had to rebuild both tailwheel assemblies with 1-in. thick steel to keep them from constantly bending. The wheel bearings are designed so vines constantly get in and destroy seals. It has many other problems, too."

David Nobe, Barrington, Ill.: "My worst buy is the **Case-IH** 8530 baler I bought new last year. I was replacing my 10-year-old New Holland 316 with the Case. In the 10 years I owned the New Holland I didn't go through one bag of shear pins. I've used three bags of shear pins since I bought the Case. I spend as much time unplugging the baler and replacing shear pins as I do baling."

James Ferguson, Canby, Minn.: James is the owner of a 1992 **Deere** 4560 2-WD tractor equipped with a powershift trans-

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mission. "It has a lot of power, good visibility, and is comfortable to operate. The only problem is the engine uses a quart of oil every 20 hours."

"My 1994 **Agco** 918H lawn and garden tractor equipped with a 48-in. mower deck is my worst buy. It works fine and does a good job mowing, but I have a problem with the Kohler Command 18 hp engine. Sometimes when I shut off the engine or dismount and activate the mower's safety shutdown switch, the muffler lets out a large explosion of hot gas, creating a potential safety hazard."

Jack Simmons, Sardis, Ala.: "My 1991 **GM** SLE extended cab pickup rides comfortably and has plenty of shoulder and head room. It also has a lot of power. I've never owned a pickup as good as this one."

Darrell Rains, Beatrice, Neb.: Darrell's best buy is his 60 hp **Deere** 5400 tractor equipped with front-wheel-assist and 540 **Deere** loader. "It's a handy tractor with plenty of power. With front-wheel-assist it will go where big tractors can't. We use it every day."

Ron Bigler, Decorah, Iowa: "By far the most costly and disappointing piece of equipment I've ever owned is my 1989 3680 MFWD **Massey** tractor we purchased in 1991 with 350 hours on it. In the three years we owned it, we had two years of overheating when under load. Along with that, the gears in front wheel drive went out, the fuel injection pump locked up, there were lots of problems with the auxiliary hydraulic system, and the engine was using 5 to 6 qts. of oil a day the last time we used it. The tractor spent more time in my shop or the dealer's than it did in the field. And it took up to six months to get satisfaction on some of the repairs covered under warranty. The only good thing I can say about the lemon is it had a good cab."

"My best buy is my 1991 **Landoll** Weatherproofer. It's a well-built machine, does a great job, and requires only routine maintenance. Plus, the company is great to do business with. We had a minor problem with the unit when we first got it, and Landoll sent a representative from Kansas to Iowa to change it - no charge, no hassle."

Gary Abernethy, Hickory, N. C.: "My **New Holland** 211 disc mower conditioner

cuts dead, wet, thick hay at 6 mph without slowing down, but when cutting thin hay I have to slow down the rpm's or it'll leave the crop in the field."

Charles Koenig, Cuero, Texas: Charles likes his 1987 **McCulloch** Wildcat chain saw. "It's been an excellent piece of equipment. Maintenance is minimal - regular tune-ups and new chains once in a while. It starts good in cold weather and cuts just fine."

Derrell Jones, East Prairie, Mo.: Derrell nominates one **Chrysler** vehicle as his best buy and another as his worst. "My 1988 **Dodge** Ram 50 pickup gets 25 mpg, has 170,000 miles on it, and uses no oil. It still has the original exhaust system. I've only spent \$29 on repairs in six years."

"My 1994 **Plymouth** Voyager van is another story. It uses a qt. of oil every 800 miles with just over 21,000 miles on it. Neither the company nor dealer will do anything about it."

Neil Smith, Battleford, Sask.: "We're very pleased with our **Deere** 4020 tractor. It just keeps on going and going, and there's seldom a day we don't use it. It has a **Deere** loader on it that's just a marvelous piece of equipment, too."

James Hoeflinger, Orange, Va.: "My **Satoh** Buck 3-cyl. 4-WD diesel tractor is a real workhorse. It works great on hills. However, I had to spend over \$150 for a new water pump and had to wait two weeks to get it. Satoh tractors are no longer sold in the U.S. as far as I know. The tractor had less than 1,000 hours when the pump failed."

Duane Sapp, Eau Claire, Wis.: A 1993 **New Holland** Hay Inverter is Duane's best buy. "It turns hay over without knocking all the leaves off because it picks it up and inverts it, instead of beating down on it to roll it over, like a side delivery rake."

Ralph Muecke, Gladstone, N. Dak.: Ralph nominates one **Deere** hay tool as his best buy and another as his worst. "The **Deere** 375 round baler I bought in 1993 is well-built. It makes good solid bales, the double twine tie does an outstanding job of tying bales, and the machine will bale anything - even Russian thistles. The only problem is it was terribly overpriced."

"My worst buy was a **Deere** 800 swather, in spite of the fact that it worked and cut well. The problem was that there were way too many moving parts. You had to tear the swather nearly half apart in order to change some of the bearings and belts, causing lots of unnecessary downtime. Also, the roller chains were way too light for their application."

Jeff Meyer, St. Olaf, Iowa.: "I like my 1979 **International** 886 tractor. It has good power for its size, is fuel efficient, starts easily in the winter, and has a quiet cab with good heater. However, the shifting levers could have been set up differently. Whenever I put the range lever in park, it's in the way for climbing in and out of the seat on that side of the cab. Also, the seats have plastic armrests that break off easily. I put an oscillating fan in the cab to help move more air and keep the windows from fogging up in winter."

H.B. Jurgens, Buffalo, Mo.: "I bought a **New Holland** 650 big round baler in 1994," says a "very satisfied" H.B. "It makes good, solid, rain-proof bales. I also have a 1994 **Dodge** Dakota extended cab pickup. It has lots of snap and power with its 318 cu. in. V8 engine. We get 20 mpg on the highway."

Calvin Bloom, Mount Airy, Md.: Calvin's worst buy is the **Chevrolet** S-10 4-WD Blazer he bought new in 1992. "It had no brake pads left at all after less than a year. After many trips to the garage - and contacting the Better Business Bureau in our area - Chevrolet traded us for a 1993 Blazer that soon developed the same prob-

lem. That one had only 5% rear brake pads left, as was proven by the local dealer's service manager as well as a representative from Chevy. The service manager told he was getting several Blazers in per month with the same problem and couldn't fix it. We finally gave up and traded the Blazer off."

Harold Penner, Fairview, Okla.: "One of the best buys I ever made was the 3/4-ton **Chevrolet** 4-WD pickup I bought new in 1992. The 350 cu. in. fuel injected engine runs great and has plenty of power to handle heavy loads like large round bales. At the same time, the pickup rides very well."

Wilbur Reichert, Dresden, Kan.: Wilbur's had problems with the **Ford-New Holland** 855 round baler he bought new in 1991. "I had a lot of trouble with the bale command microprocessor that controls the machine's tying sequence. After several unsuccessful attempts to fix it by the dealer, he sent it to an electronics repair company. It works great now."

"The **Deere** 4650 tractor I bought new in 1988 is my best buy. I have used this tractor for 4,000 hours with only a few minor problems. They were handled quickly and courteously by my local dealer."

Garnet Best, Cambridge Station, Nova Scotia: Garnet nominates his **Speedglas** auto-darkening welding lens (Hornell Speedglas Inc., Twinsburg, Ohio) for his best buy. "There's no more flipping your helmet up and down to see what you're about to weld. The lens instantly darkens when the arc is struck and instantly becomes transparent when it's broken. The helmet is also very lightweight."

"The expensive aluminum wheel covers on my 1991 **Ford** F-150 corroded in less than two years. The dealer says they're safe to drive on so he won't provide any "good will" warranty. I guess "appearance" isn't a word in Ford dealers' vocabularies any more."

Kevin Johansen, Mound, Minn.: "One of my all-time best buys is a 1972 **Plymouth** Valiant with slant 6-cyl. engine. After 20 plus years and 252,000 miles, it still gets 20 mpg and doesn't burn oil. Unfortunately, the body is worn out but the drive train keeps going strong."

Perry Hathaway, Claypool, Ind.: "I've mowed 300 acres of hay a year since I bought my **New Holland** 492 Haybine in 1991. The only thing I've had to do is replace one guard and one sickle section. However, the **Goodyear** tires on the haybine left a lot to be desired. I had to put

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tubes in them because they had slow leaks."

Lyle Hoffman, Waterloo, Ill.: The 47-in. **Deere** mower deck and grass vacuum Lyle bought for his 22-year-old **Deere** 110 mower gave "it new life. It mows much smoother and leaves a litter-free lawn. It's now up to specs of a modern mower."

"With only 44,000 miles on my 1989 **K1500 Chevrolet** pickup, the bracket that holds the power steering, air conditioner compressor, and alternator cracked and broke off the studs in the engine block. That was last August. In October, we had to replace the transfer case because the old one was bone dry, even though we never noticed any oil leaks on our concrete driveway or garage floor. The used transfer case they put in operates smoothly, unlike the original. Cost on the second big repair job

was \$1,500 with no help from Chevrolet."

Darrell Harvey, Brookeville, Ind.: "My best buy is an add-on step kit for **IH** 86 series tractors that improves the steps up to the cab and includes cylinder assist that opens the door of the cab farther. This kit (from K&M Mfg., Renville, Minn.) makes it as easy to enter and exit these tractors as newer models."

"My worst buy is the **Case-IH** 656 hydro diesel I bought used. You have to use ether to start it, even on 90 degree days. Plus, parts are hard-to-come-by or non-existent."

Dean Lemenager, Clifton, Ill.: Dean says his 1994 **Deere** 510 disk ripper is his best buy. "It does a wonderful job of burying trash and leveling the seedbed."

Jack Turner, Elkhart, Kan.: "My 1990 7140 **Case-IH** MFWD equipped with powershift transmission has a larger cab, quieter engine, less power hop under heavy load, and a smoother power shift, especially downshifting, than the **Deere** 4960's that I lease. At 5,000 hours it uses less oil than the 4960's at 500 hours."

Glen Holenski, Thornhill, Manitoba: Glen's happy with the 13 hp **Honda** engines on his grain auger and Honda garden tiller. "They start easily, plus they're economical, quiet and smooth-running."

Larry Paul, Shickley, Neb.: A 1972 **Deere** 843 corn head and a 1979 **Deere** 8820 combine head Larry's list of best buys. "These two old warriors just go and go. They pick a pretty big crop every year with very little trouble. I only had to stop for 15 minutes for repairs this last year."

Robert Troxel, Mt. Vernon, Mo.: "My best buy recently is a **Jamestown** wood pellet-burning stove I bought from Pennington Seed Co. in Greenfield, Mo. They're a distributor for the stoves and they make pellets from pure oak sawdust. I bought the stove after I had a severe heart attack and could no longer cut wood to fire my Bryan outdoor wood furnace. The stove makes nice even heat without all the fuss and muss of wood."

"My worst buy in the last two years is a set of **Black & Decker** cut-off wheels for my chop or cut-off saw. They wore down real fast and several were out of balance from the beginning. So I went back to Makita brand wheels - more expensive but built to last."

Jake Herzog, Jr., Slingerlands, N.Y.: A 1991 **Deere** "Gator" 4 by 2 equipped with optional dump box is Jake's best buy. "This machine replaced a trailer I used to pull behind a lawn tractor and a 4-WD farm pickup. We use it for hauling stones from fields, firewood to the house, earth around the place, etc. It's also great transportation to and from our pond."

"Our 1993 **Grasshopper** 718 does everything the company promised. It reduced mowing time by 30% over my **Deere** 300, which had comparable hp and deck size. The lever-adjusted deck height is a big advantage over comparable front-deck mowers."

A 1989 **Ford** F250 heavy-duty pickup is Jake's worst buy. "The 351 cu. in. engine gets worse gas mileage than the 460 engines we use in our other trucks. Also, because the anti-lock brakes have a tendency to malfunction, we've had a few 'near misses.' The dealer says there's nothing wrong."

Tom Farlow, Bahama, N.C.: "My **Deere** MFWD 7200 equipped with cab and loader is the Rolls Royce of 100 hp tractors, as far as I'm concerned."

Kenneth Kerkman, Petersburg, Neb.: "Dow-Elanco's Broadstrike-Dual herbicides didn't do the job on our corn last year. It was billed as the best weed control avail-

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