

Best & Worst Buys

(Continued from previous page)

able for button weed, kochia and lambquarter which it didn't kill. It sure was murder on my corn, though. On hills, I lost a lot of the stand."

Kenneth Dibbell, South New Berl, N.Y.: A Gehl 1310 round baler is Kenneth's worst buy. "It wasn't built rugged enough for custom work."

Donald Borton, Delavan, Ill.: "My 1991 Chrysler New Yorker is just a good all around car backed by a long warranty. We had a problem with the fuel pump at 90,000 miles. It was replaced right away at no cost to us. The car gets good gas mileage and has a lot of standard extras."

William Strum, Kalona, Iowa: "My 1993 Deere 6100 2-WD tractor equipped with cab is my best buy. The cab is very comfortable, quiet, and visibility is great. A, B, C, and D ranges shift real well on-the-go, just like a truck. I like the power quad transmission better than the power shift on my 4450. The cab is so quiet I can't hear the engine run. I have to keep my eye on the tach."

"My worst buy was the new short block engine I ordered from Agco for my 1955 Oliver-White tractor. When I unpacked it, it had been shipped in an open plastic bag and was covered with dust and dirt. I complained, but Agco refused to replace it or take it apart and clean it. Instead, they wanted to blow the dirt out with compressed air. Chancing destruction from dust contamination was unacceptable to me. So now I have a tractor with no engine and I can't find a used or rebuilt engine for it."

David Sadler, Fithian, Ill.: A 25-bushel mini manure spreader from Country Manufacturing Co. in Ohio heads David's worst buy list. "The unit was built way too light for constant use. Drive mechanisms were running all the time, even if they were not engaged, so pivot points wore out prematurely. The tires were too small for any type of rough terrain."

David Barhan, Askov, Minn.: "The tire carrier on my Ford F-150 is a joke here in Minnesota. All the salt they put on our roads in the winter rusted the bolts tight in a couple of years. I cut the old ones off and bought new ones. They cost \$10 apiece. Ford engineers should know the bolts should have been stainless steel."

Poly Wire electric fence wire heads David's best buy list. "I practice rotational grazing and the stuff works great for temporary fences. It's plastic twine with fine copper wire braided into it. It rolls out easy and there are no kinks, twists, or snarls. It's lightweight so I need less posts, too. Easy to reel up."

Jerald Pickle, Moorhead, Iowa: "We purchased a new R52 Gleaner combine in 1992 and it's proven to be the most trouble-free combine we've ever owned."

Arnold Ross, Webber, Kan.: "It has plenty of power and good fuel economy," says Arnold about a 7110 Case-IH tractor, his best buy. "It has a comfortable cab that's dirt-free. And it's easy to service."

A 1982 Allis-Chalmers 6080 tractor is Arnold's worst buy. "We've had it since 1985 and last fall the rear end went out. I had a hard time trying to find someone who could replace it. When I finally did, the work was priced way too high for a used tractor, but I went ahead and had it done because I really needed the tractor."

Brian Parkinson, Milan, Ill.: "I updated my Deere 213 platform header with cutterbar components - 'snake heads' and spring tension hold downs from Crady Co., Fargo, N. Dak. Installation was easy and

I've been very happy with the good even cut I've been getting in beans. I can go faster and keep going when conditions are tough. It expanded my harvest season."

Sylvio Bourgeois, Yucaipa, Calif.: "My best buy is the pickup unloader I bought from Innovation Sales of Maulius, N.Y. I read about it in FARM SHOW (Vol. 18, No. 5). I do a lot of firewood business and with this automatic unloader I have the whole load off in two minutes or less."

Steve Avery, DuBois, Neb.: "I nominate my 1987 Nissan Stanza as my best buy. With 200,000 plus miles on it, you could park it in your living room and not have to worry about oil leaking onto your new carpet. It has the original clutch and brake linings. I had to replace the water pump at 170,000 miles. This car gets 40 mpg with the air conditioning on. I love it."

Ralph Jorgenson, Calgary, Alberta: "I don't know how old my Makita 14-in. metal chop saw is, but I know I've had it long enough to qualify as a best buy. Granted, there's not a lot that can go wrong with a chop saw, but I'm very satisfied with mine."

Chris Lynch, Sabina, Ohio: "My 1994 R52 Gleaner combine is a pleasure to operate. You can work for long hours without fatigue thanks to the new cab design. They've beefed up areas such as the clean grain elevator and feeder house chains to increase capacity. It does an excellent job under the toughest conditions."

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Fred Schrader, W. Lafayette, Ind.: Fred's 1986 Ford F-350 Dually, equipped with a 6.9 liter diesel engine, is his best buy. "It's the most reliable vehicle I've ever owned. It has 140,000 miles on it and it appears it will do that a couple of more times. I'm anxious to see just how long it will last."

Joseph Yoder, Big Prairie, Ohio: "I'm extremely well pleased with the Deere 375 skid steer loader I bought in 1990. The 3-cyl. diesel engine has a lot of power and so far has been trouble-free. The loader is big enough to do a lot of work but small enough to get in just about anywhere. It starts good in cold weather and is easy to operate."

"My electric ShearMaster sheep shearing machine is my worst buy. I bought it new in December of 1992. In March, the motor quit and was repaired by the dealer for free. A few months later, the engine went out again and again it was repaired for free by the dealer. I bought a second motor for a spare and it's a good thing I did. The motor blew again this fall."

Joe Mode, Howe, Okla.: One of Joe's best buys is his 1993 Ford F250 4-WD pickup equipped with a 7.3-liter turbo-charged engine. "This truck has enough pulling power for loads of up to 18,000 lbs. and still get 10 to 12 mpg. I have 17,500 miles on it and absolutely no dealer attention has been needed."

"My worst buy is an 8-ft. Krone rotary disc mower. After owning it two years and mowing approximately 700 acres, this

mower fell apart. Several bearings in the cutter bar went out which, in turn, damaged several gears in the bar. Repairs were very expensive. I replaced the mower with a New Idea mower equipped with a 9-ft. cutter bar and have had no trouble with it after mowing over 1,200 acres."

Terry Senstrum, Elko, Minn.: A 1993 Deere 425 riding mower equipped with a 60-in. deck and all-wheel-steering tops Terry's list of best buys. "I can mow my 4 1/2-acre yard in 1 3/4 hours now. The V2 engine is quiet and has lots of torque. I can cut around trees easily thanks to all-wheel-steering."

Wendell Fredin, Comfrey, Minn.: "I'm happy with my 1994 Magnum MFWD 7130 tractor. It has a quiet cab that gives you excellent visibility of the drawbar. It's extremely easy to shift with lots of gears to choose from."

R.W. Tegtmeier, Sumner, Iowa: "My IH 1640 combine is super. It runs great in corn and puts nothing but clean grain in the tank. I'm also pleased with my 1986 Chevrolet S-10 pickup. It has over 100,000 miles on it and uses no oil. The engine has never needed any repairs."

Herman Stovall, Kemp, Texas: Herman's best buy is his new Massey Ferguson 396 tractor equipped with a 1000 series 6-cyl. engine. "No bells and whistles here. Just a 12-speed forward, 4-speed reverse transmission, 4-WD, and comfortable cab. Hydraulics have adequate power and speed. It cost \$4,500, a lot less expensive than a Deere 85 hp tractor with a 4-cyl. engine."

R. Leigh Catchpugh, Sherwood Park, Alberta: "My all-time worst buy was the Dodge Dakota pickup I purchased in 1990. Everything went fine until my wife and I were visiting in the States about a year ago. The engine began to cut out, so we changed the fuel filter which helped until that evening. When the problem recurred, we began taking it to dealers all over Washington state since the truck had less than 49,000 miles on it and was still under warranty. That began nearly a year-long series of visits to dealers in the U.S. and Canada without any luck. The problem - whatever it was - created a safety hazard on the road so I eventually sold it. What's most disgusting is that the Canadian Chrysler Corp. officials I contacted didn't seem in the least bit interested in helping us with our dilemma. The whole ordeal cost my wife and me great anxiety, loss of vacation time and money."

W.A. Gibbs, Elmwood, Tenn.: His best buy is a New Holland 157 hay tedder. "This 10-ft. tedder does a terrific job in fresh-cut as well as rained-on hay. It's an extremely well-built machine."

"My worst buy is my Woods rotary hay cutter. They made the blades flimsy so they wear out far too soon."

Alan Marsh, MacGregor, Manitoba: Alan's best buy is his 1994 portable calf chute made by 7-L Livestock Equipment of Langruth, Manitoba. "It's an ideal chute for handling calves from a few days old up to two or three months, thanks to the adjustable tailgate. With their heads secured in the front, I can de-horn calves singlehandedly. It's perfect for a one-man dairy operation."

Leo Kramer, Dakota City, Neb.: "We bought a pair of small square bale accumulators from Hoelscher Engineering & Fabrication of Bushton, Kan., we bought a few years ago. They started out to be worst buys but ended up among our best buys ever. When 10 bales were pushed over the top of the accumulator's platform, the platform trips and bales slide off onto the ground. Internal hydraulic cylinders that operate the push-over arms malfunctioned broke on both accumulators, so sometimes the arms would work and sometimes they wouldn't. Plus, spindles on the crazy

wheels on both accumulators often locked up. The manufacturer made a couple of trips to our farm to solve the problem. Once fixed, the machines served our operation very well."

Merlin Rupp, Monticello, Iowa: "The Plymouth Horizon I bought new in 1988 is definitely my best buy. It has 217,000 miles on it, runs like a top and doesn't use any oil. The only repairs it's needed: a new air conditioner clutch and hose at 177,000 miles, new front brakes at 215,000 miles, spark plugs, and tires. I get 32 to 34 mpg and it starts in any kind of weather."

Eugene Alt, Audubon, Iowa: Gene likes StaBil gas stabilizer. "I was told to use this product with my Homelite string trimmer. I've used it in the trimmer and also with my lawnmowers. I left gas and stabilizer in the tanks all winter long. The following spring they all started on the first or second pull. I was amazed. We also use it with our antique tractors."

John Barnard, Malta, Mont.: "I'm pleased with my 1994 Farmhand XL 1340 loader. The bucket makes a straight level cut - there's no problems with one side digging in more than the other. It does everything the dealer said it would."

On the negative side, "My 1992 GM 4-WD doesn't have nearly enough power. It doesn't do a good job pulling my 20-ft. livestock trailer."

Bob Rea, Meridian, Miss.: Bob's impressed with TLC tire puncture seal. "Our small tractor and all three 4-wheelers experience flat tires almost constantly. This is primarily due to mowing CRP land which leaves many spikes from hardwood brush. This product has completely cured the problem for all four vehicles."

"My Tye fertilizer attachment for no-till drills is my worst buy. Despite recommendations to the contrary, we added the optional fertilizer attachment to our no-till drill in order to get better control with the seed. It worked fine for a year, but there's no way to keep the fertilizer from affecting the rest of the drill. We had to remove it after the axle finally froze up."

Ricky Downs, Winnett, Mont.: "My 1993 Westfield 9-ft., 8-in. dia. hydraulic-driven hopper bottom unloading auger is my best buy. The auger enables me to reach the bin auger with little difficulty. It had no problem delivering enough wheat to keep up with a 10-in. Hutchinson auger. It moves twice as much grain as I expected."

Art Kohls, Ellsworth, Kan.: "Our best buy is our 1969 Deere 4020 with 9,000 hours on it. About all we've done is to change the oil."

Charles W. Rittmeyer, Winnebago, Ill.: A New Holland 520 manure spreader rates as Charles's "best buy." "We bought the spreader at a farm sale. It was about one year old. It does a good job with soupy manure. The only problem we had was with a flat tire. The apron came off one time, but that was our fault because we let it get too much slack in it."

Ross Peterson, Sheridan, Wyo.: He's happy with his General Industries sweep sprinklers (big guns) that he bought in 1990. "These big guns are gear-driven by water instead of being turned by an impact arm. Makes a nice, even spray, runs on less pressure, and adjusts to part circle or full circle in 5 to 10 secs."

Louis H. Ehlers, Sedgwick, Kan.: "My best buys are my 1993 Deere Max-Emerge 7200 planter, my 1994 Great Plains 24-ft. folding drill, and my 1994 Schaffert Mfg. Co. furrow closer wheels for my Deere planter. The planter does a good job and the dealer took good care of all warranty. Before I installed the Schaffert closing wheels, the seed furrow would not always close. Now it does. They really shine in a wet seedbed. The Great Plains drill worked well last fall but now needs a bit of warranty work. Now I'll find out what kind of company it is."