

spreading wet manure."

**Jacques R. Tetreault, Tilbury, Ontario:** "I nominate **FARM SHOW** as my best buy. I also like **Makita** power shop tools and our 1967 Oliver Super 66 tractor. It still runs like a top."

**Kevin & Rose Roll, Hays, Alberta:** They rented an **Alloway-Rau** stubble shredder and like it a lot. "It works great on heavy stubble on our irrigated land, reducing the stubble to an easily incorporated mulch. It saves us at least three tillage passes every spring and makes it much easier to make border dikes for irrigation."

"Our **Case-IH 7200** grain drill, equipped with zero till openers, penetrates easily in heavy soil. It also clears heavy trash with ease, allowing us to no-till our irrigated land."

"We bought our 1987 **Hesston-Fiat 100-90** tractor about three years ago and have put 2,300 hours on it. We've had a lot of problems with it. We had to replace the clutch and have had problems with the electrical system and with gauges in the cab. Also, the front axle seals leak. The tractor does have a lot of power, is handy, and has a comfortable cab. But I'd never buy another one."

**Kent Estes, Altoona, Kan.:** Kent's disappointed with his **Crustbuster** Speedking 20-ft. flex rotary mower and **Crustbuster 4000** 30-ft. grain drill. "The design of these products is quite good, but the quality of steel used is far inferior to the steel used by major companies like Deere. The poor quality of the steel and also the paint probably explains why this equipment is priced so much lower. The company doesn't do a good job of following up on complaints and doesn't have a toll-free phone number. Anyone who buys these products should have a good welder handy."

**Don McAllister, Chesley, Ontario:** "The Comfort Gard cab makes it a pleasure to drive," says Don, happy with his 1993

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**Deere 7200** MFWD tractor. "The Power Quad transmission makes it easy to select speeds and to shift gears. The engine has a lot of torque reserve and is easy to service. The few problems we've had were promptly taken care of by our dealer."

"We're pleased with our 1992 **Agro-Trend 500**-gal. tandem axle sprayer equipped with a 45-ft. boom (**Agro-Trend Mfg.**, Clifford, Ontario). It's a well-built sprayer that's easy to fill. The tank has a large opening on top and a wide platform that makes it safe to dump in chemicals. The clean water attachment lets us rinse chemical jugs with less mess than using a hose. The foam marker makes it easy to avoid overlaps and misses in the field."

"Our worst buy is our 1993 **MTD** Turf-Power 22-in. push-type lawn mower. It's hard to push, especially with the safety stop bar on the handle. It's also hard on gas, vibrates terribly, and doesn't have enough power. A piece broke out of the deck at the motor mount and the rear wheel handle bracket doesn't stay tight."

**Aaron Briggs, Foster, R.I.:** Aaron milks 40 cows in a double 4 parlor. He says **Westfalia** timer switches for dairy parlor

feeders are "worst buys". "They're expensive and not very durable. I have to replace three or four every year. A company of this stature should be able to do better."

**Rex Binger, Redfield, S. Dak.:** "I bought a **Westfield** grain auger equipped with a gear-driven swing hopper and hydraulic lift. I think it's the Cadillac of the industry. No hydraulics to get hot and leak out. It's a real grain eater."

**Vance Vesco, Lovelock, Nevada:** Vance nominates his 1993 **Chevrolet 3500 4-WD** Dually pickup equipped with a 6.5-liter diesel engine as his "best buy". "Having previously owned pickups equipped with 6.2-liter diesel engines and 454 cu. in. gas engines, I truly appreciate the power and economy of this model. Power is comparable to a 454 cu. in. engine, but fuel efficiency is almost twice as good. I also like the comfortable ride and cab appointments."

He was disappointed with his 1993 **New Holland 660** round baler when he first bought it. "There was too much paint on the tying system and the belts were poor - I ruined two of them. It also had poor electric switch adjustments. The dealer tried to help but couldn't so I had to take care of all the problems myself. Now that I've made over 1,000 bales with it and know how to work on it, it makes beautiful bales and it can really handle a lot of hay. I haven't plugged it up yet."

**Jim Knetzer, Carlinville, Ill.:** A 1987 **Deere 180** lawn and garden tractor rates as Jim's "best buy". "I'm completely satisfied with it. It has plenty of power, handles well, and is easy to shift."

"I'm not happy with the fuel economy on my 1994 **GM Astro** conversion van. It gets only 17 to 18 mpg at the most. We were told we'd get 20 mpg or more on the highway."

**Kenneth A. Hooley, Amelia, Va.:** Kenneth, who milks about 80 cows and has two farms, says he likes **Bio-Swat** fly parasites (**Bio-Swat Inc.**, Box 7075, Boulder, Colo. 80306). The parasites are mailed to his farm every week in bags, with about 25,000 per bag. Each parasite is about the size of a flea. Kenneth dumps them out around the edges of calf hutches, silos, free stalls, his lagoon, etc. - anywhere they won't get scraped away into his manure pit. The parasites lay eggs in the fly larva and when the eggs hatch, the offspring sting the fly larvae and kill it.

"They really work - they're the best fly control I've ever had. We started out early last season with a bad fly problem, with fly maggots crawling around in manure piles around our lagoon. After the maggots hatched out, the flies migrated to our house. However, as soon as we got on this program we hardly had any flies. We still have to use some baits and chemicals, but not nearly as many as we did before. Two bags are mailed out to us every week, one for each farm. We spent about \$40 per week last summer, but I thought that was a reasonable price for the kind of results we got. We've used parasites before, but we never had good results because we were sent one big supply in the spring. Using them every week is much more effective."

"My 1992 **Calumet** liquid manure pump is my worst buy. The impeller design causes it to force manure past the seal and into the gearbox. The company brought a new impeller out, but it was off center so they put the old one back on. It does a poor job of pumping while agitating, and the agitator nozzle controls are poorly designed."

**John F. Cuneo, The Hawthorn Corporation, Grayslake, Ill.:** John nominates his **Belarus 825** tractor equipped with a cab and front-end loader as his "best buy". "We've had several different drivers operate it, yet it has remained absolutely trouble-free. It's easy to use and is built tough."

On the negative side, John's disappointed with his **Chevrolet 1-ton 4-WD** pickup. "It's gone through four clutches in only 3,000 miles. The dealer blamed our driver, but he had driven our previous pickup since 1971 and it still had the original clutch. Finally we discovered that the problem was a bad slave cylinder. It was replaced, but not under warranty because the GM warranty doesn't cover clutches. At 10,000 miles the slave cylinder failed again but we were able to save the clutch. At 11,000 miles the steering system wore out and had to be replaced. Every day we wonder what will happen next. Also, the seat can't be adjusted back far enough for a tall man."

**Allen W. Cohrs, Donna, Texas:** Allen's impressed with his 1994 **Deere 7400** MFWD tractor. "It has all-new 3-pt. hitch

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controls that work great for digging ditches where constant readjustment is necessary. The dual lift cylinders can lift big implements with ease. It also has great power and traction in muddy conditions."

"My worst buy is my 1993 **Berthroid** blower sprayer equipped with a hydraulically-adjusted canon head. It kept breaking down constantly for 1 1/2 years so I traded it toward the purchase of another implement. If this is an example of foreign-made equipment, I feel sorry for foreign farmers. I used the sprayer to treat the edges of my cotton fields, but it broke down at least every 4 or 5 hours. Almost every part of the sprayer had to be welded or braced. The fiberglass canon on top had to be replaced because it had cracks in it. All of the metal below the pump had to be replaced because it was too thin. The metric pto shaft broke three times. We finally replaced it with a standard pto shaft that cost \$350. This machine cost \$7,800, but it wasn't worth \$500."

**Albert Escamilla, III, Normangee, Texas:** Albert likes his 1993 **Polaris 350 6-WD**, 6-wheel ATV equipped with a dump bed. "It's an excellent product. I own only 12 acres, but I use it every day. It has more power and traction than I normally need. I have over 500 trouble-free miles on it."

**Roger L. Schultz, New Era, Mich.:** An **MTD** garden tractor and lawn mower rates as Roger's "best buy". "It's reasonably priced and doesn't require a lot of maintenance. It rides comfortably and I like the 7-speed shift-on-the-go transmission. Also, it's easy to repair. It's a good all-around tractor. We own two models and would recommend them to anyone."

**Duane E. Haney, Chenoa, Ill.:** "In the past, I wouldn't buy a **Dodge** pickup because I thought the cab quality was poor. However, they did their homework when they designed this model," says Duane, pleased owner of a **Dodge Ram 2500 4-WD** equipped with a V-10 gas engine and 8-ft. long bed. "I use it to pull a 16-ft. goose-

neck grain trailer, 31-ft. fifth wheel camper, 4-horse trailer, machinery trailer, and grain wagons. It has plenty of power and torque. We'd rather drive this pickup than our station wagon. Our son also bought one and likes it."

**Robert E. Ziegenhagel, Medicine Hat, Alberta:** Robert likes his 1989 **GM 4-WD 1/2-ton** pickup. "It has over 125,000 miles of rough ranch work and highway driving. I've used and abused this pickup something awful but it just keeps on running like a clock. I'll buy another one."

**John C. Rutkowski, Waterford, Penn.:** "My **Gehl 2340** discbine does a nice job of conditioning hay, pulls easy, and is well built. One minor problem is the hitch. I'm replacing it with a Deere hitch. Then it will be an even better machine."

"My **McConnel** springtooth harrow is my worst buy. It can be mounted on a 3-pt. hitch or used as a pull-type. However, when you use the drag-type hitch the cross bar that the 3-pt. hitch is mounted on drags on the ground. Whenever I try to correct that problem by lifting the 3-pt. enough so the bar won't drag, the front teeth won't even dig in the ground. The entire machine is built flimsy. I have to use it with a smaller tractor so that I won't bend any cross pieces or braces."

**Ray Zander, Othello, Wash.:** "It performs well and is easy to maintain," says Ray about his 1991 **Hesston 1160** swather. "I especially like the wide (9-ft.) conditioning rolls. I haven't had any plugging problems."

**William Thomas, Pittsboro, N.C.:** William's the satisfied owner of a 1985 **Dodge D150 1/2-ton** pickup equipped with a 318 cu. in. V-8 gas engine and automatic transmission. "It's the best pickup I've ever owned. If I had to buy another pickup today, it would definitely be a Dodge."

**Mike Cornine, Hughesville, Mo.:** A 1994 **Deere 455 30-ft.** grain drill heads Mike's "best buy" list. "One reason I purchased this drill was because of its easy depth setting feature. Hydraulic controls allow me to regulate down pressure on the coulters. The electric-over-hydraulic, independent unit 'select lift' allows me to lift each box independently or all three boxes at once. The drill folds for safe and easy transport."

On the negative side, Mike's had trouble with his 1992 **Dodge LE350 4-WD** pickup equipped with a Cummins diesel engine. "The rear end went out twice. I had purchased the extended warranty. The first time it took three weeks to get parts. The second time, about 5,000 miles later, I chose to pay for the repairs myself because I couldn't do without the pickup for another three weeks. Parts of the passenger side floorboard under the seat broke out, and the accelerator pedal falls off frequently. The first time I loaded the pickup the suspension system sagged so far down that the tailpipe got smashed. However, I do love the engine."

**Bill Marquardt, Petoskey, Mich.:** "I like my 1990 **Deere 430** round baler. I've never had a problem with it and I really like the bale monitor. It's a necessity for any operator."

"I've had trouble with my 1990 **Ford F-250 Club Cab** pickup. The engine had to be replaced at 70,000 miles because of crank backlash, and the transmission had to be replaced twice because it didn't have

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