

miles on it."

Wilson Glenn Collins, Maysville, Kent. "It starts and runs good and is always dependable," says Wilson, owner of a 1993 Ford F-150 XL pickup equipped with a 4.9-liter 6-cyl. engine and 5-speed manual transmission. "It started right up last winter at 30 degrees below zero. We've pulled 10,000-lb. loads with it. Ford makes tough trucks."

Joe E. Chaffin, Elkhart, Texas: Joe likes his 1979 Ford 1/2-ton 4-WD, long wheel base pickup that he bought used with 60,000 miles. "I bought it to haul hay. It had been used on a Colorado dude ranch, and a kid from Louisiana brought it to Texas. He had mounted four new 15-in. gumbo mudder tires on it and sold it to me for \$1,800. It looked like heck because the fenders were all bent up, but it had one of the best drive trains and engines I've ever seen in an old Ford pickup. I've had it for 5 years. I mounted a 3,500-lb. winch at the rear that I use to pick up 1,500-lb. round bales. I've moved a lot of bales with it.

"I also use it for deer hunting and have crossed creeks and sloughs where you wouldn't believe a pickup could go. The only maintenance I've done has been to install new brakes and front shock

"They don't make pickups like this one anymore."

absorbers. It has almost 100,000 miles on it but still doesn't use any oil and will climb up a wall. They don't make pickups like this one any more. My 1994 Ford pickup will never be as good as this one."

John P. Voigt, South Haven, Kan.: John's the satisfied owner of a 1987 Ford F-250 diesel pickup. "When I bought it Ford used the same exhaust system on both its gas and diesel models. However, the exhaust system had too much back pressure for the diesel engine so I had a new stainless steel exhaust system and a new air cleaner installed. Now the 6.9-liter engine has about the same horsepower as a 7.3-liter engine. The pickup is built heavy and I like it.

"In August 1991 I purchased a new Deere 2355 MFWF tractor equipped with a Deere 245 loader and no cab. It's the biggest small tractor I've ever owned. I really like how it shifts. I traded a Ford in on it and am glad that I didn't buy another Ford. One problem is that most Deere dealers order this tractor with economy hydraulic outlets which I had trouble using. I waited until Deere had one of its half price sales, then bought a set of standard plug-ins.

"I recently purchased a Deere 7800 MFWF tractor equipped with a power quad transmission. I like the transmission as well as the tractor's large cab, comfortable seat, and easy-to-fill fuel tank. I traded in a 1988 Deere 4450 MFWF tractor that had 1,100 hours on it. It rode so hard it hurt my back, and it seemed like it was always in the shop for minor repairs."

Marcus Yoder, Grove City, Minn.: "I'm impressed with my Black & Decker 14-in. chop saw, Makita 4-in. hand grinder, and Lincoln 225-amp welder. They've all had steady use over the past 10 years and performed well.

"My Craftsman 1/2-in. drill is built too light. The handle broke off the first year I used it."

Steve Weisbrod, Canastota, N.Y.: A

1994 Chevrolet S-10 extended cab pickup equipped with a 200 hp 6-cyl. engine rates as Steve's "best buy". "It's built strong and has a quiet, comfortable ride. Even with the high output 6-cyl. engine it gets 21 mpg. The computer-controlled 4-speed automatic transmission shifts smooth and is always working in the right gear.

"My Deere electronic moisture tester is my worst buy. The first one I bought failed after a couple of years, and the second one produces very erratic readings in wheat."

Harold McGrath, Cass City, Mich.: "My best buy of all time is my Husqvarna 240 chain saw that I bought in 1976. I've used it every winter and sometimes in the summer with very few problems."

Frank E. Jirik, Webster, Minn.: "I'm well pleased with my Allis-Chalmers 185 tractor. No problems. I also have a 40-year-old Allis-Chalmers WD45 tractor that I'm still using."

Richard Flanders, Calvin, N.Dak.: "I really like my 1993 Deere 7800 MFWF tractor. It's fuel efficient, dependable, and has plenty of power. I'm well satisfied with it.

"My worst buy is my Woods RM372 3-pt. riding mower. The gauge wheels fell off during the first hour of use. Another problem is that it leaves a strip of unmowed grass between the left and center blades. I've owned four other Woods mowers and all of them worked fine, but this one is a joke."

Robin R. King, Mahtomedi, Minn.: A 1993 Acre Ease wing mower powered by a 12 1/2 hp Kohler OHV engine (Kunze Engineering, Mendota, Ill.) rates as Robin's "best buy". "I'm well pleased with it. It runs beautifully and reduced my mowing time by over half."

Dave Provost, Jr., Troy, N.Y.: "It's a well-built, heavy-duty tool that runs quiet and performs great," says Dave, pleased with his 1994 Land Pride 5-ft. rotary cutter equipped with a slip clutch.

George Sitter, Thedford, Ontario: "My best buy of all time is my 1947 Farmall C tractor. I still use it. It's a handy, durable tractor."

Jerry Achenbach, Boscobel, Wis.: Jerry's "best buy" is his 1989 New Idea 5209 discbine. "It's trouble-free and doesn't plug up.

"I like my 1993 White 6085 tractor. It has a short turning radius and has good traction for a tractor of its weight and size."

Tom Johnson, Pennellville, N.Y.: "My best buy ever is my 1972 New Holland 479 haybine. It works almost perfect. The only breakdown it ever had was due to a failed bearing. I don't think we'll ever own another machine that works this well.

"I like my 1994 Zimmerman 40-ft. hay elevator. A lot of big companies don't bother to make small equipment like this. It has a heavy-duty chassis and direct gear drive which is a great idea - there are no chains or belts to slip.

"My 1986 Ford LT11 riding mower is a worst buy. The deck is poorly designed and built. We finally replaced it with an International Cub Cadet 1225 garden tractor. It's a big improvement."

Marvin Halverson, Tappen, N.Dak.: "We're well pleased with our 1994 Chevrolet 1/2-ton extended cab pickup. It rides and handles well on gravel roads, is quiet, and rides comfortably. The 350 cu. in. engine has a lot of power and is also fuel efficient."

Fred Bongard, Plato, Minn.: Fred's disappointed with his Sears "high wheel" 5 1/2 hp mower equipped with a mulch

blade. "In tall grass the mulch blade causes the deck to plug up. The mower was less than two hours old when I hit something and bent the crankshaft. It should have a safety mechanism on it. However, the engine has plenty of power."

Wyatt Priestley, Greenfield, Tenn.: "I've had very few problems with my Deere 4440 tractor. It's reliable and does everything we ask of it."

James T. Berrier, Boston, Ma.: James bought a 1994 6-ft. heavy duty box blade from Central Tractor (Des Moines, Iowa) and says it's his "best buy". "It's built rugged and efficiently moves earth, mud, gravel, etc.

"My Coleman Powermate power washer is easy to use and cleans equipment fast."

Margaret L. Eggers, Winterset, Iowa: "Our 1993 Deere 332 diesel garden tractor is our best buy. No problems at all. We use it to mow over 3 acres of hilly, rough lawn. We also use it as a chow tractor and pull a small trailer behind it.

"Our Sears riding mower is our worst buy. The transmission goes out every other week and the company is slow to repair it."

Darren Batman, Ingalls, Kan.: Darren's the satisfied owner of Deere 4955, 4555, and 4455 tractors. "No breakdowns or downtime on any of them. I bought extra fenders for the 4955 because it's equipped with front wheel assist, as well as add-on lights. The tractors need more leg room, especially by the power shift levers. I added a joystick to make the loader on the 4455 easier to operate."

Richard Pahl, Lamont, Okla.: Richard nominates his 1991 Deere 535 round baler as his "best buy". "It's equipped with double

"I'd recommend this baler to anyone."

twine arms and an automatic bale kicker so it works fast. I can tie a bale and start baling again in less than 25 seconds. It also makes uniform bales and I've had little down time. I'd recommend this baler to anyone."

Paul Klingenberg, Parkersburg, Iowa: "My worst buy ever was my Schuld 17-ton welded bulk bin. I ordered a bin designed to store bean meal, but a standard bin was brought out. After it was set up, a leg pulled out so they replaced the bin. The legs on the new bin pushed the sidewalls in. The company said the bin needed an agitator to handle bean meal. We got the agitator, but it didn't help at all so they replaced that bin with a heavier one. When the new bin was brought out the lid was welded in the wrong place and the legs still pushed the sidewalls in. The company finally admitted that they had similar problems with other bins. After we made numerous complaints they sent out a service man without the proper tools to repair and straighten out the legs. It was an impossible task for one person without tools. We furnished help and the tools to fix it. The company stated that they would reimburse us if we submitted a bill, but later refused to pay. I'll never buy a Schuld bin again."

George P. Hedrick, IV, Pearisburg, Va.: George is the satisfied owner of a 1985 Haybuster no-till seeder. "It has worked perfectly ever since we bought it. I added an adjustable hydraulic cylinder for improved depth control and an extra hopper for alfalfa and other small seeds. I've used it to plant several hundred acres with good

success. I'm sold on it."

Quentin B. Hess, Edgar, Wis.: "My 1987 Vermeer 5031 round baler is ideal for small farmers. It makes 3-ft. bales which I can unroll in the manger in my tie stall barn.

"My Vicon 7-wheel H1050 hay rake works fast and does an excellent job.

"I use a Speedrite 5800 fence energizer to charge an electric fence around our 80-acre farm. Our cows have a lot of respect for it."

Darwin Hartkopp, Hampton, Iowa: Darwin bought his 1989 Buffalo 7010 6-row 30-in. planter used 3 years ago and is impressed with it. "I've used it to plant everything from conventional to ridge-till. It works great even in heavy cornstalk residue."

Leonard J. Welch, Harwood, Texas: Leonard's had trouble with the gear pump on his Continental Belton sprayer. "It wouldn't produce adequate pressure after pumping only 1,800 gallons. I sent it back to the company for repairs, but they returned it saying it couldn't be fixed because it had been used with contaminated water. That's not true - I use water from an FHA water pipeline system which is of the very highest quality. I replaced it with a Hypro 8-roller pump which works well (Hypro Corporation, New Brighton, Minn.).

"I'm well satisfied with my Continental Belton RK 72 rotary cutter."

James Burkholder, Wakarusa, Ind.: A 1992 Husker center-drive silo unloader rates as James's "best buy". "No problems. The only time we have to climb up the silo is for routine maintenance. It handles silage well and unloads fast.

"We bought our 1980 Case 2590 tractor used last fall for heavy-duty field work and are well pleased with it. It has a lot of power and is nimble.

"Our 1978 Case 970 tractor is also a best buy."

Olin Rairdon, Indianapolis, Ind.: Olin operates a stump cutting business using a Vermeer 2460 stump cutter and a smaller Can Do self-propelled model for grinding stumps that the Vermeer unit can't reach. He uses a 1964 Deere 3020 tractor equipped with a Westendorf front-end loader to pull the Vermeer and hauls both stump cutters as well as the tractor on a 30-ft. gooseneck trailer between jobs. "The Vermeer stump cutter was originally powered by a Wisconsin 65 hp 4-cyl. gas engine. It kept failing every six or seven months because dirt got through the air cleaner filter. I replaced the engine with a Deutz 950 diesel equipped with an oil bath air cleaner and also mounted an in-line fuel filter in front of the fuel pump. I had the same problem with the 20 hp Kohler engine on the Can Do cutter so I replaced it with a Ruggerini MD 151-D 15 hp diesel engine equipped with an oil bath air cleaner. The engine is made in Italy and sold in the U.S. by Deutz. It developed an oil leak after the warranty expired. My dealer's mechanic found that the problem was caused by a crack in the block. He explained the problem to a Deutz representative who replaced the engine at no cost except for installation.

"Engines used in dusty conditions shouldn't have dry-type air cleaner filters. My 1964 Deere 3020 tractor has an oil bath air cleaner and has been overhauled only once."

Jule Jacobson, Porter, Minn.: "I bought my 1993 Deere 7800 tractor to replace a 4-year-old Deere 4455. It's my best buy. It

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