

our junk and still gets 20 to 22 mpg with plenty of power. The only problem is that the cruise control works erratically at best. I bought it two years ago with 145,000 miles and it has 188,000 miles on it now. Very few problems.

"My 1988 Ford F-150 Supercab pickup equipped with a 302 cu. in. gas engine and 5-speed manual transmission is a real gutless wonder. It gets only 16 mpg empty and doesn't have enough power to haul big loads. It's computer controlled so you can't set the timing and carburetor for optimum performance. The company decided to replace a \$1.25 set of points with a \$1,500 computer just so it could force buyers to patronize their dealers. I've had it with later model Fords."

**Avery Huneycutt, Inman, S.C.:** "My 1982 Mazda B2200 diesel truck is a heavy-duty work truck with no unnecessary bells and whistles. It's stable and well-balanced so the front and rear tires wear at about the same rate. It has 165,000 miles and has been almost trouble-free. I added bed tie-downs and a ladder rack. Too bad they don't build new trucks like this one."

**Paul Singleton, Bruceville, Ind.:** Paul likes his Big Husky automatic cattle waterer. "It performed flawlessly during the

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coldest winter on record. It's easy to install, adjust, and clean, and it's well-insulated. Uses an 80-watt element that hardly ever comes on.

"My Audiovox fender-mount radio is my worst buy. It didn't work right from the start. It has poor reception and a cheap speaker. The FM band went out so the dealer sent the radio in to be repaired. After it came back it worked for only a half day."

**Murray Woods, Linden, Alberta:** A 1985 Nissan Kingcab truck equipped with a powershift transmission heads Murray's "best buy" list. "It has over 150,000 miles with only normal maintenance. The only modification I made was to install a carburetor kit. It still runs great.

"My 1986 Deere 4650 tractor is reliable and hasn't had any problems. It has a quiet cab with a comfortable operator platform."

On the "worst buy" side, "One year ago we bought a new Chrysler mini-van. The van works great but the Goodyear tires on it are a joke. Within 2,500 miles the sidewall blew out on one tire and within 12,000 miles the other three tires wore out. Chrysler said the tires weren't their responsibility and sent me to Goodyear. Goodyear indicated these were 'cheap' tires and wouldn't back them. I'm disappointed that Chrysler and Goodyear would endanger their reputation and the safety of customers by putting such poor tires on a new vehicle."

**Don Baker, Binscarth, Manitoba:** Don's happy with his 1993 Craftsman 56cc 16-in. chainsaw. "It performs wonderfully. It always starts good and is easy to keep clean. I haven't even had to change the spark plug yet after cutting many cords of wood."

**Stanley Byerly, New Salisbury, Ind.:** Stanley nominates his 1972 Chevrolet 1/2-ton pickup equipped with a 402 cu. in. engine and TH400 transmission as his all time "best buy." "It has 210,000 miles on it

and the only work done to the engine was last year when I installed new valves and a new timing chain and gear. I've used it to pull heavy trailer loads over long distances. It still has the original engine, transmission, rear end, and front suspension. It's been repainted twice. The truck cost \$4,500 fully loaded when I bought it, not including air conditioning. The same pickup today would sell for \$20,000 without the same quality."

**Jason Starnes, Salisbury, N.C.:** "It makes the best bales I've ever seen," says Jason, owner of a 1993 Deere 328 baler. "Bale shape, size, and density stay the same regardless of window size. The baler's wide pickup makes it easy to get all the crop. It runs quiet and smooth and is easy to service. It's also easy to clean up at the end of the season."

**Lloyd J. Drees, Fontanelle, Iowa:** "I'm well-pleased with my 1991 Belarus 925 tractor. I had some trouble with hydraulics, but the dealer finally took care of the problem. It still leaks some oil but the tractor works great and is fuel efficient. It has a good air conditioner and heater. Considering the low price, it's a real bargain."

**Henry Klooster, Tavistock, Ontario:** Henry nominates his Deere 255 2-WD tractor as "best buy." "It's a handy, fuel efficient tractor with plenty of power. It seems to be holding up just as well as the tractor I traded in - a Deere 2120. We really liked that one, too."

**Leo Mugan, Mitchell, Wis.:** "My Deere 6400 tractor equipped with a cab and power quad transmission is my best buy. It's the neatest, handiest, most comfortable tractor I've ever owned with some real improvements over older models, including the ability to be refueled from the ground, an improved transmission, and a smokeless, gussy engine."

**Floyd Hartke, Dieterich, Ill.:** "I bought my best buy 1987 Case-IH 4694 tractor used with 800 hours on it. After I put on about 200 hours, a tooth chipped off the timing gear. Even though I bought it used, the company still paid for most of the repair."

**Ronald Arp, Hills, Minn.:** "My 1993 Dixon ZTR 424 mower works great and does a good job. It works fast and is fun to operate. I've adapted a lot of attachments to it."

**Tom Larson, St. Edward, Neb.:** Tom likes his 1992 Zetor 6245 60 hp tractor. "It's equipped with front wheel assist, cab, and air conditioning and is fuel efficient and relatively problem-free. It's built heavy and has a much better finish than some other imported tractors in the same class. It's a good value, too."

"My worst buy is a Quadrastat single lever cable control that I installed to operate the 2-spool hydraulic valve on my tractor loader. Push-pull cables connect the lever with the valve but I can't get it to operate smoothly or precisely."

**Wendell Suelter, Lincoln, Kan.:** "My 1979 Allis Chalmers 7045 tractor has performed well above expectations. Excellent lugging ability and handles well."

"I can't say enough good things about my 1991 Dew Eze flatbed. We use it to haul round bales and do a lot of other jobs. It's the most valuable tool on our farm."

"My 1991 New Holland 855 round baler is the most underrated baler on the market. A 10-year-old child could operate it."

On the minus side, Wendell lists his 1989 Hesston 5585 round baler. "It spent as much time in the shop as it did in the field. The pickup attachment was a disaster. The

bearing lock collars weren't set tight enough at the factory and belts were poor quality. It wasn't a dependable machine."

"My 1989 Ford F-250 4-WD pickup equipped with a diesel engine has been a nightmare. Almost every part on it, except

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for the engine, failed before it even had 100,000 miles. I bought it used with no warranty coverage. I'll never buy another used pickup again, partly because I don't want to go without a factory warranty."

**Eldon E. Gabel, Akron, Iowa:** "It does everything claimed by the company and is one of the best tractors I've ever used," says Eldon, owner of a 1992 Deere 7800 tractor. "It has about 600 hours on it. Comfortable to operate with good visibility."

**Lorne Orr, Lambeth, Ontario:** "My 1992 Gehl 1310 round baler is my best buy. It's easy and simple to operate. It's not a high-tech machine, but it works good and is reasonably priced at about \$1,000 less than other balers of its size."

"Our Bobcat 731 skid steer loader is a great companion to the baler. We use it for hauling and stacking bales."

**Kermit Wulff, Gann Valley, S. Dak.:** Kermit likes his 1993 Dodge Dakota extended cab 4-WD pickup with a V-8 engine and automatic transmission with overdrive. "I purchased it to pull my 16-ft. livestock trailer and it works great. It averages 13 to 15 mpg pulling a loaded trailer and 18 to 24 mpg empty. I'm well satisfied with it and plan to buy another one."

**Carl L. Davis, Harrod, Ohio:** "I like my Stihl 041 chainsaw. I bought it used in 1984 and have cut well over 1,000 cords of firewood with it."

"My 1984 Ford Tempo has more than 160,000 miles. Except for a filter in the gas tank that plugged and had to be changed, it has been trouble-free."

**Ray Fiedler, St. Joseph, Minn.:** Ray's impressed with his 1993 Ford 8630 2-WD tractor. "I really like the powershift transmission, foot throttle, and cab. It has doors on both sides."

"My 1992 Case-IH 600 silage blower runs smooth and has a lot of capacity. I use it with a 100 plus hp tractor."

On the negative side, Ray lists his Deere 1219 mower conditioner. "I bought it in the fall of 1992 when I traded in an 8-year-old New Holland 489 haybine and used it for the first time in 1993. I didn't like the way it cut - hay plugged up at the sickle guards."

**Billy R. Snider, Dundas, Ill.:** "My best buy is a Classic outdoor wood burning furnace (Central Boiler, Inc., Greenbush, Minn.). This efficient unit heats our house and all our hot water. It sits outside so I don't have to worry about fire or carbon monoxide in the house and it doesn't take oxygen or humidity out of the house. I can fill it with wood and then forget about it for two or three days. You can run the shower all day without running out of hot water."

"My 1991 Deere 265 riding mower with a 46-in. deck is my worst buy. When it was new it was hard to start. The engine would quit at least once or twice every time I mowed the yard. It took the dealer two years

to solve that problem. I solved the starting problem myself. It does a good job on level ground but gouges on uneven ground. I wish it had foot-operated hydrostatic controls instead of hand-operated controls. Also, I don't like the hand lift. It has to be all the way up or down before the deck can be locked in place. I think there are better riding mowers on the market for less money."

**Keith Wick, Winfred, S. Dak.:** "My 1992 Ford F-250 2-WD pickup with a 7.3-liter diesel engine and 5-speed overdrive transmission is my best buy. I've started it at 0 degrees without using the block heater. Two glow plugs went out by the time it had 10,000 miles but the dealer promptly replaced them. I'm thinking about trading it in for a new model."

**L.A. Childs, Manchester, Iowa:** "My Pax hog waterers are advertised as energy-free and guaranteed not to freeze when installed according to the company's specifications, which we followed. However, even at 20 degrees above zero we had to spend most of the winter carrying hot water to try to thaw them out. I was very disappointed with the company's response to my problems."

**Jeff Collins, Cumberland, Ohio:** "I like my Black & Decker 4075 electric angle grinder. I've used it for years and worn out dozens of 7- and 9-in. grinding wheels. The only repairs have been to one or two sets of brushes and to the switch. It's a rugged American-made tool at a good price."

"I'm pleased with my Makita 9501 4-in. electric grinder. I've only had to replace several sets of brushes, one or two armature bearings, and the power cord."

**Bryan Gibson, Gormley, Ontario:** "It's the best tractor I've ever owned," says Bryan about his 1980 Deere 4440 tractor. "It has 4,600 hours and has done every job on our farm. It's gone through two water pumps, two alternators, two sets of batteries, one neutral start switch, and a pair of front tires. Other than that, it's been trouble-free."

"My 1990 Yetter 6600 RT couler cart with cultivator-packer that I use to pull a 3-pt. grain drill simply didn't work. It was shipped without setup instructions and short on parts. Once in the field I knew why only two units had been sold in Ontario up until that time. From front to back it was poorly designed. The hitch wore out after only 300 acres. The packer was so heavy it pushed dirt in front of it and the tractor couldn't pull it. After two years I gave it to a dealer for a nominal fee. Now he can't sell it."

**R.D. Fricker, De Valls Bluff, Ark.:** "My best buy is a Long 1200 3-pt. backhoe that I bought used from a farmer who had used it on his Deere 4020 tractor. The tractor's high oil pressure and high volume of oil caused it to leak quite a bit of oil. I had the main valve rebuilt for \$50 and replaced some hoses. I bought it to use on my Deere 2355 tractor, but I might also use it on my Deere 4620. I installed a 'T' in the hydraulic line between the pressure control valve on the tractor and the hydraulic cylinder valve and ran a hose from the T to a Prince RD-150-16 adjustable 0-16 gpm flow control valve that I bought from Northern Hydraulics (ph 800 533-5545). I had to use the flow control valve because the backhoe uses only uses 8 gpm. The return line goes to a port on the hydraulic oil filter canister."

"I use the backhoe to dig ditches, remove stumps, and transplant small trees and bushes. I also use it to repair levees and to

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