

Kenneth Powell, St. Agathe, Quebec: Kenneth's had good luck with his 1991 **Deutz 7085** front wheel assist tractor. "It's quiet and fuel efficient and has a comfortable cab with plenty of room. It has 1,600 hours on it. The only problem has been with a switch on the heater blower. The dealer fixed it right in the field."

Deane Wassink, Holland, Mich.: "We're pleased with our **Solo 4-gal.** backpack sprayers. We have six of them and haven't had any problems at all. We use them mainly to spray Roundup."

Robert E. Pustolka, Ballston Spa, N.Y.: "It has performed beyond my expectations and is a best buy," says Robert about his **Diller self-locking feed wagon** (Diller Equipment Co., 2325 St. Thomas, Edenville Road, Chambersburg, Penn. 17201 ph 717 369-2691). "It accommodates 24 head of cattle and is safe and fool-proof. Works better than any other feed wagon on the market and does the work of two hired hands. The manufacturer thought of everything. My only regret is that I didn't buy it when it first came out. I use it for breeding, pregnancy checks, veterinarian work, feeding, etc."

On the "worst buy" side, Robert's disappointed with his leased 1993 **Case-IH** round baler. "It works slow and makes soft bales that are hard to start and hard to eject. The bales have tremendous spoilage. I wouldn't consider leasing another one, let alone buying one."

Frederick Draper, Northwood, Ohio: "My worst buy is my 1993 **Ford Lincoln Town Car**. The computer-regulated, variable power assist steering makes it hard to keep the car going straight down the road. It weaves, zig zags, and fishtails. I'm continuously trying to correct it. It's the hardest car to steer that I've ever had. The company won't do anything about the problem."

Ralph Volkman, Black Creek, Wis.: Ralph likes his 1990 **Ridgid 3360 12-volt cordless 3/8-in. drill**. "It's the same as Skil's 'Top Gun' model. It has variable speed, an

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adjustable clutch, and plenty of power which makes it ideal for driving fasteners or disassembling equipment fast.

"I don't like **Conewango** milker inflations. In advertisements the company guarantees reduced liner slippage, improved milkout, and no break-in period. However, the inflations wore out after less than 10 days, milking 28 cows twice a day. Bowmatic inflations last 8 to 10 weeks. I contacted the company to complain about the problem, but got only sales pitches on how good their inflations are. The company advertises a money-back guarantee, but try and get it."

Donald R. Sharpe, Brighton, Ontario: "I'm well pleased with my **Stihl** weed eater. It's easy to handle and operate and has little vibration. The string lasts a reasonably long time. It has one blade to cut heavy weeds and tall grass and another blade to cut small brush."

"My 1981 **International 986** tractor has 11,000 hours on it and is a best buy. Repair costs have been only \$1,500 to \$2,000. It's a good tractor."

Howard H. Mann, Rutland, Mass.: Howard's impressed with his 1993 **Welder** round baler equipped with a net wrap attachment. "It's a pleasure to enter a field and not have to worry about belt splices breaking or net wrapping around the rolls. We owned **Deere 430** and **Deere 435** balers before we bought this model."

James T. Gray, Prince Albert, Sask.: "My best buy is my 1992 **Vermeer 5041** (5 by 4-ft) solid core baler equipped with all available options including automatic chain oiler, automatic bale kicker, closed circuit hydraulic tension, and automatic electric dual feed tie controlled by an electric monitor (manual override for tying small bales at the end of the field). It has a 5-bar, small diameter pickup equipped with curved teeth and a spiral start roller that makes it quick and easy to start bales even in dry, chopped straw or short hay."

"I've made 1,632 bales with it so far, and it looks like the 2-ply belt lacings will last well over 2,500 bales. The belts are very forgiving in realigning themselves, even in long, swathed green wheat. I really like the hydraulic bale tension adjustment that uses a simple hand valve and lock. No tools are required. It lets me switch from making hay bales at 180 lbs. pressure to straw bales at over 250 lbs. pressure. Most air cylinders on other balers have a maximum pressure of only 80 lbs."

"The baler makes solid bales that are easy to unroll by hand. The electronic monitor can easily be set to increase or reduce the amount of twine on center and end wraps. When set on automatic wrap, the monitor warns when the bale is nearly full, both visually and audibly. It also indicates when the needles start out from their home position and when it's time to eject the bale. A flashing light on the screen shows when the end gate is open. The automatic bale field count is accurate because a bale has to be tied in order to be counted. There should be a warning in the operator's manual, 'Make certain your tractor seat is comfortable because you'll have no real reason to leave it except to add more twine.'"

Don Cassin, Orangeville, Ontario: Don likes his 1992 **Hesston 8530** small square baler. "I'm impressed with its capacity and bale consistency even in uneven crops. The center line design makes it a pleasure to operate."

"My 1993 **Browns** (made in England) 8-bale accumulator and 8-bale grab are both best buys. The accumulator leaves a flat 8-bale pattern behind the baler on-the-go. It's a simple trouble-free mechanical system that lets you bale non-stop. The bale grab has 16 claws and is hydraulically controlled. It works great even on an older loader tractor like mine. The combination of the Hesston baler and Browns system allows us to make small square bales at the same speed or faster than we could with a 4 by 5-ft. round baler and we spent the same or less for the equipment. Another advantage is that small square bales easily outsell round bales."

Dwight E. Plendl, Hinton, Iowa: "Our **Brent GT-600** side-discharge gravity wagon is our best buy (Unverferth Mfg. Co., Inc., Box 357, Kalida, Ohio 45853). It has a full 600-bu. capacity, 4-wheel surge brakes, safety lighting, and a 2-way unloading chute. We really like the easy-opening door equipped with a gear-reduction opener. We also like the load inspection windows. It's a well-designed, quality product at a fair price. We were so impressed with its performance in the poor harvest conditions of 1992 that

we traded it in for a new 640 model last year. It's a little larger and has a stronger rear hitch. However, the redesigned door opener operates backward, which is confusing and two of the tires have slow leaks. But it's still a best buy."

"My worst buys are 'eyeball' scarecrow balloons. You blow them up and hang them from the rafters of a building. They're supposed to keep birds out, but they didn't scare them at all. We followed the company's recommendations for color choice, number, and placement of balloons in our machine shed. **Rid-A-Bird** perches are much more effective but are a nuisance to refill."

Dennis Kelsey, Connell, Wash.: "It's my first **Dodge** pickup, but I wouldn't hesitate to buy another one," reports Dennis, impressed with his 1991 **Dodge 2-WD** pickup equipped with a **Cummins** diesel engine and 5-speed transmission. "It consistently gets 23 to 24 mpg on the highway. It has over 65,000 miles and other than a minor adjustment to the door latch on the driver's side, the body has stayed tight. The company has completely redesigned its new pickup line. If the new ones are as good as this one, they should sell a lot of them."

Richard Gruenhagen, Gibbon, Minn.: A 1992 **REM** grain vacuum is Richard's "best buy". "I use it in place of an auger for dust-free grain handling."

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"My 1991 **Moridge 8440** portable grain dryer is also a best buy. I had some problems with it when it was new, but after a few adjustments it has been trouble-free. I've used it to dry 40,000 bu. The main problem was with an ignition coil which the company replaced. It's an economical unit."

Dave Hauck, Utica, Minn.: "Nothing seems to slow it down," says Richard about his "best buy" 1993 **Deere 1360** rotary mower equipped with an impeller conditioner. "It does a good job of leveling gopher mounds, and has only half as many moving parts as other mower conditioners. So far all I've replaced are knives."

Ray E. Fain, Jr., Sevierville, Tenn.: Ray's had good luck with the **Rollins 3-pt.** bale unroller he bought in 1992 (Rollins Farm Equipment, Inc., 1412 White Oak Road, Cleveland, Tenn. 37312, ph 615 476-7088). It's equipped with two 54-in. long spears that can be hydraulically opened or closed. "It works perfect and handles any size round bale. Lets all my cattle eat at the same time, and at the end of the feeding season there are no mud holes or spots where grass has been killed as with conventional round bale feeders."

On the "worst buy" side, Ray's had problems with his 1989 **Ford Mustang XL 50** car equipped with a 5-speed manual transmission. "The rear brakes make a loud noise when brakes are applied. The hand brake cable was kinked at the factory, and I had to have the original set of rear drums turned five times. New drums have been turned twice. It has gone through five sets of brake shoes. The car now has only 42,000 miles, but the brakes still make noise. Two company dealers have failed to solve the problem. It has also gone through five speed sensors and two oil pressure sensors, but

those problems have now been corrected. I need help."

Oscar D. White, Burlington, Iowa: "My 1993 **Deere 4255** tractor has only a few hours, but I'm well pleased with it so far. My only complaint is that it idles at 890 to 920 rpm's. A linkage adjustment was made, but if anything the problem is worse now. I've had several **Deere** tractors over the years and they're hard to beat. I'm sure some adjustment can be made."

Ronnie Roe, Junction, Ill.: "My 1979 **Deere 4640** tractor keeps right on going and still works as good as it did when it was new. My **Deere 4020** tractor has over 6,800 hours and is still going strong."

Gord Burns, Burnside Farms, Belwood, Ontario: A 1991 **Deere 4755** MFW tractor heads Gord's "best buy" list. "It has a lot of power and good torque rise. We haven't had any problems after 1,400 hours. The 15-speed powershift transmission has good speed ranges for our forage harvester. It handles a 4,000 gal. liquid manure spreader equipped with a 5-shank injector very well."

George Krout, Arlington, Ohio: George has had problems with his 1992 **Deere 318** riding lawn mower equipped with a 50-in. deck. "The tractor has power steering, but the linkage connected to the hydraulic cylinder assist has a lot of end play so I have to constantly correct the steering. The deck cuts well but does a terrible job of distributing clippings. It leaves them in windrows whether I have the deflector up or down."

Donald Olayer, Beaver Falls, Penn.: Donald nominates his 1993 **Case-IH 8350** centerline baler as his "best buy". "I ordered the baler with a hydraulic pickup and bale tension adjustment. It makes solid, uniform bales and doesn't lose as many leaves as my old baler. I like the fact that it follows right behind my tractor on the highway. I haven't had any problems with hay getting caught on the drawbar due to driving over the windrow."

"I leased a 1994 **Ford Explorer** and really like it. It's a pleasure to drive and is fuel efficient. I like the push button 4-WD."

Delbert Bauersachs, Pinckneyville, Ill.: "I'm well satisfied with my 1992 **Case-IH 7150** tractor. It has 790 hours on it with no problems. It's easy to handle and the powershift transmission works great. It's fuel efficient and, with well over 215 hp, it'll outperform my **Case 2670** in the field. I use it to pull my 1992 **Case-IH 496 32-ft.** disk in 9th or 10th gear. The disk does a good job leveling and is also a best buy. I also use it to pull my **Great Plains 20-ft.** no-till drill at 9 to 10 mph. The drill does a super job. I planted 6,000 acres with it and had to replace only one press wheel bearing."

"I sold my **Deere 7000 8-row, 30-in.** planter and bought a **Kinze 8-row, 30-in.** planter. It's a best buy. The **Deere** planter was built too light and bearings were always going out. It went through over 25 bearings in three years. The **Kinze** planter is built heavier so I haven't had any bearing problems in three years. My only complaint is that it doesn't plant as evenly as the **Deere** planter."

"My 1987 **Case-IH 2294** tractor has 2,450 hours with no major problems. And I think my 1991 **New Holland TR96** combine is the best combine on the market. It shells up to 1,900 bu. of corn per hour."

Estil Fiscus II, Bloomington, Ind.: Estil's impressed with his 1993 **Dodge D150** pickup. "The 318 cu. in. Magnum engine

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