

# Best & Worst Buys

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has a lot of power and decent fuel economy at 14 to 18 mpg. The pickup was priced \$2,000 less than other comparable pickups. It handles well and is a pleasure to drive."

**Jerry McDonald, Wyoming, Penn.:** "It's like having another tractor," reports Jerry, pleased with his 1989 Yamaha Big Bear 4-wheel ATV. "We use it to pull hay and gravity wagons and to go from the field back to the yard for tools or parts."

"My 1989 Ford Escort is my worst buy. It had brake problems almost right from the start and the transmission failed at 30,000 miles. I replaced it with a Subaru Legacy. No problems yet."

**Ed Obert, Palmyra, Mo.:** Ed's the satisfied owner of a 1993 Vermeer 504 silage baler. "It really saved us last summer because of all the rain we had. I was able to cut my hay and bale it two hours later. Otherwise, I'd have had a lot of spoiled hay. We baled for several local farmers, saving their crops."

**Harold J. Irwin, Barons, Alberta:** "It's one of the best machines I've ever bought," says Harold, owner of a 1992 Brandt 40-ft. combination rotary harrow and flexicoil packer. "It prepares a seedbed better than any other machine I've used."

**Emmett Blomquist, Dillon, Mont.:** "My 1984 Ford Crown Victoria was a roomy, easy driving road car. It had 130,000 miles on it when I traded it in for a 1992 Ford Crown Victoria that now has 24,000 miles

on it. It's an even better car that gets up to 28 mpg on long trips. It's a great car."

**Louis Kludy, Shelby, Mich.:** "My 1991 Case-IH Maxxum 5120 2-WD tractor has plenty of power and is easy to operate. It has 1,000 hours but has never been back to the dealer. The cab is quiet and comfortable."

**Mark Knudsen, Jesup, Iowa:** "My 1992 Knight 7716 slinger spreader is my best buy. It handles a wide variety of manure, from slop to pen-packed, with flying colors. However, it does unload slow when spreading pen-packed manure."

"We use our 1993 Yamaha 350 4-wheel ATV for a lot of jobs around the farm as well as for fun. It has never been back to the dealer."

"My 1986 Case-IH 1660 combine is also a best buy."

On the "worst buy" side, Mark's disappointed with his 1993 Yetter 2967 row cleaners. "They're supposed to work in conjunction with the no-till coulters on my Deere 7200 12-row planter. They're designed to bolt on top of the casting for the no-till coulters. However, the surface on the casting is tapered and not flat so the row cleaner brackets don't sit square. This makes it almost impossible to get the row cleaner wheels centered with the coulters and puts a bind on the pins used to adjust them. The row cleaners were in short supply last spring so I bought them sight unseen. I won't make that mistake again."

**Richard Campbell, Beaver City, Neb.:** Richard nominates his 1991 Yamaha ATV as his "worst buy". "It started leaking oil from day one and, after many trips back to the dealer, the problem still hasn't been solved. Within a short time the transmission wouldn't shift. I had to take it back to the dealer many more times before the problem was fixed. Next the clutch went out. Now it's in the shop again because the engine blew up. I'm convinced the engineers designed this ATV to serve one purpose - to provide a steady source of income for the dealer's service technicians."

**Geston Womack, Cedartown, Ga.:** "My 1991 Case-IH 2044 cotton picker is my worst buy. It had 425 hours on it when the transmission failed. The company paid for half the repair bill, but it still cost me over \$4,000. Last year at 699 hours the hydraulics failed, costing me another \$4,000 and 8 days of downtime. In between these major failures the steering cylinder failed twice, resulting in a complete loss of steering. There also have been a lot of other problems. It's the most unreliable piece of equipment I've ever owned."

**Allen Voortman, Granger, Wash.:** A 1984 Deere 4050 MFWD tractor, equipped with a Westendorf WL64 loader, rates as Allen's "best buy". "It's an excellent tractor. We have 9,000 hours on it and wouldn't trade it for any new model. I really like the 15-speed powershift transmission. The loader has held up well except for the mounting brackets, which we had to re-build."

On the "worst buy" side, Allen's had trouble with his 1990 Ford F-250 pickup equipped with a 7.3-liter diesel. "The transmission has had all kinds of problems and the brakes failed twice. The fuel pump and

glow plugs had to be replaced and the ignition switch failed. The hinge on the driver's side door broke, and the seat is already showing wear. All the paint has peeled off the hood and now the paint on the roof and sides is also starting to peel off. The pickup has only 50,000 miles on it. I'd like to trade it for a new Dodge."

**J. Earl Anglen, Riverton, Wyo.:** He's pleased with his Lester 40 by 64-ft. pole building. "We use it as a garage, storage shed, and shop. It has two 10-ft. wide, 14-ft. high sliding doors on one end and two roll-up doors for cars and trucks on the other end. There's plenty of room for vehicles, tractors, and shop tools. It's completely insulated and has 20-ft. wide concrete approach pads. It's an attractive building and useful, too. I'd recommend it to anyone."

"My 1992 New Holland 1118 haybine windrower is a fine machine. My only complaint is with the foot valve that raises and lowers the header. To raise it I have to push down a lot harder than I did with my old New Holland 912 windrower. Other owners of New Holland windrowers in this area all like their machines. They're dependable and don't require much maintenance."

**Mark Klein, Sedalia, Mo.:** Mark's the satisfied owner of a Sperry New Holland 451 sickle mower equipped with a 7-ft. cutterbar. "I bought the mower used and replaced a few worn parts including the guards. All the rain we had last summer made our pastures lush, but this mower went right through the heavy grass with no problems. Many other farmers in this area had trouble with their mowers clogging up."

**Barry L. Bernard, Leland, Ill.:** "Our 1991 Deere 9600 combine is the best designed and best engineered combine on the market. We have a 25-ft. platform on it but feel that it probably should have a 30-ft. platform to keep it going at full capacity."

**Jeff Spence, Elizabeth City, N. C.:** Jeff nominates his 1992 Ford 8730 front wheel assist tractor as his "best buy". "The powershift transmission is one of the best on the market. It shifts smooth and is a joy to use. Front wheel assist is like having the tractor grow two sizes automatically."

**Stan Moore, N. Manchester, Ind.:** Stan's pleased with his 1992 Marliss no-till drill equipped with a 12-ft. coulters caddy. "It cost less than any other new no-till drill I looked at. It does a good job of drilling

ever owned and also the quietest. However, it averages only 12 to 13 mpg which I think is terrible. The transmission skips when I shift it and the rear end is noisy. The dealer says some of these pickups get good mileage and some don't. The rear end has to be repaired."

**Kenneth Hale, Cerulean, Kent.:** Kenneth likes his 1993 Deere LX188 lawn mower. "It did a good job for us last summer. However, it is expensive."

**Ron Koller, E. Bethel, Minn.:** "My 1992 Dodge Dakota pickup hauls and tows like a full-size truck but rides like a car. The V-8 engine has plenty of power. It's well built and has been trouble-free."

**Charles Graham, Quaker City, Ohio:** A Vermeer 530 pull-type rotary mower/conditioner rates as Charles' "best buy". "It reduces mowing time, does a great job of cutting hay, and speeds up hay drying time."

**Darro Falls, Orange, Texas:** "My 1992 Chevrolet Cavalier RS car equipped with a special handling package is my best buy. It gets over 40 mpg on the highway and handles great. The anti-lock brakes stop straight on a dime on wet roads. No problems after 36,000 miles."

**James Ryant, Calmar, Iowa:** James is the satisfied owner of a Bobcat 440B skidsteer loader. "It's a well-built, dependable machine. I use it every day. It's easy to maintain and starts good. I've used it to handle everything from cement to ear corn. I wouldn't farm without it."

**Tim Dillon, Sumner, Iowa:** Two years ago, Tim bought a used 1985 Ford F-250 pickup equipped with a 460 cu. in. engine and 4-speed transmission. He says it's his "best buy". "It has plenty of power to pull anything I put behind it. No major problems. My only complaint is that it gets only 8 to 10 mpg loaded or empty."

**Miron Ackley, Marble Rock, Iowa:** "My best buy is my 1993 Oldsmobile Cutlass Supreme LS equipped with a 3.1-liter 6-cyl. engine. It's a nice riding car. No problems after 6,000 miles."

**Cyril R. Burkhardt, Elkhardt Lake, Wis.:** A 1993 McCulloch electric chain saw equipped with a 2 hp engine and 14-in. bar rates as Cyril's "best buy". "We have four McCulloch chain saws. The counter on this one shows 2,945 cuts without sharpening, yet the saw still cuts good."

**James Spillman, Smith Grove, Kent.:** "I like my 1990 Ford F-150 Lariat pickup equipped with a 302 cu. in. engine and automatic overdrive transmission. It has 51,000 miles with no problems. Drives and rides good and gets 18 1/2 mpg on the highway. It's never been back to the dealer."

**Ray Brown, Goderich, Ontario:** "My 1993 Crary Air Reel does an excellent job. It keeps the header table clean and keeps cut plants and shattered grain from falling off. I wish I had bought it years ago."

On the "worst buy" side, Ray lists his 1989 Ford F-350 1-ton diesel pickup. "The engine is the only good thing on this truck. The paint peeled off, we replaced two power steering pumps, the rear axle seals went out, the brakes seized, and I had to put in a new radiator. The pickup has less than 60,000 miles on it. The radio plays well only when I open the door."

**David Williams, Croton, Ontario:** "I've owned two Deere 4400 combines and found them to be reliable and cost efficient. I can't figure out why Deere stopped making them."

"My Massey 33 grain drill is my worst buy. Under certain conditions I might as well use a hoe and string to plant."

**"It prepares a seedbed better than any other machine I've used."**

on it. It's an even better car that gets up to 28 mpg on long trips. It's a great car."

**Oscar W. Campbell, Newport, Penn.:** Oscar's had trouble with his 1993 Tye stubble drill. "The engineers who designed the weight system on it apparently don't know much about weight transfer. The weight brackets are mounted too far in front of the drill and transfer too much weight onto the tractor drawbar instead of onto the drill."

"I also have weight balance problems on my IH Rissler 460 TMR feed cart. All the weight is on one end of the cart so that when it's almost empty and I'm going up an incline from one side of the barn to the other, the wheels just spin."

**Jack S. Cole, Bristol, Va.:** Jack's "best buy" 1991 Dodge 350 pickup is equipped with a 5.9-liter Cummins diesel engine. "It gets 22 mpg locally and 26 or 27 mpg on the highway. It has plenty of power and starts good in cold weather. No downtime or repairs."

**Leonard Wenck, Morrissett, S. Dak.:** "It's trouble-free, fuel efficient, and comfortable to ride," says Leonard, pleased with his 1992 Chevrolet K1500 extended cab 4-WD pickup.

**Chester Palmer, Miami, Okla.:** "It lets us bale hay in a few hours instead of a few days," says Chester about his New Holland hay tedder (fold-up model). "It helps us dry

**"It shifts smooth and is a joy to use."**

soybeans in the spring and wheat in the fall. It's built rugged and should last a long time."

**Leonard J. Juhnke, Sedgwick, Kan.:** Leonard's had good luck with his 1992 Sunflower 1400 30-ft. offset tandem disk. "It does a superb job under all conditions. The company stands behind its machines and warranties."

"My Polaris 250 ATV is my worst buy. A piston seized because of inadequate cooling. The company wouldn't pay for any of the repair work. It happened after only about 300 hours of use."

**Aubrey Sheppard, Sandersville, Ga.:** "My 1993 Chevrolet C1500 extended cab pickup is neither a best nor worst buy. It's the best handling and riding pickup I've