

Best & Worst Buys

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hope the new model that will replace it will serve us as well as this one has."

Dale Boese, Fairfield, Iowa: "My 1982 Dodge pickup equipped with a slant 6-cyl. engine has 340,000 miles but no rust. It still looks like new. The pan and head have



never been off. It's the best pickup I've ever owned."

Rodney Landers, Kennare, N.D.: Rodney's impressed with his 1992 Kawasaki Bayou 4-WD ATV. "It rides beautifully and handles great. It's a real work-horse. Works fantastic for moving from field to field and scouting for weeds."

"Our 1993 Ford-Versatile 946 tractor is a best buy. We took the option of wider tires for reduced soil compaction. It really shows up when pulling grain drills. Overall this is an outstanding tractor. The only problem is that it's hard to shift gears."

Daniel R. Brunkow, Monroe, Wis.: Daniel's had good luck with his 1993 Ford F-150 XLT Super Cab 4-WD pickup. "I like its style. It rides comfortably, has plenty of power, good traction, and is easy on fuel."

"I've had few problems with my 1989 Ford F-150 4-WD pickup in over 60,000 miles. I'm well-satisfied with it."

"My 1986 Ford Ranger is a worst buy. The transmission burned up at 26,000 miles."

Don Fromm, Memphis, Mo.: Don nominates his New Idea Seed Boss air planter as his "best buy". "It plants accurately and has the best seed metering system on the market. The monitor provides total control of the planter and lets me know exactly what's happening with each row. Some bolts came out of the axle when the nuts loosened up, causing me to lose a drive wheel. I also lost a fertilizer coupler. This happened in the first 200 acres. It indicates a lack of quality control at the factory."

"My two Great Plains no-till grain drills do an excellent job. However, the seed press wheels are too small. They don't work well when the ground is wet and I have to get in the field. A harrow would work better."

Melvin Roos, Havana, Ill.: Melvin's pleased with his Ford F-7000 truck equipped with a Caterpillar 3208 diesel engine. "It's the best cold weather starting engine we have. This truck has performed as we expected it to. No problems. It's a great truck."

Thomas Macha, Mabel, Minn.: "My Deere 7710 4-WD tractor is fuel efficient. The only problem was when the radiator sprang a leak. Our dealer fixed it right away."

David Fricker, DeValls Bluff, Ark.: "My best buy Deere 2355 is a versatile tractor. I use it to pull a 6-row planter and cultivator, as well as a 16-ft. International grain drill, harrow and roller in fifth gear. It's fuel efficient. If I had the money I'd buy another one."

"My 1989 Ford F-150 pickup equipped with a 302 cu. in. V-8 engine and automatic transmission is a best buy. It's a good working truck. I use it to tow a double axle trailer with 8,400 lbs. of seed. It gets 22 mpg.

However, I recommend removing the original muffler and installing a free-flow muffler and an air-flow tailgate. It has 47,000 miles with no problems. However, I wish I could tighten the front wheel bearings without having to use shims."

Arnold Wipf, Hawley, Minn.: "My 1990 Case-IH 7110 Magnum and 1992 Case-IH 7130 Magnum tractors are both best buys. They're far more powerful than their horsepower ratings would indicate with tremendous engine torque from 1,000 rpm's to full throttle under load. They handle nice, have quiet cabs, and are fuel efficient."

"I've also had excellent luck with my Case-IH 6500 air hoe drill. It delivers excellent stands in any kind of seedbed without plugging up."

Kenny Schinostock, Dodge City, Kan.: A Makita 4-in. hand grinder heads Kenny's "best buy" list. "Its high speed grinding action lets me tackle jobs that would normally require a bigger grinder. It has a removeable handle so I can use it in tight quarters."

"My Century agricultural battery charger/starter is my worst buy. After only one year the 2-hour timer quit, and the ammeter jumps around so much that I can't read it. It still charges batteries, but the quick charge starting feature doesn't supply enough amps to start big equipment."

William R. Meyer, Norborne, Mo.: A 1992 GMC 3/4-ton 4-WD pickup equipped with a 6.5-liter turbocharged diesel engine rates as William's "worst buy". "The front wheels are wider than the fender so it throws mud on the windshield and side windows. It gets only 10 to 11 mpg. The air cleaner is too small which is part of the reason it gets such poor mileage. However, it does have a lot of power."

Michael Myers, Fredonia, Kan.: "My 1988 Stihl 024 chain saw works great and always starts on the first or second pull. It's lightweight but has plenty of power. We had to replace a couple of bars and several chains, but the engine is tough to beat."

Rod Baker, Leland, Ill.: Rod's "worst buy" is his 1988 Fuerst 28-ft., 4-section, flexible tine harrow. "It plugs up with corn stalks and leaves piles of them scattered in the field. The hydraulic fold-up is tricky to operate. The only time it works good is on moldboard-plowed fields without any trash on top of the ground. Last spring we traded it in for a McFarland drag."

"My 1974 Deere 4030 diesel tractor runs smooth and has plenty of power. In over 6,000 hours, all it has needed is some clutch work and other minor repairs."

Mervin Lobdell, Lena, Ill.: "Our 1990 Case-IH 5130 tractor is our worst buy. It runs well but we've had a lot of minor problems with malfunctioning computer switches. We could have solved all these problems if the company had offered a good service book with a trouble-shooting section in it. It took the mechanic many hours to find the problem."

Russell Baker, Cut Bank, Mont.: "We bought a used Versatile 276 tractor with 800 hours and it now has 1,200 hours. We use it every day to feed our range cattle. It starts in the coldest weather."

Stuart Oberg, Slayton, Minn.: "My best buy ever is my 1960 Deere 3010 diesel tractor. Everything on it is original except

for the engine which has gone through two new sets of sleeves and pistons. The last overhaul was in 1975."

Jay Justice, Chetopa, Kan.: Jay says his 1988 Deere 4650 tractor heads his "best buy" list. "It runs excellent. The power shift transmission provides a wide range of working speeds."

"My 1992 Chevrolet 3/4-ton pickup is my worst buy. It's 2-WD, but is less fuel efficient than the same model with 4-WD. After only one year I've had to put a new seal in the transmission, and a rear tire is starting to fall apart after only 19,000 miles."

Charles W. Martin, Monticello, Ga.: A 1992 Ariens lawn mower equipped with a 12 1/2 hp Briggs & Stratton engine and hydrostatic drive rates as Charles's "worst buy". "It blew hot air on the driver's feet so we had to modify it. The deck doesn't cut level and plugs up easily. However, the engine works fine."

Glen Schulte, Stony Hill, Mo.: "My 1993 Husqvarna 240 clearing saw and Husqvarna 262XP chain saw are both best buys. They're reliable and have plenty of power. My dealer offers excellent service."

Bob McComb, Castleton, Ontario: Bob's the owner of a 1991 Ford F-150 4-WD pickup. "I'm generally satisfied with it, but there seems to be a problem with the auto-hubs or transfer case. Both were replaced under partial warranty."

Roger W. Neumann, Kewaskum, Wis.: An Agco-Allis 56804-WD tractor equipped with a Quicke 520 loader rates as Roger's "best buy". "The loader has a quick change feature that lets me quickly switch from bucket to pallet forks - which we use for feeding round bales - in less than a minute."

Jerry Kennedy, Casa Grande, Ariz.: Jerry's disappointed with his 1990 Hesston L355 loader. "The loader frame cracked and had to be reinforced by welding it."

Bruce A. Lawson, Falconer, N.Y.: Bruce is pleased with his 1990 Chevrolet 3/4-ton 4-WD pickup equipped with a 4-speed automatic transmission with overdrive. "It handles like a sports car and rides as good as a Lincoln Towncar. I get 20 mpg on the

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highway and 16 to 17 mpg in heavy traffic. Sometimes I use it to pull a tandem trailer, loaded with antique oil field engines, to antique engine shows up to 300 miles away. The 350 cu. in. engine handles the steep and long hills in our area without overheating. This model should last as long as my 1975 GMC 4-WD pickup which I drove for 15 years and went 257,000 miles with no major repairs. I never touched the engine except to replace fuel pumps. They lasted only about 50,000 miles."

R.D. Smith, MacGregor, Manitoba: "My 1992 Allied 794 HSL front-end loader is well-built and easy to mount. The hydraulic self-leveling system works well."

Ted Bauman, Freeman, Mo.: Ted installed engine replacement parts from T.T.P. Inc., of Warsaw, Ind., on his 1963 Super 90 Massey-Ferguson diesel tractor and says they're a "best buy". "I purchased new valve train components including valves, springs, and locks and all the gaskets necessary to reinstall the cylinder head for about 60% of the price Massey-Ferguson would

have charged for the same parts. They're original equipment Perkins parts - the same ones that Massey-Ferguson uses. They've performed well under heavy use."

"My 1989 Ford 4610 tractor is a best buy. I leased it from Ford Motor Credit for a year, then purchased it in 1990 after the lease expired. When I bought the tractor it had 330 hours on it with one year left on the warranty. It cost \$5,000 to \$6,000 less to buy than a brand new tractor with the same equipment. Those would have been 330 very expensive hours if I had bought the tractor new."

Robert Schultz, Columbus, Kan.: Robert's impressed with his 1991 Deere 9600 combine. "We had a lot of rain so field time was cut rather short last year, but the 9600 definitely speeded up our harvest. It does remarkably well in wet ground. I think that was what surprised me the most. It's quite a machine."

Robert D. Troxel, Mt. Vernon, Mo.: "Our best buy is our Mazda extended cab pickup equipped with an automatic transmission, power steering, and air conditioning. Starts good in cold weather and gets 30 mpg on the highway and 27 mpg on short trips. No problems."

"Our Sears 38-in. lawn sweeper does a good job picking up wet leaves and small twigs."

Gerry Schuster, Sun Prairie, Wis.: Gerald owns a Deutz-Allis GP 220 round baler. "It's a low maintenance machine and I'm satisfied with it. However, it has trouble with dry straw, grass hay, or corn stalks. The rollers have grit in the weld which wears off with use. We plan to weld rolled pieces of expanded metal onto the rollers to improve their grip."

"Our New Holland 310 small square baler works well."

Steve Fienup, Shenandoah, Iowa: "It threshes well and has good capacity, but I wish the auger spout wouldn't blow in the wind and scatter grain," says Steve about his 1990 New Holland TR-86 combine.

Steve's unhappy with his 1990 Massey-Ferguson 3650 front wheel assist tractor. "The inner cooler went out and a rod bent. We had to install new pistons and sleeves. I thought the company should have paid for more of the repair cost. The clutch also went out. Total repair cost was about \$8,000. I didn't think I needed the extended warranty, but I sure wish I had it now."

Jeff Williams, Cyril, Okla.: "My worst buy of all time is my 1989 Chevrolet 3/4-ton 4-WD pickup equipped with a 350 cu. in. engine, 4-speed transmission, and rear end with a 3.73 gear ratio. A month after I bought the pickup the engine oil cooler lines came apart. This happened four more times over the next three years. There was also a problem with the cooling system which caused the pickup to overheat. It took new heads and a new radiator to solve the problem. The steering stabilizer that mounts on the frame is too weak and had to be replaced three times at a cost of \$65 each time."

"At 49,650 miles, the engine crankshaft broke, causing the transmission to go out. A new engine and transmission were put in. However, Chevrolet warrantied them for only 10,000 miles. The doors rattle and weather stripping falls off when the doors are opened. Now it has 77,000 miles and the computer has failed, causing the timing to advance and shut down the engine. I installed a new distributor which cost \$190. It'll take another \$200 to repair the computer. This pickup has truly been a lemon. It's my first and last Chevrolet pickup."