

# Best & Worst Buys

(Continued from previous page)

runs like new. If I ever need another saw I'll buy a Homelite."

**Bill Wagoner, Emden, Ill.:** Bill's 1991 DMI field cultivator and spring tine harrow heads his "best buy" list. "The field cultivator goes through heavy residue without plugging. It's built strong and should last for years. Every moveable part has a grease zerk on it. We had a couple of minor problems which the company solved promptly. It does a good job and stays in the ground."

**Harvey R. Winkler, Farmersburg, Iowa:** "It rides well and is fuel efficient," runs like new," says Harvey, pleased with his 1991 Ford F-1504-WD pickup equipped with a 302 cu. in. V-8 engine.

"I'm well pleased with my 1991 Case-IH 7140 tractor and with my DMI wagons."

**Paige Burnham, Aurora, Ore.:** "Our 1990 Honda garden tiller is the best garden tiller we've ever used. It isn't a rear tine tiller but it handles well. The model we had been using was a beast to run and didn't have enough power.

"Our 1991 MTD 12.5 hp 42-in. cut lawn mower is our worst buy. It has too many safety switches and poor lights. It doesn't cut good and shifts real hard."

**Gerald Kenley, Georgetown, Ky.:** Gerald's happy with his 1992 Dodge 4-WD pickup equipped with a 350 cu. in. Cummins diesel engine. "This is my second Dodge pickup equipped with a Cummins engine. The first one was a 1989 model. I drive about 75,000 miles per year. My only expenses for the 1989 model were for oil and filter changes and for fuel. It was the cheapest running pickup I've ever owned. I already have over 50,000 miles on the 1992 model and it's just as reliable."

**Johnny Holle, Manhattan, Kan.:** Johnny purchased his "worst buy" 60 by 108-ft. building from Morton in September 1988. "The main problem is an eave trough on one side of the building. Rain runs off over the top of the trough and has created a 3-ft. deep ditch alongside the building. Morton won't correct the problem.

"My 1989 Polaris 2 by 4 ATV is my best

## "It's the handiest piece of farm equipment I own."

buy. It's easy to operate and has required few repairs. It's really tough. I built a tow bar and sprayer for it. It's the handiest piece of farm equipment I own."

**Albert Yowell, Sperryville, Va.:** "My 1957 Stanley 1/2-in. drill is my best buy. It's still going strong.

"My Caterpillar 910 wheel loader is my worst buy. The machine works fine, but the 3204 engine is junk. It averages only 1,200 hours between overhauls.

"My Jonserud 049 chain saw is also a worst buy. It had many problems. I didn't realize how bad it was until I bought a Stihl."

**Freeman Wattam, Deseronto, Ontario:** "One of my best buys is my 1992 Chevrolet 1/2-ton 4-WD pickup equipped with a 6.2-liter diesel engine. This is the second Chevrolet 1/2-ton pickup I've owned equipped

with this engine. I'm well pleased with it. It gets 25 to 30 mpg. The pickup is well built.

"I'm also pleased with my Ford TW 15 tractor that I bought used in 1990. With regular maintenance and service it should last a long time."

**Lloyd Conrad, Greenfield, Wis.:** Lloyd's pleased with metal shed roof paint made by Solar Paint and Varnishes, Inc. (Milwaukee, Wis. 53221). We used it on the roof of our metal shed which was becoming badly pitted. The paint cost \$55 per gal., but it was worth the expense compared to the time and money it would have taken to install a new roof."

**Bill Knoff, Nashotah, Wis.:** "My 1991 GM Dually 'half-cab' pickup equipped with a 454 cu. in. engine and automatic transmission is my best buy. It's the most comfortable pickup I've ever owned. It has 63,000 miles on it and still runs like a clock. I converted all my Dually pickups to run on LP gas. This one gets 8 to 9 mpg which is the best I've ever gotten with a 454 cu. in. engine.

"I'm a dealer for Kiefer Built Magnum livestock trailers which are selling very well (Kanauha, Iowa 50447). They have a 3/8-in. layer of plastic along the floor that keeps the steel from rusting or rotting.

"I'm also a dealer for Schuck cushion hitches and bumpers for pickups (Schuck Industries, 8319 U.S. Route 127 North, Celina, Ohio 45822). I've sold them for eight years with no problems. They mount on any pickup model.

"I also sell the Tandem Master Jiffy Jack (Rule Steel, 21986 Middleton Road, Caldwell, Idaho 83605). It's a specially designed lift made for tandem axle trailers that lets you change flat tires fast, safe, and easy. It eliminates the need to crawl under the trailer to reach the axle and eliminates the possibility of placing the jack incorrectly under the outside frame or fenders. You simply ride the good tire up onto the Jiffy Jack until it rests in the saddle. The tire to be changed will now be raised off the ground so that you can remove it. The jack is so stable that you rarely even need to unload livestock from the trailer in order to change tires."

**Rod Forsberg, Adrian, Minn.:** Rod likes his Energy Panel Structure (EPS) hog confinement building (Energy Panel Structures, Box 238, Industrial Park, Graettinger, Iowa 51342) and the variable, modulating Phason fan controls inside the building. "The vinyl clad interior panels are easy to keep clean. The foam insulation in the ceiling panels is impervious to moisture and the exterior needs little or no maintenance. The controls are sensitive and accurate. I haven't had any problems."

**Paul L. Keller, Bejou, Minn.:** Paul installed a new Cummins 6TA diesel engine in his Ford-Versatile 555 tractor last year. "It has more power than the old V-8 engine and uses less fuel. I bought the new engine direct from Cummins."

**David Hoverson, Cooperstown, N. Dak.:** David likes Help-Start, an electronic "battery maintainer" that works together with a vehicle's engine heater (EM Tek, 605 West Burrel Ave., Box 709, Cooperstown, N. Dak. 58425). Works with tank heaters, block heaters, or crankcase heaters, which

are wired to the Help-Start unit. "It provides an extra charge to the battery. Indicator lights let me know that it's working and that the plug-in heater is working. Makes for easier starts on cold mornings."

**Lowell Crabb, Kingsley, Iowa:** Lowell's happy with The Guide row crop cultivator guidance system (Lincoln Creek Mfg., Rt. 1, Box 41, Phillips, Neb. 68865). "The installation instructions are excellent. Automatic guidance takes all the stress out of cultivating."

**Dean Wolfe, Howard, Ohio:** A 1992 Ford F-250 4-WD SuperCab pickup rates as Dean's "best buy." "This is our fourth F-250 and they've all been excellent vehicles.

"My New Holland 311 baler is a big disappointment. It has made less than 5,000 bales but already we've had to replace knotters, and several other parts."

**Jeff Potter, Redwood Falls, Minn.:** "Our 1992 Deere 750 15-ft. no-till drill is our best buy. We used it to plant 900 acres of beans in standing corn stalks. It has excellent

## "It has excellent down pressure. I think it could plant into blacktop."

down pressure. I think it could plant into blacktop. It's easy to operate and rugged and was designed well from the ground up."

**David J. Leiker, Hays, Kan.:** David's had good luck with his 1990 Vermeer 605J baler. "We owned a 605C model for 13 years before we updated to this model. It has made 8,000 bales with virtually no downtime.

"Our 1991 Ford TW25 front wheel assist tractor is a best buy. It's dependable, easy to operate, and comfortable.

"Our 1992 Westendorf TA 46 loader is our worst buy. We couldn't use the loader without modifying the mounting brackets. Our dealer helped us every step of the way. However, when we called the factory we got the runaround. The first time we used it oil leaked all over the hood because the hoses weren't tight. After using it one year, the bucket is bent up on the bottom due to frozen manure because it's built too light. One plus is that it's a snap to mount and dismount."

**Robert B. Korf, Goshen, Ohio:** A pair of 20-ply aircraft tires from General Supply rates as Robert's "best buy" (GENSCO Aircraft Tires, Box 14623 4300 OST, %OP Whittington at Cullen St., Houston, Texas 77221). "Every time I used my Bush Hog mower I got at least one flat tire due to thorns and other trash. I haven't had a flat tire since putting these tires on. However, they're very difficult to mount. I had to go to about five places before I could find anyone who could mount them."

He isn't pleased with Squadron herbicide. "The herbicide was applied in the spring of 1992 at the recommended rate and incorporated in the recommended manner. The amount and timing of rainfall couldn't have been better if I'd been able to order it, but the herbicide provided almost no weed control at all. It took 2 1/2 months to get a company rep out to look at it. With the reduction of crop yields due to heavy grass/weed infestation, cost of the herbicide, etc., it cost me more than \$12,000 on about 85 acres of soybeans. That's a pretty expensive herbicide. The rep did mention that he had

been pretty busy due to all the other complaints he'd received about the herbicide."

**Jerry Peters, Chandler, Minn.:** Jerry nominates his Kubota diesel lawn tractor and rotary mower as his "worst buy." "The tractor is a beautiful machine to handle, but the mower collects the grass and 'plasters' it against the underside of the deck. It takes me about two hours to mow my yard and I can rarely finish without having to lay down beside the mower at least twice and scrape grass off the underside of the deck. I get grass stains from my fingertips to my shoulders.

"When we complained, first to our local dealer and later to the area rep, they said they had never heard of our problem before and that we must be the only one. However, we've heard of two other individuals who had the same problem and solved it by cutting holes in the side of the mower - something that shouldn't be necessary."

**Leo Bowers, Grand Rivers, Kent.:** "One product I think every farmer should use is Amsoil synthetic motor oil. I just sold a 1970 GMC pickup that has run on Amsoil in the engine, transmission and differential and it had over 325,000 hard miles and had never had the heads or pans off. It still ran great and had just started using a little oil before I sold it. Over the life of the truck, I changed oil each 25,000 miles and filters at 12,000 miles. I became a dealer for Amsoil because I was so impressed with their products."

**Norman Lehmann, Willow City, N. Dak.:** "I'm very happy with my Polaris Trail Boss 4-wheel ATV. I use it to check crops. I had a problem with the brakes, but the dealer solved the problem right away."

**Weeks Bros., Swan Valley, Idaho:** "Our best buy of all time is our 1973 International 1066 Hydro tractor equipped with front wheel assist. It has 10,300 hours on it and except for a 3-month period two years ago when a valve stuck in the hydrostatic transmission, we've used it 350 days a year. It was overhauled at 5,875 hours and has had two complete overhauls of the injector pump. We've also had some trouble with the transfer case for the front wheel assist. We use it mainly in the winter to feed cattle. It's on its fifth set of rear tires and sixth set of front tires."

**Herbert E. Erck, Sr., Milford, N.J.:** "Our 1992 Black and Decker 'handy chopper' is our best buy. We used another Black and Decker chopper for two years, but its cutting device failed and there was no way to repair it. The motor was still good. This model has a much stronger cutting device and is reasonably priced."

**Harold T. Kendall, Jr., Marcellus, N.Y.:** Harold nominates his 1991 GM Sierra 1500 pickup equipped with a 6-cyl. engine and automatic transmission as his "best buy." "It has gone 7,000 miles with no problems and consistently averages 20 to 21 mpg in short haul driving. Rides and handles well and also pulls a trailer well.

"I really like my New Idea 9200 corn planter. It stays in the ground and never skips."

**Walter A. Hahn, Port Lavaca, Texas:** "My 1992 Case-IH 7140 front wheel assist tractor is a pleasure to drive. It's fuel efficient and has excellent lugging power and plenty of traction."

**Steve Durham, Beloit, Kan.:** "My 1992 Deere 1600 mower-conditioner is a well-designed product that's easy to service and adjust. The crimpers and twin augers are a dream. The only time you have to get off the tractor is to clean mud off the sickle."