

# Best & Worst Buys

(Continued from previous page)

marketed all over the world for use on golf courses and parks. We use it to mow two to three acres around our yard. I'd recommend it to anyone."

**Dennis Lynch, Sedley, Sask.:** "My 1984 GM Sierra Classic 4-WD pickup equipped with a 6.2-liter diesel engine is my best buy. It has 120,000 miles. The only problems I've had were with the air conditioner evaporator and the power brake booster. The body is still solid and the original paint job still looks good. However, I feel that a larger diesel engine might have delivered better performance and fuel economy. This may have been rectified with the 6.5-liter engine on newer models."

**Francis Baker, Sylvania, Ohio:** "Our Deere 4020 tractor has over 12,000 hours and our Deere 4440 has over 6,000 hours. They're both best buys."

"Our 1985 Ford F-250 pickup, which we bought used last year, is also a best buy."

**David E. Sauls, Smoaks, S.C.:** "It could be a little quieter," says David, who otherwise is pleased with his Deere 2355 tractor. "It's fuel efficient and has plenty of power for operating my grinder, baler, and 4-row cultivator. No problems. It's a good all-around tractor and a pleasure to operate."

"My 1992 GM 4-WD pickup equipped with a 350 cu. in. V-8 engine is quiet and has plenty of power for pulling trailers. Handles great and is fairly fuel efficient at 14 to 15 mpg."

**Leo Boddicker, Newhall, Iowa:** "I have two Case 4890 4-WD tractors, a Case 2390, and two Case 1370s. All of them perform great and are best buys."

"My Case-IH 1680 combine does a perfect job."

**Robert Talbot, Walnut, Ill.:** Robert's the satisfied owner of a 1977 Ford Granada car equipped with a 302 cu. in. engine. "It has 140,000 miles but still doesn't use any oil. The rear brakes lasted 100,000 miles before they had to be replaced. It gets 17 mpg."

**Darren Padgett, Grass Valley, Ore.:** "I like my Rock-O-Matic 57 rock picker. No machine is perfect, but the good outweighs the bad far and away on this machine. I've used it to pick up as many as 475 to 550 yards of windrowed rocks in 25 hours. It cost about the same as one back surgery

operation."

ment and regular tune-ups. It could get better mileage and the oil spout could be in a more convenient location."

**Duane Hinkle, Lockridge, Iowa:** Duane likes his Spinoff bale unroller that's powered by an orbit motor (Accessory Sales, Box 160, Kimball, Neb. 69145). "This rotating bale spear works great for converting big round bales of straw into bedding inside buildings or even outside on the ground. Also works great for unrolling hay bales."

**Richard Schlaefli, Mankato, Kan.:** Richard's satisfied with his 1992 Case-IH no-till air planter equipped with Aera Plant Trash Whippers. "No-till lets me make fewer trips through the field and saves time, fuel, and wear and tear on machinery. I like having to fill only one hopper. It's simple to operate and easy to maintain."

**Richard S. Gerhard, Quakertown, Penn.:** "My worst buy ever was a Troy-Bilt 26-in. rototiller. It was poorly welded together and the transmission case was equipped with a no. 40 chain which was like a bicycle chain. It was always tearing or jumping off the cog wheel, and it took about a day to repair because the transmission case had about 40 bolts in it. I wanted the company to install a no. 50 chain but they refused so I bought a Wheel Horse rototiller. It has gears and a no. 60 chain. Works great."

**Roger Frank, Wood Lake, Minn.:** A 1988 Chevrolet Silverado 3/4-ton extended cab pickup equipped with a 350 cu. in. engine and 3:73 rear axle heads Roger's "best buy" list. "It rides comfortably, has good visibility, and is easy on gas. We use it to tow our 30-ft. travel trailer and also to haul a 9 1/2-ft. slide-in camper that we used last summer on a 6-week trip to Alaska. We drove nearly 10,000 miles with no trouble at all. The only problem is that the controls for the heater, air conditioner and radio are difficult to adjust while driving."

**Herman Fentress, Crofton, Ky.:** "I think my New Idea 5209 disc mower is the best disc mower on the market. I have two of them. I've owned other brands, but none are as easy to maintain as this one. I've waited 2 to 3 days for cutterbar repairs on other brands, but even in the worst case my New Idea model can be repaired by anyone in a short time right in the field."

**William Teller, Powells Point, N.C.:** "My best buys are my Milwaukee portable band saw and angle grinder. I've used both for about two years with no problems. I use them almost every day."

**Rod Hubner, Garfield, Wash.:** A 1991 Morris HR36 rod weeder heads Rod's "best buy" list. "The only repair has been for replacement of worn drive chains. The factory representative was helpful in explaining how to adjust and service this machine."

**James W. Galbreath, Street, Md.:** "My Gehl 5620 skid steer loader is equipped with a Worksaver 2000 bale grabber. Both products are best buys. This combination makes handling big round bales much easier and more convenient for both me and my customers that it has increased my hay sales. It lets us load bales any way the customer desires and stack them on end for storage without damaging the strings."

**Nelson Jacox, Marshall, Mich.:** "My 1986 Lincoln K241P welder-generator has

never failed me and is my best buy. If this welder worked any better all I'd have to do is stand back and watch it weld by itself."

**John Thorn, Bigfork, Mont.:** "My sister-in-law bought a new Chrysler New Yorker in 1987 and shortly afterward the dealership was sold. When she took the car back for repairs under warranty, the new owners told her that they aren't responsible for the car because they didn't sell it to her. The car has had problems with the heater and air conditioner ever since it was almost new. They replaced a sensing unit twice at a cost of about \$100 each time. It still doesn't work right. Also if the car sits for a few days, the battery loses power - even a new battery."

**Dave Nicholas, Martinsville, Ohio:** Dave's impressed with Never-Seez anti-seize compound (Never-Seez, 2910 S. 18th Ave., Broadview, Ill. 60153). "I've used it for about 40 years every time a threaded,

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splined, keyed, tapered, or pressed fitting is taken apart. It has never failed me.

"I like Armstrong Norseman A/S tires. They offer an excellent ride in both C (6-ply) and D (8-ply) ratings and grip like a leech on wet pavement. The aggressive, self-cleaning tread provides excellent off-road traction and is quieter than most passenger tread tires. A/S stands for asymmetrical, meaning no two tread blocks are alike. The tires are computer-designed to cancel out noise-producing harmonics. I'm on my 10th set in 12 years. I've used them on five different trucks. The tires always get 20 to 50% more mileage than rated. The 9.50 by 16.5 tires have a bigger casing than any other tire of this size which is a definite advantage."

**Rick Fiechter, Montpelier, Ind.:** "I bought a Wurdinger tile plow in the summer of 1989 (Farm Drainage Plows, 909 4th St. N.W., Waverly, Iowa 50677) to use with our Deere 4955 MFWD tractor. I was a little skeptical whether I would really use it much, but for the limited investment we thought it was worth the risk. I was able to purchase laser equipment, which I felt was necessary, from a contractor in our area. I ended up spending \$13,000 for the plow and laser equipment."

"We've been ditching our wettest farms for a little over two years now. We tile only when we're caught up with our other work. So far we've done about 475 acres, putting in tile every 50 ft. We've probably put in a total of about 475,000 ft. Wear to the plow has been minimal. It's been one of the best machinery investments we've ever made. But laying all economics aside it has been a rewarding experience to improve our land for ourselves and future generations."

**Dennis Schubert, Shannon, Ill.:** Dennis is pleased with his Case 1816B skid steer loader. "Works great for cleaning out manure in our 60-ft. wide farrowing house because it can get into tight places which reduces the amount of shoveling that we have to do. We just pile manure in the middle aisle, then push it outside."

**Niles A. McLoda, Amelia, Va.:** "My 1992 Ryobi 14-in. cut-off saw works fast

and is easy to handle and move around the shop. I can take it to the field and run it with my portable welder."

**Edwin Surface, Waynesville, Ohio:** A 1991 Deere 265 garden tractor equipped with a 46-in. mower deck rates as Edwin's "best buy". "It has almost 200 hours and still works great. However, I have to clean out wet grass from under the deck occasionally. I really like the hydrostatic transmission. I'd prefer that the engine didn't automatically stop whenever I leave the seat, but that's typical of government regulation."

**Wes Suddarth, Lebanon, Tenn.:** "It has 104,000 miles with very few problems," reports Wes, pleased with his 1981 Ford F-150 4-WD pickup equipped with a 300 cu. in. 6-cyl. engine. "My total repair bill over 12 years has been less than \$400 (water pump, starter, new brakes, etc.)."

"My 1992 Bush Hog 15-ft. rotary cutter is easy to maintain and works great."

**Ken Lamping, Glenview, Minn.:** Ken's happy with his Wilrich 27 1/2-ft. air seeder. "I use it to plant soybeans on 7-in. spacings directly into untilled corn stalks. It allows one-pass planting like a no-till planter, but the tillage helps warm up the soil. I sometimes make a pass with my stalk chopper before I plant. Seed emergence is consistent and more uniform than when I planted conventional or practiced minimum tillage."

"I use my Deere 7100 planter equipped with Yetter residue coulters to plant corn directly into soybean stubble. It generally works well. However, I had some problems with soil compaction caused by wheel tracks from chemical and fertilizer applicators."

**Jim Stauffer, Manton, Mich.:** Jim owns a 1992 Ford New Holland L-785 skid steer loader. "It has worked 210 hours with no problems. The diesel engine runs smooth. We traded in a 1985 New Holland skid steer loader with over 10,500 hours. We depend on our skid steer loaders for feeding our 100-cow dairy herd, as well as cleaning out manure."

"Our worst buy was a dealership in Agri-Nomic Supply. We thought we could save money by buying at wholesale prices. However, what we ordered cost the same as if we had bought it locally and took two weeks to get here. Most of the time we couldn't place an order because there was nobody there or they put us on hold and forgot about us. We tried to get our money back, but the company won't talk to us or return our calls."

**Bob Falk, Effingham, Kan.:** "My 1981 Ford F-150 6-cyl. pickup is an all-time "best buy". "It's got 245,000 miles on it and we've never had the engine valve cover off or done anything to the transmission. Virtually no trouble at all."

"Another best buy is our 1969 International 856 tractor that has over 11,000 hrs. We've never touched the engine. In fact, it still has the original fuel injectors. We use a fuel additive in both diesel and gas that eliminates moisture in fuel and provides extra lubrication. It's called Bison made by American Lubricants (1227 Deeds Ave., Dayton, Ohio 45404 ph 513 222-2851)."

**Ron Bloomquist, Mooresburg, Tenn.:** "My 1992 Reese 1600 drum mower is well built and maintenance free. The optional spreader spreads even the thickest hay in a uniform pattern for quicker drying."

"My 1992 New Holland 252 rake-tedder has the best tedding ability of any tedder I've ever seen. It puts together a beautiful, uniform, fluffy windrow."

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operation."

**Delmar B. McConkey, Malvern, Iowa:** Delmar's pleased with his 1987 Buick Electric station wagon. "It has 232,000 miles but still doesn't use any oil. It's dependable and fuel efficient. Gets 20.3 mpg pulling a camper trailer. The only problem is that there's very little leg room between the front and back seats."

**Blake McGregor, Tompkins, Sask.:** "My 1981 GM 3/4-ton 4-WD pickup is my best buy. It has 180,000 miles and the only maintenance has been for a clutch replace-