

Tacoma, Wash. 98499) on his Chevrolet Suburban after reading about it in FARM SHOW. He says it's a "best buy". "The system is designed to virtually eliminate exhaust back pressure on diesel engines in Ford and Chevrolet pickups. Four individual header pipes on each side of the engine feed into large 3-in. dia. exhaust pipes which lead to 2 1/2-in. mufflers and tailpipes. It increases horsepower by up to 30% and fuel economy by up to 33%. Makes passing fun."

Ray Oranchuk, Tomahawk, Alberta: "My worst buy is my 1986 Ford 4-WD 1/2-ton standard pickup. It has had wiper, clutch, and axle problems. The firewall moves about 3 in. every time I depress the clutch to shift gears. I had to replace the clutch at about 40,000 miles. The rear axle was replaced at 45,000 miles - wheel bearings wore out and chipped the axles. It steers like a rabbit on gravel roads."

Louie Janousek, Fairfax, S. Dak.: Louie's "best buy" is his 1991 Deere 620 disk. "It's built heavy and does a very smooth

"It steers like a rabbit on gravel roads."

job. It's easy to set and pulls easy.

"My 1991 Deere 535 baler is trouble free, easy to operate, and bales fast."

Thomas A. Townsend, Boring, Ore.: Thomas has had trouble with his 1988 Ford F-250 diesel pickup. "After about 1 1/2 years the paint on the hood started to peel. The dealer told me the warranty had expired but they offered to paint the hood. However, I thought that a factory representative should have at least looked at the pickup to evaluate the entire paint job so I tried contacting a factory representative. Unfortunately, I was only able to talk to a secretary. I wrote a letter to the company and they said they were sorry I wasn't happy with the pickup but didn't do anything. I now know why people are buying foreign products.

"My Kuhn disc mower does a good job in down hay and is a best buy."

Paul Sweeney, Douro, Ontario: Paul's satisfied with his 1983 Massey Ferguson 285 tractor but has had a few problems. "We drained the hydraulic fluid at 60 hours and found the remains of what seemed to be a brass washer on the filter screen. Later the fuel tank collapsed because the breather valve wasn't working in the tank cap. In both cases the dealer reacted quickly. The big 4-cylinder engine makes the tractor vibrate uncomfortably. It's also so noisy that I have to wear ear plugs. However, it's economical to operate and so far I'm happy with it. If I were in the market for a new tractor I'd consider another Massey Ferguson in the same horsepower range because they're reliable and have good dealer service."

Harvey Cannon, Spur, Texas: "It's a pleasure to operate and is a high capacity machine," says Harvey about his "best buy" Case-IH 8380 mower conditioner. "I've used it for three years with only minor problems. It has a low side draft and the header has good floating action. It's quite an improvement over the older Deere model that I had been using."

David B. Overbay, Chilhowie, Va.: "Our 1990 Case-IH 885 is a handy tractor. It has dual pto shafts, a large capacity hydraulic pump, mechanical front wheel drive,

and good power. My only complaint is the toolbox. It easily gets filled with dirt and is totally useless.

"Our Versatile 415 culti-mulcher is a great incorporation tool. It doubled our corn yields on clay upland soil.

"Our Deere 1360 mower conditioner is an extremely efficient machine that makes sicklebars obsolete. We can replace the 'knives' on the disc blades for about \$12. The machine is heavy, though. On hillsides it'll cause our International 1966 tractor to slide."

Alvin Mast, Jr., Ava, Ill.: "My Pequea 710 tedder is a best buy (Pequea Machine, 3230 E. Gordenville Rd., Gordenville, Pa. 17529). My neighbor had one and used it with excellent results. After borrowing it a couple of times and seeing how much quicker it cured hay, I decided to purchase one myself. Under the right conditions we can eliminate an entire day of drying time and make hay that looks better and has better quality."

Marvin Jantzi, Au Gres, Mich.: Marvin's had good luck with Bosch lights that he purchased in 1990 (Paul Morris, Rt. 1, Box 27, Versailles, Ind. 47042). "We didn't realize how poor conventional tractor and combine lights were under harvest conditions until we got these lights. They provide much more illumination for fieldwork."

Daryl Hook, Eleva, Wis.: "My best buy is my Tetco 3-ton ground water heat pump (1290 U.S. Hwy. 42N, Delaware, Ohio 43015 ph 614 363-5021). I use it with water from three 140-ft. deep wells that are hooked together. As of April 1 my heating bill for 1991 and 1992 was \$178. I expect to be able to heat and air condition my 1,900 sq. ft. split level house this year for \$250 or less. This unit can also be used to heat about 60% of my hot water for additional savings."

Joel D. Parsons, Webb, Iowa: "My 1990 Honda Fourtrax 4-WD 300 ATV is my best buy. No problems. It doesn't use any oil, is fuel efficient, handles good, and goes places I'd never dream of going with a pickup. I'd be lost without it."

Lewis J. Bugna, Elgin, Ill.: He's impressed with Craftsman hand tools. "I bought my first 1/2-in. drive Craftsman ratchet 37 years ago for \$3.25. I wore out two of them and now am on my third model. They're unconditionally guaranteed for life."

Rudolph B. Wellnitz, Cranbury, N.J.: He nominates his 1991 Westfield 7-in. dia., 51-ft. long pto drive auger as his "best buy". "It's well built, simple to set up, and trouble free. The flighting design reduces grain damage, especially to soybeans."

"I had to buy a new radiator core for my Allis Chalmers L2 combine. The radiator cooling fins are sized differently on front and back which prevents chaff from passing through. I have to wash out the cooling fins about once an hour on hot days. The core cost \$1,200. The dealer wouldn't take the old core back or admit there was a problem."

Dennis Kelsey, Lind, Wash.: "My 1991 Dodge D250 pickup rates as a 'near' best buy, but can't quite make the grade. The Cummins engine is very fuel efficient and gets about 23 1/2 mpg around the farm. It averaged 27 1/2 mpg on a recent 3,100 mile trip. It handles fairly well and has excellent power. I recently towed a 7,200-lb. load behind it in hilly country and found the 5-speed transmission to be adequate. One improvement would be to add a 'gear splitter' so that I wouldn't have to rev up the engine in order to reach the next higher gear.

"Also, the fuel tank sender unit was faulty and was replaced under warranty. After about 8,500 miles the fuel injection pump went out of adjustment, and I had to fight a battle between who would take responsibility for the warranty work - the Dodge dealer or the Cummins dealer. They finally worked it out so that the pump was repaired under warranty. Unfortunately, now there's an oil leak where the pump was removed which will have to be repaired."

"The oil pressure sender failed and my dealer ordered a new one. I had to wait two weeks for it. I don't like the 'floppy' front shock absorbers. The compression dampening is fine, but I think the rebound dampening could be tighter. The dashboard has an elusive squeak. I think I can fix that myself."

"The cargo box was mounted way off to one side. The result is that paint is getting worn off the side of the box that sticks out the farthest. I guess I'll have to loosen the bolts and realign the box."

Sylvester Simon, Tolstoy, S. Dak.: "My best buy is my Case-IH 9150 tractor. Handles nice and has great visibility both front and rear. No problems."

Keith H. Lemke, Hardwick, Minn.: Keith likes his 1989 Case-IH 1640 combine. "It's easy to set. I use a 1020 bean head and 1063 corn head with it and they're trouble-free. It has a quiet, clean cab with controls that are easy to operate. Does a nice job of threshing grain. It can't be beat for performance and is a super machine."

Ronald K. Williams, Winterset, Iowa: Ronald's pleased with his 1986 GM S-15 extended cab pickup equipped with a 2.8-liter V-6 engine and automatic transmission. "It has 213,000 miles and still runs good. It uses only a quart of oil, at most, between oil changes. Most of the miles have

"It can't be beat for performance and is a super machine."

been on dusty gravel roads. The transmission went out at about 70,000 miles, but was repaired under warranty and has worked fine ever since then."

August E. Andersen, Long Eddy, N.Y.: "My 1971 Deere 4020 is the best tractor Deere ever made."

"My worst buy is Onduline roofing installed on a 50 by 120-ft. barn. The paint came off after four years but the company said the coloring was not guaranteed. The rest of the roof fell apart within two more years. When I complained to the company, they sent me a complaint kit and I returned it to them with samples of the roofing. They said nothing was wrong with it. I say that when you can see daylight through a roof, there's obviously a problem. We finally had to go through the state attorney general office to get a settlement. I replaced it with a metal roof."

Bruce Eisenga, Marion, Mich.: A 1991 Ford 8630 tractor equipped with front wheel assist and power shift transmission rates as Bruce's "best buy". "It's an excellent tractor. Has good power, is fuel efficient, and easy to drive. The power shift transmission works great."

G.W. Lee, Jr., Vicksburg, Miss.: "My 1992 Deere STX 38 riding mower has an excellent design and quality construction.

Convenient controls, adequate power, works fast, and leaves the lawn looking better than any other mower I've ever owned. It's a pleasure to operate."

"My Aerway aerator does an excellent job renovating pastures and hay fields. It's built tough and is easy to adjust."

"My New Holland 254 hay rake/tedder does a good job and is well built. Makes a good windrow and also does a good job tedding."

Marvin Pfeifer, Madison, Neb.: Marvin's "best buy" is his 1990 Deere 4455 tractor. "It handles well, has a comfortable ride, and good power. It's also easy to shift and steer."

Don Brandenburg, Edgeley, N. Dak.: Don nominates his 1990 Blumhardt pickup mount sprayer equipped with a 500-gal. tank as his "best buy". "I like the way the boom floats over uneven ground and the tank has plenty of capacity. It has a radar monitor to control the amount of spray."

Jim Lacey, Dell Rapids, S. Dak.: Jim likes his 1989 Dodge pickup equipped with a Cummins diesel engine, but says there are a few problems. "We mounted an exhaust system from Tippecanoe Mfg. (Lafayette, Ind.) on it and also changed the timing. The pickup ran well before, but now it runs 20% better. However, it has a terrible ride. We don't abuse our pickups, but the cab is starting to work loose with only 74,000 miles. We ran our 1982 Chevrolet for 230,000 miles and the cab was still solid. A friend of mine installed an air suspension system under his Dodge pickup but he still can't get a decent ride. I may have to go back to Chevrolet and their new diesel engine. I'll trade Dodge's power and economy for a better ride - unless I install a semi type seat in the Dodge."

Dan Hurley, Elmira, N.Y.: "My 1991 Ford F-250 pickup is my worst buy. It had less than 8,000 miles when the reverse gear went out of the standard transmission. It took over a month to get parts. I was told by a dealer employee that these transmissions aren't built heavy enough for a 3/4-ton pickup."

Max R. Schiele, Jr., Lambert, Miss.: Max says he's generally satisfied with his 1990 Case-IH 7130 tractor but he's had a few problems. "It has adequate power and handles well with good comfort and fuel economy. However, the engine block could be improved. It's a solid cast block, and I've had problems with sand holes and cracking cylinders. I've also had to update too many items at my own expense."

Paul E. Hartmann, Wellborn, Fla.: "My Kubota 4-wheel steer lawn tractor lets us mow close to fences, trees, etc. The diesel engine uses only about half as much fuel as the gas engine on the mower I had been using."

Keith D. Scott, Boissevain, Manitoba: "It's a beautiful machine to operate," says Keith about his "best buy" 1990 Case-IH 1680 combine. "The engine has lots of power and the long chaffer sieve has enough separating capacity to handle the extra power. It's a nice matchup."

Lawrence Wolf, Greenwood, Wis.: "My best buy of all time is my 1983 Ford Ranger 1/4-ton diesel pickup equipped with a 2.2-liter diesel engine and factory weight package. We use it for quick trips and chasing down parts. The engine is remarkable. It has 120,000 miles but still doesn't use any oil. It's fuel efficient at 29 mpg and starts at 10°

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