

# Best, Worst Tractors

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hrs. costing me a new block and overhaul. It also seems to be harder starting than other tractors I've owned. Powershift transmission is probably not the most efficient but it sure is handy. The 158 Deere loader works good with the tractor but one problem is that the frame bolts on tractor are covered by the loader frame. They can work loose and make a mess if not discovered in time," says Don Hofmann, Ismay, Mont.

"My only complaint with my 1985 Ford 6610 2-WD tractor is that it's extremely loud. Other tractors with similar power make many decibels less noise. Otherwise, the tractor has lots of power, is easy to operate and service, and is very maneuverable," says Hamish Kerfoot, Cochrane, Alberta.

"The only problem I've had with my 1985 Case 2094 is with a leaky head gasket. I fitted it with an Orthman from 3-pt. hitch. I'm very pleased with it as I can now level out plowed ground, apply chemicals, and

**"Now that I have a front 3-pt., I wouldn't want to be without it."**

then incorporate them all in one pass. Front-mounted implements don't seem to require much additional power. Now that I have a front 3-pt., I wouldn't want to be without it," says Russel Rogoztke, Springfield, Mn.

"The torque rise is probably as good as any new tractor I've ever had but the governor should take a hold at a higher rpm level," says Marvin L. Knobloch, Bradford, Ill., about his 1989 Deere 4955 with MFWD. "It handles well, provides a comfortable ride, and has better visibility than the 4850 I owned before. I especially like the radar acre counter that also shows percentage of slip. Greasing the front U-joints is a 2-man job - one in the cab and one with a grease gun. The old 4850 had zerks on both sides of joint by the wheels so they could be greased on one side or the other at all times."

"I like everything about my 1989 Case/IH Magnum 7110 with FWA except that it could use a higher reverse gear," says Ben Brown, LaPorte, Ind.

"The seat is comfortable when it's not broken but it's got parts on it that wear out fast," says Michael Naescher, Wall, S. Dak., about his 1982 Versatile 835. "I mounted air bag suspension on the seat to eliminate the springs and gas-filled shocks. Otherwise, I'm pleased with the tractor. It's not complicated by electronics or a powershift transmission. The 855 Cummins engine really makes these tractors work with big horsepower and a tremendous torque rise which means no shifting gears in tough spots. It just pulls through."

"I'm satisfied with my 1980 Ford FW30. The only trouble I've had with it has been some minor air conditioning problems. Also, the ladder to get into the cab is not well designed. I own two other Ford tractors - a TW30 and a 7700 - and they're also nearly trouble-free," says Elwin Holtz, Fulton, Mich.

James Horner, Quyon, Quebec, has had good luck with his 1988 Case/IH 685. "It runs great. We're happy with it. We have one small complaint. The hand brake handle

is too long."

Emerson Kirby, Jr., Richlands, Va., owns a 60-hp. 1982 Deere 2350. "They should put better tires on their tractors. I had not put 1,500 hrs. on the tractor when I had to replace all four Firestone tires. That's a lot of money to spend after you had just paid \$20,000 for the tractor 10 months before. The company wouldn't even give me an adjustment on them. A second problem is that the front-end loader is built weak where it bolts to the frame. I'm continually tightening bolts. The bolts going into the motor block are becoming stripped due to excess vibration. One modification I plan to make to the tractor is to attach a screen to the roll bar just above the 3-pt. hitch so rocks, twigs, and other foreign material will not hit the operator when mowing. Other than those problems, I'm pretty happy with the tractor. It handles well and is fuel efficient."

"This 136 hp. tractor has done everything I wanted it to do," says Ron Tersteeg, Bird Island, Minn., about his "best buy" 1989 Massey Ferguson 3650 with FWA. "With the 9,400 lb. 3-pt. lift capacity it handles my 16-row, 30-in. cultivator and rotary hoe easily. We also use it on our 20-ft. mounted Great Plains drill. The front-wheel assist helps handle big mounted equipment with ease and stability. We really like the electronic 3-pt. hitch, the tilt and telescope steering wheel, sun shades, sun roof, pop cooler, and the Autotronic controls which turn on certain functions such as the differential lock and front-wheel drive by itself when needed. Fuel economy is extremely good. I have three big 4-WD tractors for heavy work so this tractor fills in for lighter jobs. We put 400 hrs. on it this season and never had any trouble. It's the best tractor available for the money."

"There's nothing to improve on this tractor. It's perfect," says James Stewart, Rushville, Ind., pleased with his 1989 Deere 8760 4-WD. "It's economical, turns much shorter than previous models, has plenty of power, and is a pleasure to drive. There's as much difference between this new 8760 and my old 8630 as there is between the average tractor of the 1960's the average tractor today. Maintenance is reduced to nothing. It's rugged-built and simple. Should last for years."

"We're satisfied with our 1981 Deere 4440 now but it took 2 years of pressure to get Deere to do something about the lack of power it had when new. It had about 15% more horsepower on the dynamometer than it was rated for but about 40% less in the field than it should have had. At first Deere wouldn't do anything for us because the dyno test was up to par. After lots of pressure, we got company representatives to view the tractor in a field test with 5 other tractors of same-rated horsepower. They should listen more to the people who buy the equipment. We added an alcohol blender. When the turbo charger kicks in, the system adds about 2 gal. of alcohol per hour to the diesel fuel. It boosts power and the engine runs cooler and more economically. It also uses up some corn," says Tom Comstock, W. Concord, Minn.

Roy Magler, Amery, Wis., owns a 1988 Case/IH 485. "It's our loader tractor and has done everything we've asked it and more. The shuttle shift which lets you switch from forward to reverse without



New CBT tractor has a Cummins engine, an Eaton transmission and differential, a Dana Clutch, and Muller axles.

## GEAR DRIVEN 4-WHEEL DRIVE

# 310 Hp Pulling Tractor Carries Low Price Tag

You'll like the price tag on the big new 4-wheel drive, 310 hp "Agricultural Supertractor" introduced by CBT/USA, North American distributor of the CBT line of tractors manufactured in Brazil.

Billed as a "pulling tractor," it sells for \$91,500 (suggested retail), which pencils out to right at \$295 per hp. "So far as we know, it's the only gear-driven high horsepower tractor on the market," says Dave Dairy, sales manager.

The new TM310's major components are well-known "off the shelf" main brands: A Cummins engine (6 cyl. direct injection and water cooled) Eaton mechanical two-speed transmission (18 speeds forward and 4 in

reverse); Eaton heavy-duty differential; Dana Spicer clutch; and Muller axles with planetary final drives, and the Muller-built mechanical transfer case.

Comes with cab and 20.8 x 38 radial tires (24.5 x 32 optional). It independently articulates (30° to either side) and oscillates (15° to either side), and has an outer turning radius of 323 in. Weighs 29,000 lbs. Options include a 3-pt. hitch and a "no-spin" front differential. Not available with pto.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, CBT/USA, 4575 Hilton Parkway, Colorado Springs, Col. 80907 (ph 719 590-1118).

stopping is a big plus and the hydraulics are the best I've ever had on a loader tractor. They could improve the tractor by relocating the parking brake and making the oil dipstick and fuel filters more accessible when the loader is on the tractor. I modified the rollbar by putting hinges on it so it'll tip 45° to get into heifer sheds."

"I wish it had a swivel seat, sun shades, and a tilt-up hood. Also, I put front fenders on to keep the wheels from throwing mud up on the cab windows (May-Wess Mfg., Box 33, Gibbon, Minn. 55335). Otherwise, I'm satisfied with my 1981 Deere 4840," says Harold Fratzke, Cottonwood, Minn.

Wilfred H. Owens, Frederic, Wis., says his 1988 Case/IH 685 was a "worst buy." "It makes too much noise. Makes your ears ring if operated for a long period of time. It also needs an improved hydraulic system. We have two other tractors with the same horsepower and both use much less fuel to operate."

"Our 1989 Deere 4555 MFWD has excellent power and efficiency. With the exception of the pto, controls are properly positioned and easy to reach. The problem with the pto is that I keep bashing my left knee on the control. I like the new digital dash although it's really useless without the radar. I especially like the standard swivel seat and the new 4-speaker sound system. This tractor stays much cleaner than our previous 4640. I like the new electro-hydraulic 3-pt. hitch. It's very sensitive and easy to use," says Clifford E. Mendel, Doland, S. Dak.

Steve Busta, Lawler, Iowa, owns a 1987 Ford TW-15 with MFWD. "It's solid and well-built. The cab is great. Very quiet. The transmission speeds are perfectly spaced and the fuel economy is good. My only suggestion is for the company to make it easier to add oil and change fuel filters. Snap-on filters would be the way to go."

"My 1984 Versatile 555 tractor has developed engine, transmission and hydraulic oil leaks. They've all been fixed at least twice and they continue to leak. The manufacturer acknowledged that they had a hydraulic pump problem since the tractor was new but wouldn't share the cost of a new one. I ended up installing a dual cast iron hydraulic pump, which solved that problem," says Stephen Anderson, Kindred, N. Dak.

James L. York, Williamsport, Ind., owns a 1985 Allis Chalmers 8030. "Allis Chalmers had a good tractor in the 80 Series but unfortunately they no longer make it. I've heard several farmers comment that the company should have kept this tractor and put the Deutz air-cooled engine in it. The 8030 has a roomy cab and a good seat. Good power and easy-handling."

Donald Stolpman, Bellingham, Minn., has had good luck with his 1989 Case/IH 7130 Magnum. "It has lots of power, a comfortable cab, and I like the powershift transmission in it. Dealer service has been excellent. One problem is that the door opens a little hard from the inside when sitting in the seat but it closes easily."