

"We're well pleased with our 1988 Honda TRX 200 SX 4-wheeler ATV which we bought used in 1990. It always starts and runs flawlessly in any type of weather. It's on its second set of tires, second seat, and second set of sprockets and chains. The engine has never had a wrench on it, and it still has the original battery. It's been very dependable."

Bob Shaw, Caroline, Alberta: Bob nominates his 1993 Case-IH 5130 front wheel assist tractor equipped with a Case-IH front-end loader as his "best buy". "It's easy to start in cold weather, simple to operate, and has controls that are easy to reach. It also has a lot of hydraulic capacity. I've put about 4,000 hours on it in only four years."

On the "worst buy" side, he lists **Briggs & Stratton** single cylinder gas engines. "They require three or four times as much maintenance as other brands that I use, including Honda and Tecumseh."

Dale Hallett, Carstairs, Alberta: Dale owns a Westfield 60-ft. long, 10-in. dia. auger equipped with a swing hopper and says it's his "best buy". "It has a lot of capacity and is easy to use. We had some problems with a leaky gearbox and with the angle drive in the hopper. Otherwise, we're well pleased with it."

N.M. Ford, Rodney, Ontario: "My Deere 750 no-till drill works well in no-till beans."

"My 1997 Ford F-150 4-WD pickup is a pleasure to own."

Del Bates, Acme, Alberta: "We used it to harvest 2,200 acres last year with no problems," reports Del, satisfied with his 1996 Case-IH 2188 combine. "It has a lot of capacity and power, a nice quiet cab, and components that are easy to adjust except for the sieves."

Dwight H. Shannon, Prescott, Ontario: "My best buy is a 1992 DeutzAllis 6265 tractor which I bought used. No problems and it always starts in cold weather."

Walter Charbonneau, Chatham, Ontario: Walter's the satisfied owner of a 1994 Massey Ferguson 3075 front wheel

"No problems and it always starts in cold weather."

assist 85 hp tractor. "I put 700 hours on in two years and only had trouble with one small electrical connection. This tractor has excellent torque down to 1,200 rpm's and is easy on fuel, especially with the 2-speed pto which provides full pto rpm's at only 1,500 engine rpm's and works great for doing light work. I think every tractor should have this feature. I needed more power so I traded it in this year for a 1996 Massey Ferguson 6180 front wheel assist tractor with 110 horsepower."

Elwood Coons, Winchester, Ontario: "I had some trouble with the hydraulics but I'm still satisfied with this machine," says Elwood about his 1995 Rissler TMR 620 feed cart. "It has excellent maneuverability and does a consistent job of mixing."

"My 1992 Case-IH 7120 Magnum tractor has a great transmission, a lot of power, and is reasonably fuel efficient."

Mark Dallmann, Lake Lillian, Minn.: Mark likes his 1995 Flexi-Coil 1720 air cart. "I used it to apply 575 lbs. of deep banded fertilizer per acre at 5 mph and didn't have any problems with it plugging up. I also used it to plant soybeans at 65 lbs. per acre and it produced a nice, even stand. All I've had to

replace was one monitor sender."

Harold Dignan, Hensall, Ontario: "My 1995 Seaforth 3-pt. mounted, 3-spindle finishing mower is my best buy. I like it because it's adaptable and has a simple design. It does a good job. So far all it has required is sharpening of the blades."

Bill Crawford, Winnsboro, Texas: Bill likes his 1988 Belarus 700 series and 1994 Belarus 800 series tractors. "Both tractors have served me dependably with little down time. I really like the technical assistance provided by the company. They're very knowledgeable and will stay with you for as long as you need them."

On the "worst buy" side, he's had problems with the paint peeling on his 1993 Ford F-150 pickup. "The exterior paint peels down to the primer coat with even the slightest bang and under normal use. The company claims this isn't abnormal. However, I like the pickup mechanically, and it rides nicer than many passenger cars."

Richard Siems, Melvin, Ill.: "My 1995 Deere 980 26 1/2-ft. field cultivator equipped with C shanks does an excellent job in heavy residue. It doesn't bounce up and down like my old Deere 1010 model did. I just turn the crank to set the depth and it stays put. One problem is that the outrigger wheels create a hole when turning at the end of the field. They should be in line with the center wheels."

"My 1996 Dodge 3/4-ton 4-WD pickup equipped with a V-10 engine and 5-speed transmission is a best buy. The V-10 engine has awesome power and gets 13 1/2 mpg to 14 mpg on the highway. The pickup has an excellent ride and handles great. It's equipped with a 4:10 rear end so it'll easily pull a 500 bu. load. Also, it's easy to service. One problem is that it should have a sixth gear for better fuel economy on the highway. Another problem is that the battery ran down after the pickup sat idle for only eight days. The driver is supposed to receive a warning if he accidentally leaves the headlights on. However, it only works if you take the key out of the ignition."

Vincent Malnati, Walpole, N.H.: "It's an excellent all-around tractor for loader work," says Vincent about his 1996 Case-IH 5220 4-WD model equipped with an Alo Quicke 640 front-end loader. "It has a lot of traction, a 4-cyl. engine that's very responsive, and controls that are easy to reach. I especially like the power shift reverser. The loader sits tight against the tractor which makes it easy to maneuver, even in close quarters."

"My 1995 Alfa-Laval vacuum pump is my worst buy. After it was installed the pump bearings seized, the motor failed to start several times, and the rotor wings had to be replaced - all sources of much frustration when the cows are waiting to be milked and it doesn't work. The dealer has been back at least twice to fix oil leaks in the pump housing and in the line going to the oil reclaim. However, less than eight months after their latest attempt to correct the problem it was leaking again. It's very disappointing to think of the dollars we spent hoping for an improvement in reliability only to find we took a step backward."

James Hulm, Timber Lake, S. Dak.: "My best buy is my 1992 New Holland 660 round baler. It makes a good, tight bale. We've used it to make more than 6,000 bales with very few repairs."

"My 1989 Polaris 4-WD ATV is a best buy. I use it hard almost every day and it just keeps on going."

"My worst buy is my 1988 Du-AI 305

Roundup Ready Beans Are His "Best Buy"

Iowa farmer Steve Shelley started using Roundup Ready soybeans in 1996 when they came on the market. He now plants all his bean acres to them.

"My reasons for trying Roundup Ready beans were many. In 1995 my chemical plan didn't work very well and in some places I couldn't even tell where I had applied herbicides. As a result, I had poor yields. We had a late, wet spring which made it difficult to apply preplant chemicals and they didn't work well. I didn't like using most of the bean chemicals available because I feared the carryover was hurting corn yields the following year."

"In 1995 I looked at several test plots of Roundup Ready beans and all of them looked good with good plant height and strength and excellent podding, and best of all they were weed-free. I checked every plot I could find to learn how Roundup Ready beans yielded, and found that in every case yields were equal to or better than the yields on conventional beans - from 2 to 5 bu. more per acre."

"In late April of 1996 I ordered enough Roundup Ready beans to plant all my bean acres. The beans cost \$21.50 per acre and the Roundup \$9 per acre. That added up to a total cost of \$30.50 per acre for Roundup Ready beans. If I had planted conventional beans I figure I'd have spent \$9 per acre on bin-run beans and \$25 per acre on herbicides, for a total of \$34 per acre."

"My tillage program is to disk corn stalks in early April, then field cultivate just before drilling the beans in. I planted half my Roundup Ready beans on May 15th and 16, but because of rain I had to wait until June 10 to plant the rest. I sprayed Roundup once 30 to 35 days after planting. The fields were infested with foxtail, woolly cupgrass, and broadleaf weeds from fence to fence. They were so thick that I even wondered if

I had any beans, to say nothing of what the neighbors thought. However, one week after spraying, only the soybeans were left and they stayed clean through harvest. Woolly cupgrass, our worst weed, was controlled 100 percent. The beans weren't stunted or burned at all."

"With no weeds, harvest went very smooth. The beans averaged 48 bu. per acre, and even on my poorer soils they averaged 30 to 32 bu. per acre which didn't disappoint me at all. After two years I've had no problems with spray drift. Field edges are clean, with no weeds to combine or reseed and no chemicals in the ground."

"If hail ever hits after I spray the beans with Roundup, I can replant to any crop. And I've eliminated the use of harsher chemicals which might contaminate ground water. I've noticed that corn planted the following year where Roundup Ready beans were grown tassels about 6 to 8 days ahead of neighboring corn fields planted the same day. I believe the ground-applied soybean chemicals are retarding the growth of the following crop."

"Roundup Ready beans can be raised anywhere that soybeans can be grown - worldwide. They don't require any changes in equipment. Whether you plant conventional till or no till, there's just one chemical to buy and nothing to mix. Because of lower input costs, less wear and tear on equipment, and higher yields, our soybean acre profits increased by 15 percent. I planted all my soybean crop to Roundup Ready beans last year, too, and my beans averaged 44 bu. per acre, despite the fact that we received less than 1 in. of rain from June 23 to Aug. 18. I plan to continue this program in the future."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Steve Shelley, 1507 Stuart Rd., Stuart, Iowa 50250 (ph 515 523-2017).

front-end loader. The seals on the hydraulic cylinders keep blowing out. Another problem is that the lift cylinder rams are hollow with a thread-in pin end that's made from cast iron. We've had to replace the one on the left side five times in the last two years. The company says there isn't a problem."

Gordon Brett, Utica, Kan.: Gordon's pleased with his Quinstar Fallowmaster II 28-ft. sweep plow. "We bought a reasonably priced extension kit to convert it to 31 ft. It pulls easier than a conventional undercutter and no harder than our 5 by 5 undercutter."

Eric Wallis, Rudyard, Mich.: Eric owns a "best buy" Taylor T-750 outside hot water furnace. "I've used it to heat our large old farm house and the domestic water in it for the past three years. We've had some long, cold winters but my family and I have never been warmer and we've never run out of hot water. Last year I burned old fence posts most of the time but still got 12-hour burn times."

Kenneth LaHaye, Ville Platte, La.: "My 1994 Deere 8570 tractor and Deere 7400 MFDW tractor are both best buys. The 8570 is the most comfortable tractor I've ever operated. It's rated at 250 hp but seems to have even more power than that. The 7400 is comfortable and handles nice, and it has a lot of power and great hydraulics. It's the ultimate utility tractor."

"My Miller Matic 250 Mig welder works good and makes me look like a professional welder."

Carson Hobbs, Deloraine, Manitoba:

"My 1995 Honda Fourtrax 4-wheeler ATV just keeps on running without requiring any maintenance."

"My 1995 Ford 7840 front wheel assist tractor equipped with a 7413 front-end loader is my worst buy. The loader has been a headache since day one. All the hydraulic hoses ruptured and had to be replaced. The joystick and control valves never work properly, and the transmission isn't designed to work in our cold winters. There have been numerous other problems. It's poorly designed and is a \$90,000 piece of junk. The only good thing is that dealer has been great."

Darrel Brandenburg, Brethren, Mich.: "I like my DR 6 hp Vector 'Pro' electric start trimmer/mower (Country Home Products, Ferry Road, Box 89, Charlotte, Vt. 05445). The electric start feature is worth the extra cost. I don't see why other small mowers on tillers don't have it. The battery to start it isn't much bigger than a box of jello mix."

Ernest A. Sjuts, Urbana, Ill.: A 1995 Ford F-150 XLT Lariat 4-WD pickup heads Ernest's "best buy" list. "It looks good and is built with quality. It has a great paint job, drives good, and performs well for having a 302 cu. in. electronic fuel injected engine. It gets 14 to 16 mpg around home and 18 to 19 mpg on the highway."

"My 1996 Deere 425 all-wheel-steer riding mower equipped with a 60-in. deck is the best mower I've ever owned. It gets around just as fast as a zero turn mower but rides much smoother."