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this tractor in for a Deere 7810."

Marsha Fahser, Weyauwega, Wis.: Marsha, is pleased with her 2002 **Polaris Ranger** but says it nonetheless could use a couple of improvements. "It works great for feeding horses because we can just drive up to the feed rack and put the hay in. It works good even in snow. I bought it with a metal roof and front and rear windows. For some reason they don't sell a totally enclosed cab even though before I bought it I was given a brochure that showed the vehicle equipped with an enclosed metal cab. They offer soft canvas doors that are supposed to be held on with Velcro, but the Velcro won't stay on the metal which makes the doors useless. Also, the zippers don't work right. I think it was false. It turns out the company offers the enclosed metal cab only on its professional series model, which is styled exactly like the Ranger except that it's painted yellow."

Mark Yax, Solon, Ohio: "My 1980 **Scag** 48-in. walk-behind mower, which I bought used 10 years ago, is my best buy (www.scag.com). All I've ever had to replace



was a \$2 spring. This rig has reduced my mowing time by more than half. It's really maneuverable - I can go right around a 1-in. dia. pipe - which eliminates the need for a trimming mower. I'm confident I'll never have to buy another mower.

"My 1982 **Dodge** Rampage mini pickup is my worst buy. I bought it because it was made from galvanized sheet metal. However, the paint started flaking off just two weeks after I bought it. The dealer repainted it for me, but by four years later the pickup had rusted out so bad that it wasn't even safe to drive. I had to junk it with only 42,000 miles on it. During that time I also had to replace the front brakes four times. I really like the way the new Dodge pickups look, but after this experience I'll never buy another Dodge again."

John Neuman, Baraboo, Wis.: "My **Ford F-350** pickup equipped with a 6-liter Power Stroke diesel engine and 5-speed torqshift transmission is my best buy. It has a lot of power and the transmission is geared low, so it works great for pulling heavy loads. I'd recommend this pickup to anyone looking for a real work truck."

George Mills, Port Byron, N.Y.: George is impressed with his 2001 **Zetor 6341** tractor. "I traded my Zetor 6340 loader tractor for it. The 6340 was a great tractor, but the 6341 is even better and is a pleasure to drive. It comes with a cab and air conditioning as standard equipment, and with Barum tires which have deep treads and wear like steel. This tractor also has an excellent hydraulic system. Overall, it's a great tractor. Best of all, it costs only a fraction as much as a comparable major brand model. Comes with an unlimited 2-year warranty that covers everything."

He says the four **BF Goodrich** tires that he now has on another tractor are his "worst buys". "The tires are only two years old but already the treads are completely worn down. The original equipment Firestone tires that came with the tractor lasted 10 years."

Todd Tienarend, Bloomdale, Ohio: A

Deere 1460 disc haybine rates as Todd's "best buy". "I just hook it onto my tractor and go out and mow hay without having to worry about anything going wrong. This machine requires very little maintenance and really runs smooth. It cuts hay perfectly at speeds up to 10 mph without leaving any stubble. Occasionally a rock will dull the blade, but it takes only about five minutes to replace a blade."

Dan Kroner, Portage Des Sioux, Mo.: "My **Ferguson** offset ditch digger (Ferguson Mfg., Suffolk, Va.) is my best buy. I like it because I don't have to straddle roadside ditches and worry about a possible rollover. It does a great job. The safety factor is very important to me."

David Hammond, Eldred, Ill.: David's impressed with his 1988 **Deere** mid-size tractor equipped with a front-end loader. "We used it to build a mini golf course and it worked great. I also use it a lot around my home."

Tom Howard, Fairfield, Ct.: "I like my 1995 **Stihl 028** Wood Boss chain saw equipped with a 16-in. bar. I use it on my small farm for clearing out trees and cutting cordwood. It starts on the second pull every time. All I've replaced were three chains and a bar. Otherwise it has been maintenance-free."

In the "worst buy" category is a 2000 **DR 22-in.** weed trimmer made in Vermont. He paid \$495 for it, equipped with a 6 hp electric start engine. "The trimmer line won't stay in the loop fittings and when it does, the fittings snap off after less than five minutes of use. Another problem is that it kicks back small stones like bullets and also small wood chips, which cut my chin and cheek. This trimmer is not a very safe product to use."

Arthur Dunn, Princeton, Ky.: "Our 1986 **Nissan** pickup is our all-time best buy. We bought it used with about 9,000 miles on it, and today it has about 265,000 miles with the only major repair being the replacement of a head gasket. We haven't been easy on this pickup, either. We often overload it by using it to pull a 16-ft. trailer loaded with a 35 to 40 hp tractor and a Bush Hog mower.

"Our 1998 **Massey Ferguson 231** tractor is a best buy. This 35 hp tractor has proven to be a real asset to our operation. It has all the features we need, is built heavy, and is fuel efficient. It starts right up in cold weather even without a block heater. The only problem was a fuel injector pump seal that leaked. Our dealer repaired it under warranty."

Victor E. Janz, Cupar, Sask.: "I bought my 1992 **Ford F-150 XLT** pickup used several years ago and it's my best buy. It now has about 150,000 miles on it but still runs great with no problems. Ford pickups are very reliable - I won't drive anything else.

"My 1983 **IH 6388** tractor, which I bought used two years ago, is a best buy. It runs great and is economical. I wish my 1981 **IH 1486** tractor worked as well. I bought it used and was able to put only about 100 hours on it before the rear end, hydraulics, and steering went out. I had to spend a lot of money on repairs."

Alton Eliason, Northford, Ct.: "A few years ago I saw an ad for **Pond Saver** - a product guaranteed to eliminate algae, plant growth, and hydrocarbons from ponds naturally. It's made from a concentrated blend of 17 strains of dry, live bacteria that are said to make the water crystal clear. I have a 100,000-gal. swimming pool and didn't want to use huge quantities of chlorine. With copper sulfate being banned or limited to a useless amount, we were hard pressed to control the algae so I decided to investigate the product further.

"I called the company (Plant Health Care,

40-Year-Old Tractor Still Going Strong

Roy Lazenby Jr., Statesville, North Carolina, has a reputation as a quality manufacturer of steel parts for furniture makers.

Lazenby works with steel in his spare time, too. One of his first projects ever was a garden tractor built in the 1960's. His son, Mike, thought it was worth a mention in **FARM SHOW** because after 40 years of use, the tractor is still hard at work.

As a young family man and rural homeowner, Roy had about half an acre of lawn to maintain and a fairly good sized garden. "I needed a mower and something to work the garden," he says. "My funds were extremely limited, so I decided to make one."

Lazenby gathered up parts at junkyards and went to work. He ended up with a 6-ft. long tractor equipped with a 9 hp Wisconsin engine and a couple of old car transmissions. The tractor has 16 forward speeds and three in reverse. Top speed is 26 mph.

"I made all kinds of equipment for it including a 4-ft. floating finish mower, a garden cultivator, a 3-pt. mounted blade, a plow, and a 3 by 4-ft. cargo carrier that



Roy Lazenby Jr. built this garden tractor in the 1960's. "I made all kinds of equipment for it, including a 4-ft. floating finish mower, a garden cultivator, and a 3 by 4-ft. cargo carrier that mounts on the 3-pt.," he says. mounts on the 3 pt. and turns it into a little pickup truck."

Lazenby figures the entire tractor cost him less than \$150 when he first built it. The only major change he's made to the tractor since building it was replacing the original engine with a 21 hp Kawasaki.

Contact: **FARM SHOW** Followup, Roy Lazenby Jr., 1145 Cool Springs Road, Statesville, N.C. 28625 (ph 704-871-1332).

Inc., 440 Pitt Way, Pittsburgh, Pa. 15238 ph 800 421-9051). I was told that I couldn't use the product in a swimming pool because chlorine would kill the bacteria. I told them that I don't use chlorine and had been using copper sulfate until it was banned. They seemed reluctant to recommend the product for swimming pools, but assured me it wouldn't hurt humans so I decided to give it a try.

"I ordered 10 lbs. and added the recommended dosage for our size pool once the water temperature reached 55 degrees. After about two weeks the water started clearing up, and after three weeks we could see a dime 9 ft. down on the bottom of the pool. It was absolutely amazing - the water had never been this clear. I was so impressed that I called the company back, encouraging them to promote Pond Saver for swimming pools. However, they weren't interested in going this route. I think they're afraid of legal actions by powerful parties claiming all sorts of dire consequences from using bacteria. The company also has many other products that I haven't used but assume are equally noteworthy. I can't recommend this product highly enough."

Don Oswald, Manson, Iowa: A 2001 **Chevrolet 1-ton** dually pickup equipped with an 8.1-liter engine and Allison transmission rates as Don's "best buy". "I use this pickup hard but haven't had any problems with it. It has a lot of power and the transmission works like a dream. I've already got 91,000 miles on it. It's a great pickup.

"My 2003 **Chevrolet 1-ton** dually pickup

"I use this pickup hard but haven't had any problems with it."

equipped with an 8.1-liter engine and Allison transmission is my worst buy. It rides great and has a lot of power, but has had numerous small problems. The extendable mirrors are a good idea but they don't work. The brake module went out at 18,000 miles, and at 18,500 miles all the dash instruments failed. It wasn't a simple fuse problem, either. They had to be reprogrammed by the dealer. I'm looking forward to better times with this pickup."

Mark Rubbert, Bend, Ore.: Mark nominates his 2001 **Toyota Sequoia 4 by 4** sports

utility vehicle as his "worst buy". "This vehicle is dangerous to drive on snow, ice and gravel because of its 'traction control system'. This system takes throttle control away from the driver whenever it detects wheel slip. The result is that the engine drops to an idle whenever it hits washboard gravel or spins a tire on snow or ice. The driver can do nothing, and it takes a second or so for the system to reset and restore the throttle. Imagine trying to pull out into traffic on an icy morning, only to have your vehicle's engine drop to an idle and stop after moving 10 ft. because a wheel has spun on a slick spot. You're sitting there watching cars come at you and you can't move.

"We filed a claim with the National Center for Dispute Settlement to make Toyota buy the vehicle back, but the investigator didn't have the backbone to stand up to the company. He did say the Sequoia design 'is not in the owner's best interest'. I've been told that Toyota is expanding their traction control system to include the Landcruiser and 4Runner as well. We've purchased a replacement vehicle (a GMC Yukon XL). I'd be happy to talk to anyone about this system. I believe it's dangerous."

Craig Froman, English, Ind.: Craig says his 1952 **Ferguson 30** tractor is his "all-time best buy". "We used it on two farms for many years to do a lot of mowing and logging work. We put a lot of extra weights both on front and back of the tractor. The engine was overhauled once, in 1968. Otherwise we've spent very little for parts or repairs. It still has the original clutch disc. I'd buy a new one like it today, although I would like it to have power steering and a live pto. Even though I've owned this tractor for more than 50 years, it's still not for sale."

Robert H. Thompson, Camillus, N.Y.: "My 1965 **Massey Ferguson Super 90** tractor is my best buy. I use it all year long. It's only been back to the dealer once."

David R. Schutz, Cayuga, N.Y.: David's disappointed with a pole barn machine shed put up by **Cleary Building Corp.** "It was built in 1991 and the metal they used came from Fabral Steel. Cleary has a 20-year guarantee against fading and rust, but their guarantee from Fabral isn't worth the paper it's printed on.

"After noticing rust on the roof last summer, I contacted Cleary. I made several phone calls and got the run around before I was finally able to get their representative to come out and look at it. He admitted the building