

Farmers Nominate Best & Worst Buys

well as our tractor club's show grounds. I also use it to groom trails in our woods, and during the winter I use it with a snowblower. This tractor has served me well."

Mike Evans, Vanderbilt, Texas: A socket and wrench set made by **Metrinch America** (Box 945, El Segundo, Calif. 90245 ph 310 414-3200) rates as Mike's "best buy". The sockets and wrenches in this set fit either metric or non-metric bolts. It eliminates the need to keep two separate sets of tools. These



sockets and wrenches are designed to grip the sides of nuts and bolts and not the corners. I think they're built with quality equal to Sears Craftsman and Snap-On tools. I liked them so well that I bought another set for my son.

"My **MTD** 14 hp riding mower equipped with a 42-in. deck is my worst buy. The front axle on this mower is built cheap and wears out after only a couple of seasons. The deck rocks back in order to engage the mower blades, an action that leaves very little room for depth of cut. The blades cut unevenly and plug up easily, which causes the belt to slip. Fortunately, the engine and transmission work great."

Vincent Carbonell, Delano, Minn.: "In May 2001 I bought a used 1999 Dodge 1-ton pickup equipped with a Cummins diesel engine. I was so pleased with it that last year I

bought a new **Dodge** 2500 4-WD, 3/4-ton pickup equipped with a diesel engine and quad cab. It's also a best buy. I use a snowplow with it and like how well it plows snow. With 4-WD it doesn't spin a wheel.

"My 1990 **Ford** F-250 4-WD pickup, equipped with a 460 cu. in. engine, is my worst buy. I bought one model equipped with a gas engine and was really pleased with it, so I bought a second model that's identical except it has a diesel engine. Luckily, both pickups came with a 6-year, 6,000-mile drivetrain warranty because both had to have new transmissions installed. One only had 16,000 miles on it."

John Paulsen, Baudette, Minn.: "My **Versatile** 145 tractor is easy on fuel and easy to operate. Even a 15-year-old can drive it safely."

Craig Schommer, Munich, N. Dak.: Craig nominates his 2001 **Deere** 9750 STS combine as his "best buy". "In my opinion, this combine performs better than any other machine on the market. It has delivered everything that the company promised, and more. It has enormous capacity and provides unsurpassed grain quality. What's more, it's very comfortable to operate."

Mike Cox, La Pryor, Texas: "My **Deere** 4400 4-WD tractor equipped with a front-end loader is my worst buy. The hydraulic pump went out every 80 to 90 hours when we first got it. Two weeks after the warranty expired the pump went out again. The tractor had only 326 hours on it.

"My **New Holland** TW 65A is the best small tractor I've ever owned.

"My 1998 **Yamaha** 600 Grizzly ATV is a best buy. I use it to pull trailers and for fence work, etc. No problems."

Wayne W. Harley, New Brighton, Penn.: "This tractor does everything well," says Wayne, pleased with his 2002 **Massey**

Ferguson 271XE. It's equipped with a 59 hp Perkins diesel engine and an independent pto. "The Perkins diesel engine starts easy and seems to have more power than it's rated at, and the independent pto engages and disengages smoothly. The operator platform has good visibility and also has a comfortable seat. My only complaint is that the turning radius on this tractor is wider than we'd like."

Chad Smischney, Northome, Minn.: "My 2000 **Farmstead Products** 150HD grain cleaner is my worst buy. The person who sold it to me said it would clean 150 bu. of oats per hour. However, I found that it could clean only about 10 bu. per hour. I called the company, but all they did was give me the run-around. I'll never do business with them again."

Wendel L. Payn, Seville, Ohio: "It has a lot of power and pulls anything I hook on behind it with ease," reports Wendell, pleased with his 2001 **Dodge** 2500 4-WD pickup equipped with a Cummins diesel engine and 6-speed transmission. "It has a comfortable ride and the Cummins engine is much more fuel efficient than the Power Stroke engine that I've had in other Dodge pickups."

"It has a lot of power and pulls anything I hook on behind it with ease."

Roger Cerven, Stanton, Iowa: Roger's impressed with his 2000 **Deere** 7510 MFWD tractor equipped with a 740 front-end loader. "The Power Quad transmission is very user friendly, especially for loader work. The engine is fuel efficient and the cab is very quiet.

"My 2001 **Ford** Super Duty F-250 4-WD pickup equipped with a Power Stroke diesel

engine is a best buy. It's fuel efficient and has excellent power."

Dale E. Nielson, Chapman, Neb.: "The **Hesston** 1340 disc windrower I bought used in 1999 cuts fast and performs well in short grass, tall cane, or corn stalks."

Chuck Golankiewicz, Pittsburgh, Penn.: "My **Deere** 755 MFWD tractor is my best buy. I use it with a backhoe, front-end loader and finish mower. It works right up hills so steep I can't even walk up them. The dual range hydrostatic MFWD makes this tractor a pleasure to use."

Max O. Stover, Sodus, Mich.: "One of the first purchases I made as a young farmer was my 1948 **Dodge** 2-ton truck, which I bought new for \$2,000. It's the best piece of equipment I ever bought and by far the most reliable. I wish all my other machinery had been as dependable. This truck has outworked and outlasted everything and everybody."

Karl Oysmueller, Pink Mountain, B.C.: "We're happy with our **Honda** 2000 300 4-wheeler as well as our 1997 **Tundra** LT Skidoo. We use them both on our farm and in the woods. Both machines stand up well under rough conditions which they get put through at times. No problems with either one. They're great workhorses with plenty of power and they're built quite simple."

A 1999 **Ford** TV 140 bi-directional tractor rates as Karl's "worst buy". "This tractor had problems right from the start. Just about anything that could break on this tractor has been replaced including pumps and hoses, and other miscellaneous parts. It also starts poor in the winter even if it's plugged into a heater block. The reason for so many problems is that almost everything on it is hydraulic. It has required a lot of repairs which have all been made under warranty. However, now that the warranty has expired I think I'll sell it."

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