

Farmers Nominate Best & Worst Buys

(Continued from previous page)

hp V-6 engine and manual transmission rates as Bill's "best buy." "It's priced low in the \$15,000 range, is easy on fuel, and has a lot of hauling capacity. It came with air conditioning, power brakes, and power steering. It's a fun pickup to drive."

Lanny Fielder, San Francisco, Calif.: "My Mantis rototiller is an excellent value. It's relatively inexpensive and works every time. It's got enough power to level the berm in the middle of our dirt road."

Gerald Metrunec, Ledville, Sask.: Gerald says his 1964 and 1969 Deere 4020 tractors are both "best buys", as well as his 1962 Deere 3020. They're all equipped with power shift transmissions. "When my children were home they helped with field work, fencing, rock picking, and feeding bales to cattle. I had to change the 24-volt system and harness on the 3020 because the generator was inadequate. An alternator has more output. We also put in a 12-volt starter."

Ed Guran, Rosetown, Sask.: "My worst buy of all time was a 2270 White 2-wheel drive tractor. It has a quiet, low rpm engine and a good, roomy cab. But oil leaks were everywhere on the engine, transmission and rear end. I always kept lots of O-rings on hand. All my problems were finally solved when this quiet engine blew an 8-in. hole out the side of the block. Now, thank goodness, it sits unused out in the back yard."

Chris Kornkven, Helenville, Wis.: "My best buy is my FARM SHOW CD-Rom, which contains 28 years of FARM SHOW articles. In some ways, it's also my worst buy since I'm now so busy building a number of projects that I read about that I no longer have spare time for fishing."

"My worst buy is my 1997 Ford Windstar. I was interested in your articles last year about problems with the Windstar. Mine also had a bad head gasket. I caught it quick with a radiator sealer. It now has 103,000 miles on it and I don't want to spend any money on it. Do Ford engineers ever drive and work on their own vehicles?"



C.F. Marley, Nokomis, Ill.: "I needed two hub bolts for an old IHC 706 tractor. As far as I know, you can't get them anywhere except through Case-IH and you have to pay \$47.10. It's very costly but I couldn't get along without them so what can you do?"

Lloyd W. Kerr, Nipawin, Sask.: "My 1984 Deere 2950 tractor, which was made in Germany, is my best buy. We use it during the winter to haul bales to our cattle. It never fails to start. It has about 7,500 hours but still uses very little oil. The only negative is that my son Don services the tractor and says some things are harder to get at than they are on an American-built tractor. For example, the fuel and oil filters. Also, the hood has to be removed in order to get at the air conditioning unit."

Don Vogel, Mercedes, Texas: "I'm well satisfied with my 1983 Deere 4450 tractor. It has more than 15,000 hours on it, but neither the valve cover nor the oil pan have ever been removed. However, it could have used a better job paint job. Here in south Texas we farm all year long so the sun and weather

conditions are hard on a tractor's paint."

Stephan Sledzinski, Waymont, Penn.: Stephan likes the pole saw attachment he uses on his Homelite gas-engine powered weed trimmer. "This tool lets me easily and safely trim trees and limbs up to 6 in. in diameter, up to a height of 12 ft. or so. It's just amazing the number of tree limbs I can cut at the edges of fields. I have to use safety glasses and a hard hat because of all the falling wood."

William I. Ward, Culesac, Idaho: William's impressed with his 1989 GM Sierra 1500 pickup equipped with a gas engine. "It has more than 264,000 miles on it but still runs strong. It has needed only minor repairs over the years, although I did have to repaint it. I love this pickup and don't ever want to give it up."

"It has more than 264,000 miles on it but still runs strong."

Dick Sloan, Palmer, Alaska: "It still cranks easy and runs great," says Dick about his "best buy" 1939 Allis Chalmers B tractor.

Otis Ueckert, Bellville, Texas: Otis is disappointed with his 1985 Ford 6710 tractor. "I bought it new and have changed the oil regularly every 50 hours. At 2,638 hours, the crankshaft and three rods went bad, even though I had never worked the tractor hard. I sent a letter to the company but they never even acknowledged receiving it. However, I know they got it because in the letter I praised our local dealer who had put in a new engine in the tractor - at a cost to me of \$7,000 - and a New Holland rep showed them my letter. Another problem is the front axle spindle is built too light. I've broken three spindles so far, and the last time one broke the tractor rolled over. It's not easy to get out of a tractor cab when the tractor is lying on its side."

"I needed bearings for the tractor one Saturday but the dealer didn't have any. He said I should go to a Napa auto parts store because they have the same bearings this tractor uses. Does it make sense for a tractor axle to use the same bearings as a car? Talk about cutting corners."

James R. Beat, Ontario, Oregon: "I like my 1974 Bobcat 371 and 1976 Bobcat 825 skid steer loaders. Both machines have been used hard in construction work but have required little maintenance."

Raymond Lewis, Texarkana, Texas: "My 1999 Chevrolet S-10 pickup is my worst buy. The tailgate cables on it broke and our dealer wouldn't replace them. Neither would the company. The dealer said it was a maintenance problem."

Rollie W. Peter, Raymond, Kansas: Rollie's impressed with his 1981 Massey 2745 tractor. "I can't afford a new tractor with all the modern comforts so I bought this one. It rides great and is comfortable to drive. It's a dependable tractor."

Michael Morris, Del Rio, Texas: "It has more than 190,000 trouble-free miles on it," says Michael, pleased with his 2001 Dodge 4-WD extended cab pickup equipped with a 5.7-liter Cummins diesel engine and 6-speed manual transmission. "I use it to pull trailers in the mountains and one time I burned out the front brake discs, which had to be turned. No other problems. I like this pickup so much that I just bought another one like it."

Robert Snider, New Norway, Alberta: "The Michelin 650/75 R32 radial tires we bought for our Versatile 895 tractor are our

Lube Makes 5th Wheel Easy To Unlatch

By Don Smith, Fredericksburg, Iowa

I operate Smith Repair in Fredericksburg, Iowa. One job that's showing up more and more often these days are rebuilds of 5th wheel hitches. More farmers now use semi tractors and grain trailers to move grain. A majority of farmers run these trucks on gravel roads. When the time comes to unhook from the trailer, many find the 5th wheel very hard to unlatch. That's because the road dust gets absorbed by the grease in the latching mechanism on the underside of the 5th wheel plate. The grease gets very gummy and the latch is frustrating to unhook.

I've come up with a method of lubricating 5th wheels that virtually eliminates this problem and makes trailers much easier to unhook.

After rebuilding a 5th wheel plate, I flip it over onto a sheet of cardboard and spray the locking mechanism thoroughly with three coats of an Amsoil product called Heavy Duty Metal Protector, or MPH. It's packaged in an aerosol can and sprays out as a liquid. It dries to a waxy lubricating film that does not attract dust. I apply three coats, allowing each coat to dry. Once applied, my farmer customers tell me the 5th wheel plate no longer gums up like before. It's important to thoroughly clean the plate before applying.

The MPH only cures half the problem. If you then grease the top of the plate, grease will get pushed into the kingpin, thus getting it back down into the latch mechanism again. Amsoil has an aerosol synthetic 5th wheel

worst buy. The sidewalls are so spongy that it's hard to keep the tractor from bouncing on rough ground at speeds over 4 mph.

"Our 1985 Deutz 7.10 and 1989 Deutz 7085 tractors are both best buys. Both operate economically and work great."

Richard T. Wieberg, Freeburg, Mo.: "I have five Ford vehicles and all but one have more than 100,000 miles on them. The accumulated mileage on them is more than 766,000 miles. The oldest is our 1980 Ford F-150 4-WD pickup equipped with a straight 6-cylinder engine and 4-speed transmission. It has more than 130,000 miles on it. I use it for fencing and general repair work. I also have a 1996 F-250 4-WD pickup equipped with a 5.0-liter engine and 5-speed transmission. It has more than 78,000 miles on it. We use it to haul cattle and large loads."

"I have two Ford Escorts. The oldest is a 1992 model with more than 210,000 miles on it and it's still running strong. My son drives it every day to work. My 1998 Escort has more than 148,000 miles on it. I drive it every day and average more than 38 mpg. My wife drives our 1993 4-WD Explorer every day. It's equipped with a 4.0-liter engine and 5-speed transmission, and it just passed the 200,000 mile mark. Recently I've had to spend some money on repairs to the transmission. I also had to have the electronic 4 by 4 motor and the clutch and pressure plate replaced. It also needed other minor repairs."

"I do most of my own maintenance such as oil changes, tire rotation, and minor repairs. I use only Motorcraft oil and filters on all my vehicles."

"I have a Ford 1710 4-WD tractor equipped with a Westendorf T 110 front-end loader which I really like. This tractor has more than 650 hours on it. I use it every day on my farm to haul bales and wood, rake hay, plant crops, and cut brush. We use two other Ford tractors on our farm. Both are diesel powered and have more than 3,000 hours on them."

Mike Lindsay, Powell, Wyo.: Mike's impressed with the customer service offered by



Smith came up with a method of lubricating 5th wheels that virtually eliminates unhooking problems.

grease to remedy the over greasing. This synthetic spray grease is very neat and easy to apply. It leaves behind a thin tenacious film that will not wash off or be pushed off the way grease can be. One can of the 5th wheel grease will last 2 to 4 applications, depending on how liberal it is applied.

In my work, I've found that these two products applied to a 5th wheel hitch greatly reduce problems hooking and unhooking. I also use the Amsoil MPH as a chain lube, on door hinges, grain trailer door slides, etc. Because it locks out oxygen and won't wash off, it also helps prevent corrosion. They work so well I have become an Amsoil dealer and can help anyone who wants to try these products.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Don Smith, Smith Repair, 2865 Union Ave., Fredericksburg, Iowa 50630 (ph 877 237-6536 or 563-237-6536).

Master Lock. He bought one of the company's resettable combination padlocks. "If the lock hangs outside it can become hard to open. I sent the lock back to the company and they replaced it promptly, no questions asked. They even sent a check to cover my cost to send the lock back to them."

He's unhappy with his General Electric 15 cu. ft. chest freezer with lock and defrost warning. "The freezer died under warranty, and when I called the company I was informed the full parts and labor warranty applied only if you lived in a big city service area."

Herbert Wodtke, Loogootee, Ill.: "I like my 2000 Kubota M9000 84 hp 2-WD special utility tractor equipped with a synchromesh transmission. It cost \$20,000 less than a comparable American made model. It doesn't have a cab but it has good hydraulics and nice, large 18-in. front wheels. It starts good in cold weather. I like the tractor's electric engage pto. I also like the synchromesh transmission because it allows me to shift gears while moving. One problem is that the brake pedals are too small and too close together for my size 14 shoes. The tractor came with a 300-lb. weight permanently mounted on front. I wish there was a front weight bracket. I also wish the tractor came with rear working lights."

Steve Dozier, Daviston, Ala.: "I like my 1972 Massey Ferguson 135 tractor equipped with a 3-cyl. engine. No major problems. I put a hydrogen kit on it."

Scott Krugerud, Aurora, Colo.: Scott's impressed with his Ingersoll Rand 60 upright air compressor. "I bought it used from a garage sale and it has worked flawlessly for five years. My wife criticized my decision to buy such a large unit. However, after I used the compressor to remodel several rooms with retexturing and new trim she's okay with it now."

On the negative side, he lists the Egg Waver egg cooker designed to be used in microwave ovens. "When I first saw this product on TV, I knew I had to have it. I usually