

Farmers Nominate Best & Worst Buys

motor at a price of \$336, but parts for it are no longer available."

Ed Dillard, Dade City, Fla.: Ed's impressed with his 1999 **Dodge 2500** Quad Cab pickup equipped with a 24-valve Cummins diesel engine. "It's the best pickup I've ever owned. It has a lot of power and is fuel efficient whether pulling a load or empty. It has a comfortable cab and has the power and weight to handle a 20-ft. gooseneck trailer loaded with cattle."

Carroll Kerley, Peck, Kansas: Carroll likes his 1998 **Deere 7410** tractor. "It has a lot of power and uses very little fuel. The air conditioner keeps me cool even on 100-degree days without running it on high. The cab is quieter than inside my 1999 Cadillac. Since I wear hearing aids I can hear background noise better than whatever it is that I want to hear. Because the cab is so quiet I can really hear the tractor's radio well."

R.C. Crews, Folkston, Ga.: R.C. likes his 1982 **Tuff-Bilt** small farm tractor equipped with a 16 hp, 1-cyl. air-cooled, rear-mounted engine and 3-speed manual hydrostatic transmission (Tri-Tractor Mfg. Co., Cummings,

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Ga.). "It has front and rear hydraulic lifts, 18.00 by 24 rear tires, and 5.00 by 12 front tires. It's really just a modernized version of the Allis-Chalmers Model G. It works perfect for gardening or truck farming. With proper business management, this company could've sold a million of these tractors. Unfortunately the company sold the tractor too cheap—at about \$3,500—and went bankrupt. There's a similar tractor on the market now, but it's not as well designed and costs about \$20,000. I think the Tuff-Bilt could be built and sold again for about \$10,000. I think it would take over that market completely."

Kent Estes, Altoona, Kansas: Kent nominates his 1995 **Case-IH 950** 12-row pull-type planter as his "worst buy". "Its seed placement accuracy is almost as poor as using a drill. Once you've planted it's extremely difficult to find the seed because it ends up at widely different depths. When I tried to sell my planter I found out that it's a pink elephant and has very little resale value. I know now why they call them BB gun planters."

Richard Nield, Darlingford, Manitoba: Richard's "best buy" is the **R.E.M.** fan chaff spreader that he mounted on his **Deere 8820** combine. "I really like the **Deere** combine and its ability to gobble up swaths of grain. However, the driver can't always see the swath because of the dust that comes up out of the feederhouse. The fan chaff spreader mounts on top of the combine and is belt-driven off the chopper. It comes with an intake hose that attaches to the feederhouse and sucks about 75 percent of the dust away. The hose outlet spreads the chaff away from the machine. Now I can harvest all day long without having to blow out the radiator even once."

Russell Sprang, Kenton, Ohio: A 1980 **Ford 445** backhoe powered by a diesel engine rates as Russell's "best buy". "This is my second **Ford** backhoe. I previously had a 1968 4400 model equipped with a gas en-

gine. It performed well so when I had an opportunity to upgrade I bought this model. It's built heavier than the first one and does a great job.

"My 1960 **Oliver 770** gas tractor is a best buy. I bought it used in 1972 and had the valves ground once.

"My **Ford LGT 14D** lawn tractor powered by a 14 hp diesel engine is cheap to operate. The only problem I had was when the seal on the mower deck gearbox went out and ruined the bearings."

Marcus Champlin, Grady, Ala.: "I haven't had one bit of trouble with my 1997 **Ford F-150** pickup. I can hook on a trailer loaded with five tons of feed behind this pickup and it just walks off with it."

Joe Materna, Hettinger, N. Dak.: "One of our best buys is our 1999 **Mantis** tiller. We like how it works up the soil and how we can use it to till in smaller areas without pulling out nearby plants. We even used it once to 'dig' a trench for underground wires."

Thomas McGowan, Newtown, Pa.: Thomas likes his 1999 **Deere 925** discbine. "When we switched from a sicklebar mower to this discbine we couldn't believe how much time it saved and how easily it handles.

"Our 1999 **Deere 6** by 4 **Gator** is a worst buy. The machine ran good but gas kept getting into the engine crankcase. We took it back to the dealer four times, but he couldn't solve the problem. We finally traded it in at a loss."

Mark A. Shoultz, Schuyler, Neb.: "It bales all kinds of hay, including heavy double-raked windrows, without any problems," reports Mark, impressed with his 1998 **Deere 566** round baler. "It has never broken down."

Marvin Henry, Jr., Coker, Ala.: Marvin's the satisfied owner of a 2000 **Toyota Tacoma** Prerunner extracab pickup. "It performs well. The overall quality of the paint and the fit and finish of the body are just about perfect. I use it to tow my antique jeep and antique tractors to different events. Its towing power and braking ability are just great."

Paul L. Klingsborg, Parkersburg, Iowa: "My 1998 **Deere 726** Soil Finisher makes an excellent seedbed and is a best buy.

"My 1998 **Deere 510** disc ripper does a super job of cutting stalks and breaking up hard pan.

"My 1998 **Deere 9410** combine is an all-around excellent machine with wonderful operator comfort."

Randall Appleton, Edgewood, Iowa: "I'm well satisfied with my 1999 **Deere 15-ft.** rotary mower. A hydraulic cylinder and a hydraulic line leaked, but the dealer promptly took care of the problem.

"My 1969 **International Harvester 8560** is the best tractor I've ever had."

Wayne Russert, Castle Rock, Colo.: "Our best buy is our 1988 **Deere AMT 600** ATV. We use it every day to haul everything from hay to visiting relatives on our cattle and llama ranch. We had to replace the vacuum fuel pump with a 12-volt unit. Otherwise our little 5-wheeler has been trouble-free. I added four stake pockets inside the box so we can haul larger loads of brush or unrroll fence wire.

"We're also well pleased with our 2-year-old **Deere 1070** (Yanmar) 4-WD utility tractor powered by a diesel engine. It's small enough that we can use it inside our barn, yet it plows snow better than heavier tractors we've owned in the past."

Samuel Lincoln, Randolph Center, Vt.: A **Richardton 700** High Dump equipped with WeighTronix scales rates as Samuel's "best buy". "The high scales allow for accurate weighing of feed in the field and eliminate the need to make trips to drive-on scales. We've compared its accuracy with drive-on scales and there's very little difference.

"Our **Kuhn GA 6000 Gyro Rake** is my worst buy. The problem is that when it's in the raised position it rolls over on turns, which is very damaging to such a delicate rake. The company says the problem is due to 'operator error'."

Ted Winkelman, Northome, Minn.: "Our 1998 6-wheel drive amphibious **Max Miv 600 T** all-terrain vehicle is our best buy (Recreative Industries, Inc., 60 Deport St., Buffalo, N.Y. 14206 ph 716 855-2226 or



Evergreen Lawns-Max ATV's, 518 1st St. S.W., Cannon Falls, Minn. ph 507 263-4667). It lets us go places most 4-wheeler ATV's can't go because of the floatation provided by the six wheels. We use it for fencing in low, swampy areas; for feeding our cattle in the spring when the ground is too soft for the tractor; and for doing other farm chores as well as the usual recreational use. Many replacements parts for it, such as bearings and chains, can be bought at any hardware store. We paid about \$7,000 for it. The company offers optional tracks for the rig at a cost of about \$2,200. We had a neighbor make us our own tracks out of used snowmobile belts. With the tracks it works great in the winter for hauling firewood to our home or just for having fun in deep snow. It's less expensive to operate than a tractor."

Kevin Petersen, Belgrade, Minn.: "Our best buy of all time is our 1962 **Oliver 1600** diesel tractor. We bought it used about five years ago. When we bought it the tachometer didn't work but had a reading of 7,500 hours. I think the tractor has about 10,000 to 15,000 hours on it now. It has never been in the shop since we've had it. It doesn't use any oil and it runs great. It's equipped with a **KMW** front-end loader which we bought five years ago. The loader has also worked great and hasn't broken down once."

On the negative side, he lists his **Gehl 2500** skid steer loader. "We've never been able to use it for more than 10 minutes without it breaking down. I wouldn't recommend this machine to anyone."

Ed Rudy, Orangeville, Ill.: "I like my **George Foreman** grille. It works great for preparing foods. Very fast and easy to clean.

"My **Pohlan** chain saw has started hard since the first day we used it. It should start in two or three pulls. This one takes 10 to 20 pulls. It's in the shop now."

Jim Nile, Mount Shasta, Calif.: "It's powerful, fast, easy to work on, and reliable," says Jim, pleased with his 1982 **Dolbeer** log skidder.

Merrill Frus, Creston, Iowa: A 1995 **Chevrolet Silverado 3/4-ton** pickup equipped with a diesel engine rates as Merrill's "best buy". "It gets more than 20 mpg and rides good for a 3/4-ton pickup. It

runs quieter than most diesels and has a solid body. It drives and handles well. However, they need to develop a diesel engine that starts without glow plugs, especially in winter. The outside door handles need to be redesigned and the endgate needs to fit much tighter so that it doesn't leak shelled corn and dirt, etc."

James A. Johnson, Revillo, S. Dak.: James recently called **FARM SHOW** to let us know about a problem he's having with his 1994 **Ford F-250 3/4-ton** pickup equipped with a 351 cu. in. engine and 5-speed manual transmission. "The problem is that the seals on the slave cylinder that control the clutch fail in cold weather, leaving the driver without a clutch," he says. "I was told we'd have to spend \$468 to have the seals replaced. One dealer won't even admit there is a problem, but that it's worst in cold weather areas and doesn't happen to all models. I haven't received any help from the company at all. Several of our neighbors have also had this problem. I'd like to know if there's a solution and would like to hear from anyone else who has had this problem."

Zane Dodge, Columbia, Mo.: A **Deere 6210 MFWD** tractor equipped with a cab and front-end loader rates as Zane's "best buy". "It has a comfortable cab and convenient and responsive hydraulics.

"Our **Deere 7200** tractor also has a comfortable cab. It's equipped with a **Power Quad** transmission which works especially well with our big round baler."

Chad Travis, Orasco, Ark.: Chad likes his 1997 **Kuhn GMD 600** disc mower. "I like its performance and durability and haven't had any problems with the gearbox or cutterbar. I've used it at speeds of up to 12 1/2 mph and, in some fields, have cut 35 acres in only 4 1/2 hours. This machine makes conventional sicklebar mowers look outdated. I'd recommend this company's machines to anyone. I'm a diesel and equipment mechanic and have worked on several **Kuhn** mowers. I recommend that if you're

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going to purchase a disc mower get one that has pull-out disc units because they're much easier to service.

"Last July I bought a new **Gilcrest "Sidewinder"** bush hog-type mower. I wouldn't call it a worst buy by any means because it's a heavy-cutting machine. However, it has some problems. My machine is supposed to be the company's first pull-type model. Right from the start we had problems with its cutting performance. The biggest problem was that the blades would deflect upward 1 1/2 in. at the blade tip with only finger pressure. Of course, this upward deflection was greater when the machine was in operation. The company said they were going to come right out to my farm, but I haven't seen them yet. They did send me one set of reworked blade bolts, which has helped some. However, I think they should supply me with new blades until they get this prob-

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