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lems. It's chain-operated so there are no belts to wear out or stretch. This baler has turned my haying work into a one-man operation."

On the minus side, he lists his 1989 **Ford F-350** pickup equipped with a diesel engine and manual transmission. "I bought it used with 100,000 miles on it. Before I had put on 10,000 miles I had to replace the clutch, which wasn't unexpected except for that 'wonderful' flywheel they designed. I also don't like the interior. I'm a rancher. Stuff belongs on the dashboard, but on this pickup it won't stay there - there's no interior storage. It's a big truck but only a man and a dog can sit in it."

**John Vanden Hoven, Monkton, Ontario:** "My best buy is my 1977 **White 2-60** tractor. It was the first piece of equipment I ever bought. It now has more than 8,400 hours on it. I use it 90 percent of the time for loader work. The engine doesn't use any oil and has never had a wrench put to it."

**Carl Tiede, Britton, Mich.:** "One of my best buys was a 1953 **Super M** tractor which I bought new. I farm 280 acres with it and have used it to do custom work including baling, picking corn, combining and grinding feed. I overhauled it once and still use it with a loader and do other jobs with it. I don't know how many hours are on it but it's a bunch. It's never had any big problems."

**Marrie Ann Marschall, Menahga, Minn.:** "My best buy is a quick hitch for Deere loaders made by **Jesse Machine Works** (1733 Nord Ave., Chico, Calif. 95926 ph 530 342-4379). My sons and I read about it in FARM SHOW and decided to buy it for our Deere 148 loader. The hitch also fits Deere 145, 146, and 158 loader models. It's makes it easy to switch from a hay fork to the bucket, etc. It attaches to your loader permanently with furnished pins. To hook up, just lift two levers and drive into the bucket pins, lift up and drive away. It lets you hook or unhook in less than a minute by yourself."

**Buck Trimble, Mt. Sterling, Ky.:** Buck owns a "best buy" 1986 **Honda 250** ATV. "It's a real farm hand. All I've had to work on was the brakes. I wish it had a foot-operated accelerator pedal because that would make it easier to use when spraying."

**C.H. Wells, Beford, Pa.:** "My **Deere Gator** ATV is my best buy. I do wish it had more ground clearance for improved travel in snow. I use it for fence maintenance, checking on cattle, and spraying."

**Barry Diffenderfer, Manheim, Pa.:** Barry owns a **Kubota B7200** HST 4-WD light utility tractor. "I've owned this tractor for 14 years and had very few problems with it. I use it for a variety of tasks and it often exceeds my expectations. I'd recommend Kubota tractors to anyone."

**Arnold D. Ross, Webber, Kan.:** "For three years I leased a **Case-IH Maxxum 110** tractor equipped with front wheel assist and a **Case-IH L300**, self-leveling, joystick-operated front-end loader. It's a great tractor. It's fuel efficient and the powershift transmission works great. The cab is roomy and the driver has a good view of the implements behind him."

**John Fowler, Wiley, Colo.:** John's equally happy with his 1975 **Deere 4430** diesel and his **Deere 3010** LP. "Except for changing the oil every 100 to 150 hours, the 3010 has had nothing done to the engine. The only thing

the 4430 ever needed was an engine overhaul at 7,700 hours."

John added a second remote hydraulic to the 3310 and built a dozer for it. He's also now adapting it to use with a backhoe.

**Kenneth Stuke, Plainview, Texas:** "Overall, I'm satisfied with my tractor," says Kenneth about his 1996 **Case-IH 7240**. "My biggest complaint is that the view from the back of the cab is blocked by the air cleaner. Also, the windshield slopes backward at the top and allows dust to settle it. All the glass should be completely vertical so dust doesn't settle on it."

He moved the operator's seat 1 1/2 in. to the right in his tractor to center it properly. "If you don't sit in the center of the tractor, it's difficult to drive straight down rows."

## "The view from the back of the cab is blocked by the air cleaner."

**Leon A. Bell, Balko, Okla.:** Leon says his 1980 **Case-IH 2390** is a powerful, smooth-running machine, but he had one big problem with it. "It caught fire due to a bad wiring design in the cab. We put out the fire and repaired it. It still runs well."

**Larry David, Mason, Mich.:** "It has the power and traction to pull the same equipment as our 4020 and is maneuverable as our 2030," says Larry, well pleased with his 1998 **Deere 5500** equipped with MFWD. "I have only two complaints. First, I prefer the older-style Deere hydraulic couplers with breakaway protection that can be attached under pressure. Second, it needs more toolbox space."

**Ernest Hahl, Shandon, Calif.:** Ernest says the hood on his **Case 4890** needs improving. "It's hard to get the hood up or down on a windy day. There's no reason the manufacturer couldn't install an electric or hydraulic lift system on the hood to make servicing it easier."

Otherwise, he says he's reasonably well satisfied with the tractor. "It has plenty of power and good hydraulics."

**Martin DeKlotz, Filer, Idaho:** "I considered it a 'worst buy' when I first got it," says Martin about his 1976 **Case-IH 666**. "I had problems right away with engine cavitation and the rear end came apart, all before 2,000 hours. Fortunately, I've had very little trouble with it since then. It now has more than 4,500 hours on it."

Martin also recently bought an early model 766 with interchangeable front end. "The power steering seems weak. I think you'd have trouble using a loader on it."

**Larry Faber, Lloyd, Mont.:** "I plan on running them another 10,000 hours or more. So far I've had very few problems," says Larry, pleased with his pair of 1983 **Deere 4450**'s. He lengthened the clutch springs on the tractors so they're not so jerky when using them.

**Barry Zellitti, Rye, Colo.:** Barry's had good luck with his **Case-IH 3488** Hydro with front wheel assist. "We have 5,550 hours on it and all we've ever done was replace the tires at 5,000 hours. Otherwise, all it's needed is routine maintenance."

**Duane Darling, Muleshoe, Texas:** "It has nearly 10,000 hours on it and has had nothing done to the engine," says Duane, pleased with

his 1977 **Deere 4430**. "All we've done is replace one axle bearing and had the air conditioning system switched over to new coolant. It starts and runs great and uses no oil."

**Allen Derry, Zanesville, Ohio:** "It handles great, has plenty of power and runs like a top," says Allen about his 1978 **Allis-Chalmers 7000**. "My biggest complaint is that I wish it had a differential lock for the rear end."

**Russ Wahl, Cut Bank, Mont.:** "It's well-designed and is easy to work on, but is a little too light," says Russ, well satisfied with his 1983 **Steiger 470**. "It needs either water or steel ballast in the frame and the front of the hood could be dropped for better visibility."

**Robert Knott, Ellisville, Ill.:** "It'll outpull a 45 hp larger 2-WD on a disk chisel," says Robert about his 1994 **AGCO-Allis 8610** equipped with front wheel assist and air-cooled engine. "It's started better in subzero weather than any tractor I've ever owned. I like the quick response of the hydraulics and pto." However, he says the oil filters and oil fill are hard to get at. Also, the oil drain plug is hard to remove because it's an inset hex head, which requires using an Allen wrench.

**W.K. Shuler, Canton, N.C.:** "Late in the spring of 1998, I received a call from a representative of Alliance Agricultural Products in Lindenhurst, N.Y., regarding a new herbicide they had developed called TK-10. I asked it it would kill wild garlic and he assured me that it would. I agreed to try one gallon of the product and gave my Visa card to pay the \$90 bill."

"It arrived shortly and I sprayed it on the wild garlic at the recommended rate. Tap water would have worked just as well."

"This past spring, Alliance called again and asked how the TK-10 had performed. When I told him what had happened, if asked if the chemical I had received was from one or two lot numbers. I had already destroyed the container and could not give that information. He said those lot numbers had not performed as they should and he promised to send replacement chemical along with a free gas grill. In two weeks, five gallons of this junk arrived which had been charged to my Visa card for a total of \$399 - no grill, of course. I could not return the package because no shipping address was given. On the phone, a company representative told me he could not give me an address but that the plant manager would call. No one ever did."

"My advice to FARM SHOW readers is to have nothing to do with this company."

**Dale Fulk Sanborn, Iowa:** "I bought a tool for repairing tractor tie rods from Bruce Gamble (Rt 1, Box 173, La Feria, Tex. 78559 ph 956 797-2169). It repairs the hole in the wheel casting where the tie rod fits on Deere 2955 tractors. The problem is that the outside end of the tie rod works loose, causing it to wear on the hole in the axle casting. The tie rod cannot then be tightened up because the hole is wallowed out. The normal solution is to replace the axle casting at a cost of \$850 per side plus seals and labor."

"Gamble's tool consists of a 1-in. thick steel plate that bolts onto the casting using the fender mounting holes. The plate has a bushing that fits over the hole and serves as a guide for a drill bit. You just remove the tie rod and bolt the tool in place, then use a 1/2-in. drill with a 1 1/4-in bit to drill through the bushing into the hole. Once it's drilled out, you just press a tapered bushing in the

hole and reinsert the tie rod. It only takes about 20 min. to repair the hole on each side of the axle."

"The tool sells for around \$400 and the bushings are \$30 apiece. It works great."

**Lloyd Clark, Albia, Iowa:** "Here's a warning to anyone with a Heston 1340 windrower. Early models were not made properly. The pto couldn't be greased properly because the implement end of the pto was not made right. I ruined the whole pto, which had to be replaced at a cost of \$2,000. The company changed the rear end of the pto on later models."

"I also own a Sitrex 12-wheel rake. On steep ground in heavy hay, one side of the rake would lay down. Terrible. I had to equip it with an extra pair of wheels to support it."

**Tim Rossow, Herreid, S. Dak.:** Tim nominates his **Deere 7810** tractor as his "best buy". "It has great lugging power and is easy on fuel. The lights on it are really good and could light up a football field. We had a few minor problems with this tractor at first, but the dealer promptly took care of them. Otherwise, this tractor has been trouble-free."

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**Avgary G. Kehias, Pana, Ill.:** "My best buy is my 1998 **Simplicity** Legacy riding mower equipped with a 25 hp gas engine and a 60-in. deck. I had been using a riding mower equipped with an 18 hp engine and 48-in. deck, but this one does the job a lot faster and has cut my mowing time in half. I really like how it maneuvers around all the trees in our yard. Dealer support has been outstanding. We had some problems with the engine at first so the dealer gave us a new mower to use while ours was being repaired. After it was returned, he checked back with us to be sure that we were satisfied."

**Phil Brown, Vicksburg, Miss.:** "I think it's one of the very best 40 hp tractors on the market," says Phil about his 1995 **Kubota 4030**. "It's well-engineered, well-balanced, and trouble-free."

**Klay Sabrosky, Dunn Center, N. Dak.:** Klay's impressed with his **Haybuster 256** 3-pt. bale shredder. "We bought it five years ago to use on my Dad's ranch where we feed about 1,000 head of cattle every winter. It's one of the best investments we've ever made. We shred 2,000 to 3,000 bales with it every year. Hay comes out of the machine in a windrow and the cattle lick up every bit of it with very little waste. There's far less waste than unrolling a bale on the ground and having the cattle tromp on the hay. It also works great for putting bedding in our feedlot. When we flip the shield up straw flies out and makes a nice even layer on the ground. It has cut the amount of straw we use for bedding in half."

On the "worst buy" side, he nominates his 1998 **Leon 707** front-end loader. "The quick-tach mounting system on it is no good - there's too much play on the bucket. The ears on the loader arms, where the bucket cylinders mount, are cracked on one side and completely broken off on the other side. The pin mounts that attach the loader to the tractor are already cracked. Our 20-year-old **Westendorf** loader far outperforms this one."