

Farmers Nominate Best & Worst Buys

it and is our best buy. We've used it to help make more than 20,000 small square bales. This tractor was used to cut all our hay until 1999 when a piston went out. We overhauled the engine and today the tractor is still going strong.

"Our **Deere 530** baler is a best buy. We've used it to bale all our hay since 1985 and it's still going strong.

"Our 1999 **Murray 46-in.** riding mower is our worst buy. The engine went out only eight months after we bought it. It was supposed to be guaranteed for two years but we bought the mower from Walmart and they won't do anything. All they say is that they're sorry."

J.W. Moretz, Abingdon, Va.: "I'm well satisfied with my 1999 **Kubota 4700** tractor equipped with a Bush Hog front-end loader. It outperforms any tractor I've ever owned. The hydraulics are great and the 5-cyl. diesel engine is fuel efficient and has a lot of power."

Franklin A. Schramm, Thorndale, Texas: "My 1998 **Deere Gator 4** by 2 utility vehicle is my best buy. It's a real work horse. We use it to haul just about anything - vegetables from our garden, dirt, etc. Our dog loves to ride in it. It's easy to get around the farm, easy to handle, and economical to operate. We wish we would've bought it years ago."

Russ Wahl, Cut Bank, Mont.: "It has more than 211,000 miles on it but still doesn't burn any oil," says Russ, pleased with his 1992 **Dodge 1-ton** pickup. "Other than a lubrication failure in the rear wheel bearings, it has run very well. I recently installed new fuel injectors which improved the horsepower."

On the "worst buy" side, he lists his **Farm King 13-in. dia., 85-ft. long** grain auger. "The auger broke down during harvest with grain in the tube. The problem is that the pto driveshafts were made too small, so when the auger is up 40 ft. high the driveshafts tend to break. Our nearest dealer is 130 miles away. Recently the company has made its augers with heavier driveshafts, and they say they'll upgrade our auger for \$200. I think they should upgrade it for free."

Lester M. Weaver, Quarryville, Pa.: "I bought a **Case** skid steer loader used in 1988. It still works good and we like it a lot. It has 5,500 hours on it and has required very little maintenance."

Harry E. Allen, Brookston, Ind.: "My **Volkswagen Jetta** car, equipped with a diesel engine and 5-speed transmission, is my best buy. It starts good in cold weather and gets more than 50 mpg. It's a great car."

Lee Kissinger, Jackson, Wis.: Lee bought an exhaust system from **Ramey Pottinger** for his **Deere 8640** tractor after reading about it in *FARM SHOW* (Rio Vista Farms, 135 Howardstown Rd., New Haven, Ky. 40051 ph 502 549-3628; fax 8430). The muffler and air cleaner "reroute kit" is designed to improve visibility on **Deere 30** and **40** series 4-WD tractors. A side-mount exhaust system is also available for **Deere 2-WD** tractors. "I wish the 8640 would've been factory-equipped with this exhaust system. Pottinger's system is easy to install and fit perfectly. It's great not having to look through the tractor's original big muffler and air stack. Pottinger provided great service."

Joe Chase, Walsey, S. Dak.: "We love running this machine," says Joe about his 1998 **New Holland 1475** 18-ft. haybine.

"We've used it to cut more than 1,000 acres. The only way it could be improved would be if the reel could be raised up which would make it easier to work on the sickle."

John Realph, Houston, Mo.: John nominates his 1994 **Dodge** pickup equipped with a Cummins diesel engine and 5-speed transmission as his "best buy". "When I moved from Colorado to Missouri, I used this pickup to pull a tandem axle trailer loaded with a **Deere 4010** tractor and a **KD** front-end loader. The tractor and loader alone weigh about 18,000 lbs., but the pickup had no problems pulling the load. There is one problem, though, with this pickup - the paint job is awful. The paint is coming off in big chunks.

"My **Black & Decker 1/2-in.** hammer drill is my worst buy. It lasted for only five months even though I didn't work it hard. I'm still using a **General Electric 1/4-in.** drill that's about 60 years old."

John Menzel, Thorndale, Texas: "My 1972 **Massey Ferguson** tractor equipped with a diesel engine still runs good and is easy on fuel.

"My 1981 **Deere 4240** tractor is trouble-free and is also still going strong."

Dale D. Barnes, New Windsor, Ill.: "I like my **Kubota B20** front wheel assist utility tractor equipped with a **T1420** front-end loader. The loader has come in handy for landscaping. I use this tractor to plow snow and mow my lawn using a 5-ft. finish mower. The front wheel assist has never failed me."

David M. Welling, Ridgeway, Ohio: "My 2001 **Dodge 2500 4-WD** pickup equipped with a 24-valve Cummins diesel engine and 4-speed automatic transmission is my best buy.

"I like my **Lincoln** fully automatic air grease gun and my **Snap-On** tire inflator."

Joseph de Natale, Pittsfield, Maine: He owns an apple and fruit orchard and says his **Toro X-mark 25 hp** zero turn riding mower is his "best buy". "It's very maneuverable and works great for getting around the trees. It's built rugged and is a real pleasure to use.

"I've had poor luck with my **Loftness 72-in.** flail mower. I can't get the deck low enough to chop up the fine branches that fall on the ground when our trees are pruned in the spring and fall. I've since bought a **Rears 82-in.** flail mower, which does an excellent job of mowing down low.

"My **Deere 4700** hydrostatic drive tractor is also a great machine."

Don Hulbirt, Gillett, Pa.: A 1999 **Dodge Ram 2500 Quad Cab 4-WD** pickup with diesel engine rates as Don's "best buy". "It has a comfortable cab with a lot of room. The engine seems to have a lot of power and definitely starts better than the 7.3-liter diesel engine on our Ford pickup. It's a pleasure to drive even on long trips."

Richard Schmidt, Clarksdale, Miss.: "I'm happy with my 1997 **Ford F-150 XLT** extended cab pickup. I like the way it drives and handles on the road. I do a lot of highway driving and it has a very comfortable ride."

T.C. Childress, Laurens, S.C.: "I ordered a hearing aid from **J.D. Marvel Products** that isn't worth anything. It's like buying a toy tractor to farm the back 40. The company said my satisfaction was guaranteed, but I can't even get them to answer a letter."

Glen Foster, Harvey, Ark.: "I had a **Dodge** truck equipped with a diesel engine. It ran perfect until it was recalled by Chrysler

A Letter From Cam Spray

I am sending this letter to let you and your readers know that we were concerned that one of our customers, David Weigand, reported on a negative experience with a **Cam Spray Pressure Washer** in the last issue of *FARM SHOW*. I called David to express my concern and asked if we could meet. David invited me to come down and take a look at the machine which had been giving him trouble. I asked him to set it up the way most of the washing is done.

While the machine was being set up, I checked several things with a digital multimeter. The voltage at the receptacle had an output of 118 volts with no electrical load. While the machine was running, the voltage at the receptacle dropped to between 115 and 116 volts. The wash pad is 45 ft. or so from the electrical receptacle in the shop area. Therefore an extension cord was being used to run the 1.5 hp. machine. The voltage at the connection between the extension cord and the pressure washer read 108 volts during operation, and it would drop to 106 volts at the motor. This low voltage would explain the "throwing the breaker" problem David was having with his pressure washer.

While Dave was running the washer, the grain dryer shut off and there was a 4-volt increase in line readings.

The pressure washer was originally sold with a cord connected to a GFCI (ground fault circuit interrupter) but I noticed it had been removed. David said it would trip out on occasion and was a nuisance. I recommended we plug the pressure washer directly into the wall receptacle.

All pressure washers, regardless of manufacturer, use all the available motor horsepower virtually 100 percent of the time to produce water pressure and flow. Therefore, using an extension cord is not recommended.

to have the fuel injection pump changed. The recall notice said the governor could stick wide open. When I took it in I was charged for the work. I called the Chrysler hot line and was told that since this was an "adjustment", Chrysler was not responsible for the bill, even though the truck was still under warranty. Chrysler created the problem and I paid for it. I have all the work orders and the bill I paid. The company doesn't stand behind its trucks."

Henry Klooster, Tavistock, Ontario: "Our **Deere 7200 2-WD** tractor is a handy, easy-to-drive tractor. It has a lot of power and runs quiet. However, the air conditioning doesn't get cool enough and the cab air filters are difficult to service.

"Our children really enjoy using our **Walker 56-in.** zero turn riding mower with a 16 hp engine. It cuts mowing time in half with very little trimming needed afterward."

Robert Eastwood, Underwood, Minn.: I bought an **Edwards Grain Guard** aeration system two years ago and it does a super job of drying 20 percent corn and wheat (Edwards Grain Guard, 3102 Fifth Ave. N., Lethbridge, Alberta T1J 4A2 ph 403 320-5585; fax 5668; Website: www.edwardsgrain.com). This system features louvered screen ducts that dry grain fast. It efficiently dries your crop at a higher moisture so you can harvest your crops

When we plugged the machine's 35-ft. power cord directly into the receptacle, the voltage at the receptacle read 121 volts with the grain dryer turned off. The voltage at the motor read 119.3 volts with the machine running. When the dryer kicked in, we could still maintain 116 volts at the motor. Under these conditions, the pressure washer operated well and should run indefinitely.

I apologized to David for the phone conversations he had with **Cam Spray**. If someone in our operation came across to him as rude and unprofessional, we are truly sorry. I assured David that he was not alone in having troubles with low voltage. Low voltage problems crop up in rural areas all the time. Equipment like pressure washers, auger motors and grain dryers that tend to operate at peak load under all types of temperatures and circumstances, will find flaws in many electrical systems. I sent David a 40-ft. washer hose extension so he could avoid using an extension cord. And because a local pressure washer supplier had mentioned scoring of a plunger when he looked over the machine, I felt it best to leave a new machine with David even though the old machine now appeared to be working fine.

All things considered, it was a beautiful day in southern Iowa. The **Wiegand** family farm has one of the most beautiful settings I've seen in some time. David and I met and solved the problem at hand and we both felt better about the circumstances. I felt I had made a customer happy and gained a friend in the meantime. That's the way business is meant to be.

(Jim Gillespie, President, Cam Spray Pressure Washers, Box 726, 520 Brooks Rd., Iowa Falls, Iowa 50126 ph 800 648-5011 or 515 648-5011)

earlier. It also increases the efficiency of your fans, so you can dry down your grain with natural air for as little as 2 to 3 cents per bushel. The system cools grain and prevents sweating and condensation.

"The 3 hp fan moves air real good. In fact, the bin doors on the bottom of the bin must be tight or the fan will push grain out cracks."

Julian A. Wadle, Fonda, Iowa: "I put 40,000 miles on my 1996 **Dodge Dakota** pickup in three years and the only problem was a bad battery. I traded it in for a 1999 **Dodge Dakota** and already have 28,000 miles on it. It's never been back to the shop. I really like both vehicles."

Francis Przybylski, St. Catharine, Mo.: "This is to inform any readers out there who are considering buying a computer off a TV infomercial called **Video Computer Store**. We ordered one last March and had nothing but trouble getting our merchandise. They boast a 2 to 4 week normal delivery, but it took 6 to 12 weeks to receive all the components that come with the package. They take their time getting the package to you, but they don't waste any time getting their money - the credit card bill was here two weeks before we got anything. A friend of mine had the same trouble we had getting their computer package. The equipment is excellent, and we're happy with it, but were put off with the hassle of getting it here."