

Farmers Nominate Best & Worst Buys

Marlin about his 1992 **Chevrolet** 2500 4-WD model equipped with a 6.5-liter diesel engine. "I've put more than 200,000 miles on it and all I've done was to change the oil and put on new tires."

"My 1981 **Chevrolet** 2-WD pickup is a best buy. It has about 250,000 miles on it and is still going strong."

Don Lasee, Krakow, Wis.: "A product called **Astro Seal** is my best buy. I used it to seal a weeping pto gasket on my semi tractor without having to do any draining or disassembly work. It seals through water or oil and doesn't harden or crack. It works in temperatures ranging from 50 degrees below zero to 220 above. It'll seal lead, asphalt, glass, wood, sheet metal, concrete, and all solid surfaces. Whatever you seal is paintable immediately. I liked it so much that I became a dealer."

"My **Snap-On** hand tools are my worst buy. I've found Snap-On dealers to be extremely arrogant and they refuse to warrant their tools. Also, their polished wrenches may look impressive but they're difficult to hang onto when you have oily hands. The company's screwdrivers twist and their cotter pin puller bends. I'd rather have **Sears Craftsman** hand tools any day."

Michael Mulhern, Cornell, Wis.: A 1988 **Toyota** pickup equipped with a V-6 engine rates as Michael's "best buy". "It has more than 337,000 miles on it and the only repair I had to make was to put in a new clutch at about 250,000 miles. I change the oil about every 10,000 miles. I use this pickup to haul grain wagons and anhydrous wagons, as well

as to travel and hunt all over the West. I've made many river crossings with it and can hardly resist driving through an inviting piece of mud."

Ed Jensen, Wellsville, Utah: "I like the 40 by 60-ft. hay barn that was put up for us by **ATX Building Systems**. It's the third steel building I've built and/or constructed. This one was purchased direct from the company with no middlemen, which saved thousands of dollars. The building was well engineered and required drilling only four holes. It's built with quality and was easy to erect."

Charles Conner, Jr., Broken Arrow, Okla.: "It's not the color that counts, it's what's under it that counts," says Charles, who nevertheless says he's an **Allis Chalmers** man. He's especially happy with his 1939 **Allis WC** tractor equipped with a 14 hp engine. "It had a list price of \$960. We've used it for all of its 61 years and it still works good. We also own an **Allis Chalmers WD, WD 45, 160, 170, and 200**. I'm 80 years old. My son and I use these tractors to bale 1,300 bales every year from spring until fall. We don't ever change implements, we just change tractors with hardly any down time. I'm sold on **Allis-Chalmers**."

John H. Kocher, Pennsylvania Furnace, Pa.: John's happy with his 1999 **Deere** 3970 forage harvester. "It seems to take less horsepower, is easier to sharpen the knives, and hasn't required a lot of maintenance. It's equipped with a two-speed blower that takes less power in corn silage."

"My worst buy is my **Case-IH MX 200** tractor. It has many features on it that don't

work well. For example, the pto wouldn't start easy which caused bolts to shear. The steel pipe under the cab vibrated and broke off. It should've been made from rubber. Both hydraulic cylinders on the 3-pt. hitch leaked. The company should've field tested this tractor more extensively before putting it on the market."

Robert F. McGinnis, Poughkeepsie, N.Y.: "My best buy is my **Magnatrac 5000** compact crawler tractor powered by a 25 hp Kohler 'V' twin-cylinder engine. The engine



has a computer ignition system, an independent oil cooling and filtering system, and nickel-silicon plated cylinder bores. It meets all current anti-pollution standards. The tractor has heavy-duty hydraulic drive systems to handle the extra power from the engine. The hydraulic system has its own replaceable filter and its own cooling radiator, along with a 15-gal. hydraulic oil tank. The transmission also has an overdrive so I can increase ground speed in forward or reverse."

"I did have one problem with the tractor. The original gas tank holds just three gallons which allowed me to go for only about three hours before I had to refuel. To solve

the problem I mounted another 3-gal. tank on the left fender, ahead of the original one, and hooked them together."

Bill De Remer, Conneautville, Pa.: "My best buy is my **Kubota B8200** 4-WD backhoe grader equipped with an 18 hp engine and 12-in. rear bucket. It does a nice job."

"My 1979 **Massey Ferguson** 285 tractor has only 670 hours on it and is still in like-new condition. I bought it equipped with a 54-in., 6-way hydraulic-operated blade, a 540 rpm pto, and a Cat. I 3-pt. hitch. I also use it with a 52-in. Woods Bros. rototiller, a used single shank subsoiler that'll go 24 in. deep, and a 2-section spring tooth harrow. The tractor handles them all with no problems."

John F. Carter, Manson, Iowa: "My 1974 **Dodge W200** 3/4-ton 4-WD pickup has almost 130,000 miles on it. It has been in 40 of the 50 states and often hauls loads that weigh more than it does. It's a great truck."

"I inherited a 1985 **Mercury** Grand Marquis car from my mother and really like it. It now has about 160,000 miles on it and still gets almost 20 mpg. Both the car and the pickup start well in cold weather, even at temperatures down to 20 degrees below zero."

George Strohmer, Woodstock, Md.: "My best buy over the years is my 1955 **New Holland** 55 rake. I bought it in the crate for \$385 and put it together myself. A dealer friend of mine joked that we could probably still buy the crate for \$385. I've overhauled the gearbox and replaced quite a few of the teeth but I've raked thousands of acres with it and still use it every year. All the **New Holland** equipment we own are best buys."

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