

Owner's Report Best, Worst "Older Model" Tractors

W. Gray Abercrombie, Broad Run, Va.: "I'm well satisfied with my 1972 **Deere 820**. It's a small tractor but it's big enough for my small acreage. The 3-cyl. diesel engine is economical and powerful and has good hydraulics. It's also handles nice and is easy to drive. I wish it had arms or handles that would allow the operator to manipulate each of the 3-pt. lift arms independently from the seat to make the 3-pt. easier to hook up. These arms or handles would be in addition to the existing 3-pt. lift controls. I also wish it had an auxiliary handle that would allow the 3-pt. to be operated from the ground."

John Hett, Palmer, Alaska: John likes his 1975 **Oliver 1655** and 1650 tractors. "The 1655 starts easy, handles comfortably, and requires minimal maintenance. The 1650 isn't as comfortable and I've had more problems with it."

"My 1975 **Minneapolis Moline 955** required two costly overhauls due to a cracked oil filter can. The filter still pulls out lots of black soot."

Dick Kroon, Hudsonville, Mich.: Dick's the satisfied owner of a 1966 **Deere 4020** and a 1978 **International 1086**. "The clutch on the 1086 is grabby, especially in reverse. Also the 3-pt. arm extenders - designed for easy hookup - are so tight that they're almost useless."

Harold W. Jones, Rocky Face, Ga.: "I'm impressed with my 1951 **Ferguson TO 30** and my 1962 **Deere 420**. If today's tractors worked as good as these two older ones I don't guess there'd be much repeat business. I rebuilt the Ferguson in 1973 and installed a new clutch in the Deere last year."

John E. Hampton, Taylor Ridge, Ill.:

Dan Tysiachney, Edinboro, Pa.: "It's the best chainsaw I've ever owned," says Dan about his **Husqvarna 51** chainsaw. "It's powerful, fast and comfortable to use. It's easy to service and clean, and my local dealer treated me right."

Dewey Gilliam, South Pittsburg, Tenn.: Initially, Dewey had problems with the cooling system in the 1995 **Ford-New Holland 8770** Genesis tractor he purchased used. But it eventually became a "best buy". "My local dealer and the manufacturer repaired the tractor far beyond my expectations. After several attempts to solve the problem, a new engine was installed. I received exemplary dealer and manufacturer service and support."

Richard Jaescke, Northampton, Mass.: "I've learned the hard way on my **Ford 5640** tractor with a 12 by 12 transmission and shuttle shift that I have to make sure I come to a complete stop from forward to reverse or you will tear the clutch facing off."

"I've also had problems with my 445C **Ford** tractor loader. Micro switches for the clutch disconnect can stop the tractor from moving if they break for any reason."

John P. Voight, Wichita, Kan.: John's problems with his Morton Building date back many years. He put up a 54 by 90-ft. machine shed in 1976 and was never happy with it. "It is white with green doors on two sides. The white siding - with baked-on enamel paint - was two different shades of white. When I complained, the company refused to replace the metal. They just spray painted it. The building leaked like a sieve. I could have raised a bumper crop of rice inside. I hired a

"I'm very satisfied with my 1988 **Kubota Model B 1750**. I use it a lot to operate my 60-in. belly mower."

Larry Armbruster, Ellis, Kan.: A 1967 **International 806** diesel tractor rates as one of Larry's "best buys". "It starts easy, even in cold weather, and pulls what I want it to. It hasn't needed any major repairs. I made a small adjustment to the timing and fuel injector pump to boost the power."

"My 1975 **Great Bend 800** front-end loader has held together very well."

Thomas A. Bedwell, Betterton, Md.: "I'm well satisfied with both my 1953 **Farmall Super M** and model H. The Super M has enough power for big jobs while the H is more economical for smaller jobs. I converted the electrical system to 12-volt with alternator, starter, and rewired with 10- and 12-ga. wire. It provides more power for lights and electrical accessories. Case-IH should start making mid-sized gas tractors and offer a complete line of equipment for small and medium size farms. That's one reason there's such a demand for 20 to 50 hp gas tractors."

Matt Peterson, Riley, Kan.: "My 1951 **International Farmall Super C** runs good and does what it's supposed to."

Jim Gruber, Lansing, Iowa: "We use it almost every day of the year for chores. It's very reliable," says Jim, happy with his 1981 **Deere 4240**. "The engine had more than 8,000 hours on it before it needed any repairs. We use a **Deere 148** front-end loader with it."

Walter Wilkens, Albert City, Iowa: "I'm retired now but when I farmed I really liked my 1977 **Deere 4430**. It was very reliable and on a per-acre basis was the cheapest running tractor I ever owned. Very quiet and smooth running. The only problem I ever had

carpenter to pull most of the nails and replaced them with screws. Later, when I damaged a piece of sheet metal on one of the doors, Morton refused to sell me one sheet to repair it. They would only sell me a whole new door, which they would install at a cost of \$2,500."

N. Nelson Roth, Wellesley, Ontario: "My **Makita 6011D** 12-volt cordless drill has a lot of power and is equipped with features that I like. It's a two-speed variable model with six torque settings. It also reverses."

"My **Bosch CSB500** drill is my worst buy. The switch burned out and cost \$50 to replace. It's built too light for farm work."

Ronnie Pfeiffer, Jr., Shelbyville, Ill.: "We get good stands with our **Case-IH 5400** soybean drill."

"We haven't had any problems with our **Case-IH 3588** tractor which we bought used."

"Our **Kuhn** heavy duty rotary mower will 'eat' heavy hay without plugging up. It does a good job."

Arlen Doely, Spring Grove, Minn.: "I bought two **Ecklund** electric drive-through gates last year and am very pleased (Ecklund, Box 700, Breadview, Sask., Canada S0G 0K0 ph 306 696-2508). They're inexpensive and eliminate the need to get on and off the tractor all the time."

"I purchased a hoop shelter for round bale storage from **High Pointe Coverings**, Harmony, Minn. I was somewhat concerned whether it could withstand high winds and got a real test last fall. We had winds of more than 70 mph, with one gust clocked at 93 mph. This wind kept on most of the day, but the shelter survived intact."

was when the high-low powershift clutch went out at about 5,000 hours. Apparently it was a factory defect. As far as handling goes this tractor even beat my 1970 **Deere 4020**. It was rated at 125 hp but easily put out 140 hp - without any modifications. It had a weak hydraulic system on the hitch and the remote cylinders. I understand this was a problem on all the 4430s. The 4020's hydraulics were much better. The original lights were pitifully weak so I added some more. I also installed front fenders to keep gravel from hitting the windshield and to improve the tractor's looks."

"I wasn't as satisfied with my 1980 **Allis-Chalmers 185**. It had way too much downtime. The oil cooler sprang a leak and oil got all over everything. The left rear seal went out. The float on the fuel gauge was made of plastic which dissolved and kept plugging the fuel system. I finally replaced it with a brass one. The injection pump jumped out of time and the dealer couldn't fix it. The air conditioner thermostat never lasted more than a couple of months so I finally replaced it with another brand which worked. The tractor had plenty of power for its size but had a noisy engine. Fuel economy was only fair. The tractor was hard to shift without clashing gears. The power steering was nearly nonexistent under 1,800 rpm's, which meant that I had to ride the hand clutch when turning while cultivating or planting. It did have a good hydraulic system."

Gerald Cross, Royalton, Vt.: "I'm satisfied with my 1983 **Long 460** 4-WD tractor equipped with a front-end loader. I use it all year long. My only complaint is that there should be more space between the transmission and the seat."

Joe Torkelson, Hiawatha, Kan.: Joe's the

Daniel M. Dixon, Fallston, N.C.: A 1987 **Dodge** Dakota 4-WD pickup equipped with a 3.8-liter, V-6 engine and 5-speed manual transmission, rates as Daniel's "best buy". "I had to replace the transmission at 203,000 miles, but that's been my only expense other than normal maintenance. The clutch was still in pretty good shape but I replaced it anyway."

Johnie W. Oglesby, Ewing, Va.: "It's a great performer," says Johnie about his **Sears Craftsman** riding mower equipped with an 18 1/2 hp twin cylinder Kohler Magnum gas engine. "It makes a 46-in. wide cut. I also like my **Sears** air compressor."

"My 1997 **Ford F-150** pickup equipped with a 4.6-liter V-8 engine and automatic transmission is a best buy."

Brandon Pletcher, Pierceton, Ind.: "I really like my 1990 **White Turf Boss FR18** hydrostatic mower. It handles great, is fuel efficient, and turns on a dime. It lets me go places most machines can't go."

Steve Mottaz, Brimfield, Ill.: "My best buys are my **International 3588** front wheel assist tractor, **International 1460** combine, **Deere 7000** planter, and **M & W 450R** grain dryer. In my opinion these machines were ahead of their time in the way they were designed. I'm proud of them today. Hats off to the engineers."

Jay Yankey, Nokesville, Va.: "My 1998 **RTA 1050** plastic layer works great on my truck farm. The machine ridges the soil, incorporates a trickle irrigation line, and lays plastic - all in one smooth operation. In the past I had to perform all these tasks by hand. The machine saves many hours of labor and

owner of a 1976 **Allis-Chalmers 7040** equipped with a power shift transmission. "The transmission doesn't have enough different field speeds and the tractor is hard to start when the weather is cool. Otherwise it's a good tractor."

"My 1969 **Allis-Chalmers 190 XT** equipped with a 95 hp diesel engine has a lot of power and starts good. It's also economical to operate."

Lloyd H. Reiman, Midland, S. Dak.: "My 1973 **International 1456** is one of the best tractors I've ever owned."

Emery Beachy, Hardin, Mo.: "I like my three **Deutz** tractors - a 1970 6006, 1976 6806, and 1978 8006. They all work quite well for older tractors. However they could use better brakes, power steering, wiring, lights, and hydraulics. Some of these problems may have been solved in later models."

Kenneth Wiedenfeld, Hickman, Neb.: "Other than a valve job on the engine it has never failed me," says Kenneth, impressed with his 1959 **Deere 530**. "It's a basic tractor but it still works well. The wiring on it tended to short out, but it was always easy to find the problem."

Jane and Bill Armstrong, Crystal Springs, Miss.: "We bought our **Allis-Chalmers 190 XT** used several years ago. Considering its age, it does an acceptable job. We had a welding shop fabricate a cover steel over the driver's seat. For a while we used a canvas canopy but a windstorm tore it off."

Tom Tallakson, Excelsior, Minn.: "We're well satisfied with our 1952 **Ford 8N**. I wish they'd continue to build a simple, economical tractor like this."

has allowed me to triple the size of my operation in only one year."

Donald Foley, Morgantown, Ind.: "My 843 **Melroe** Bobcat skid steer loader is a powerful machine. The only problem is that the hydraulic equipment at the center of the boom partially blocks my view when raising the bucket."

Curtis L. Barron, Miles, Texas: "I bought a **Poulan 2150**, 16-in. chain saw from Walmart and it's my best buy. It starts easy, is easy to service, runs cool, and has a gas tank that's easy to fill. It's truly a customer friendly product. Works good on 6 to 9-in. logs."

Thomas Beane, Fort Atkinson, Wis.: "My **Deere 7000** planter was equipped with disc openers when I bought it, but I switched to a shoe planter because I wanted a better seedbed. I also installed no-till equipment on it, including two 8-wave coulters per row that are spaced 3 inches apart. I made the modifications because I wanted to do one-pass tillage and then plant corn."

Toivo Kujala, Bovey, Minn.: "One of my best buys is my 1978 **Ford** pickup equipped with a 302 cu. in. engine and overdrive transmission. It has needed very few repairs and the body has only minor rust. It has more than 251,000 miles."

"My 1950 **Allis-Chalmers B** tractor was a best buy. I used it for 34 years to do snowplowing, haying, logging, and hauling firewood and never had any problems."