

Jesse O. Pomeroy, Londonderry, Vt.: Jesse's impressed with his **Deere 455 Hydra-Push** manure spreader. "It doesn't have a bed chain which makes it much easier to use in cold weather than a conventional box spreader. I have to make sure that the box is cleaned out completely in temperatures below zero, but that's easier than having to repair a broken bed chain. Also, it does a much more even job of spreading sloppy manure than a conventional spreader and will continue to spread sloppy manure when going downhill. It spreads dry pen-packed manure much better than the Knight Slinger spreader that I had been using. I like it because it eliminates the need to have two kinds of spreaders - one for liquid manure and one for pen-packed manure."

On the "worst buy" side, he lists a fly control program for dairy farms offered by **Orkin**. "Under the program, the company regularly sprays your barn and/or parlor throughout the fly season. The first year it seemed to work alright, but the second year I think they were just spraying water for all the good it did. They had a so-called guarantee that if you weren't satisfied they'd come back and spray for free."

"After the second time they came during the second year - with no obvious effect on the fly population - I called and complained. They never came out again. The next year they called to sign me up for the season and seemed shocked when I told them 'no', or something to that effect."

Larry D. Ruffner, Vermontville, Mich.: Larry likes everything about his 1985 **Deere 4650** except the transmission. "It's a quad-range transmission and I know why they call them 'rip shift transmissions'. The two levers are hard to get out of park even when the correct procedure is followed. Unfamiliar drivers have a hard time getting the tractor out of park, thus stalling the engine. The company should offer and install an updated system for these hard-shifting quad ranges. They could also include a swivel seat for better rear visibility. Also, the air filter element is hard to remove because of its location."

Everett W. Gustafson, Brockway, Pa.: "It's served both my father and myself well for 50 years," says Everett about his 1948 **Farmall Cub**. "It had a new clutch, rings and brake linings in the 1980's but is still running strong. It's been stored inside and the original paint has only needed touching up."

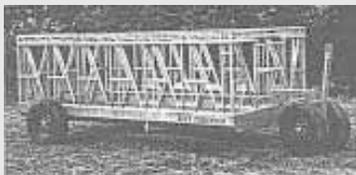
"I made a step for it so I could climb into the driver's seat easier."

Marvin R. Skaug, Fertile, Minn.: "They built power, comfort, handling, fuel economy, durability and ease of maintenance into this tractor," says Marvin, pleased with his 1990 **Massey Ferguson 3650 4-WD**. "We purchased it used with 2,700 hours on it. The hired help all want to operate this tractor."

Dan Mannel, Jefferson, Iowa: "I nominate an add-on chopper kit made by **Brian Skipper** for International Axial Flow combines as my best buy (Brian Skipper, 4371 Gleason Line, Rt. 1, Tilbury, Ontario, Canada N0P 2L0 ph 519 682-3645). Using sickle sections to cut really helps when you have to go through tough, green soybean straw. They cut the straw up much finer than the combine's original sections. Also, they're reasonably priced."

Gary L. Pendergrast, Polo, Mo.: Gary's impressed with his **Teez Cowcatch** (T's Sales, Box 95, Fairview, Kan. 66425 ph 913 467-3532). It's a portable stanchion/feeder trailer equipped with a front walk-in gate, center catwalk, and low profile that allows you to easily work cattle from the inside.

Cattle catch themselves and can be let out one at a time or all at once. Cattle can also come and go as they please when the trailer is in the "year around feeder" position. It's also equipped with a "down cow" release. "It makes catching animals much easier, especially on rented pastures or anywhere where corrals aren't available," says Pendergrast. "It works great for artificial insemination in rotational grazing systems because it can be moved with the cows. Animals that are routinely fed in the wagon can



be caught at any time for treatment, vaccinations, artificial insemination, or pregnancy testing."

Larry Bakke, Estelline, S. Dak.: Larry has "sentimental ties" to his 1962 **Deere 4010** diesel. "Our neighbor bought it new when I was eight," he says. "He died and I bought it in 1984. This tractor was built with much thought and has stood the test of time. It's a good universal tractor for many jobs."

"I put a Lundeen cab on it and like it well because of the good visibility and sliding doors."

Chuck Leisy, Alliance, Neb.: "It's the best tractor I ever owned," says Chuck about his 1980 **Allis-Chalmers 7010**. "It has 3,610 hours on it and has required only minor repairs. It offers excellent fuel economy. It's well-built and handles well. It requires very little maintenance. We had a 1980 7045 that was just as good."

His only complaint: "The cab could have been a little larger."

Brent Griggs, Piedmont, Mo.: Brent likes his **Sears Craftsman 12-volt** cordless drill. "It's unbelievable how handy it is. It saves a lot of trips to the garage. It has enough power that I can use it for a long time."

"My **Sears Craftsman 30-gal. 5 hp** compressor does a fine job of supplying air without having to work very hard."

"My **DeWalt** chop saw can cut through any kind of steel. It's built tough."

Don Welter, Ashland, Ohio: Don's the pleased owner of a couple old gassers - a 1970 **IH Farmall 656** and a 1957 **IH 450**. "We purchased the 656 in 1988 with 5,000 hours on the original engine," he says. "We've had the 450 for two and a-half years and it's been a good old workhorse considering it's 40 years old. Granted, fuel economy is lower than comparable diesel units, but we use them both in cold weather and have had none of the major problems that can plague diesels."

Don replaced the original 15.5 by 38 in. rear tires on the 656 with 16.9 by 38-in. tires for a better gear ratio in second gear for plowing on his rolling ground.

David Ellis, Breton, Alberta: "It's extremely easy on fuel, puts out 86 hp (pto), and has good traction so it seldom gets stuck," says David about his 1970's **Massey Ferguson 1080** diesel. "The differential is a bit noisy and the air conditioning could be better. But the good points still outweigh these two minor problems."

James C. Sponsler, Princeville, Ill.: "My 1992 **Chevrolet C2500 3/4-ton** pickup equipped with a 6.5-liter turbocharged diesel engine has been virtually trouble-free and is a best buy. I have more than 90,000 miles on it. It has great pulling power for my goose-neck trailers and is much more fuel efficient

than any of my previous gas engine-powered pickups. It's by far the best all-around pickup I've ever owned."

"My 1997 **MTD 21-in. push mower**, equipped with a Briggs & Stratton 3 3/4 hp engine, is my worst buy. I've been generally well satisfied with the mower but have had a lot of problems with the starter recoil spring assembly. The clutch hub was made of plastic and wore out, which kept the rope from retracting. We finally replaced the plastic part with a new one made of metal, which seems to have solved the problem."

Jon Wickham, Cutchogue, N.Y.: "This tractor is over 40 years old and we still use it hard every day," says Jon about a 1947 **IH M diesel** that's one of his all-time best buys. "It costs very little to maintain since it doesn't have such frills as power steering, heating, air conditioning, torque amplifier, and 4-valve pto. Its simple structural design and slow engine speed have helped these tractors last many years."

Jon added a Gresen hydraulic valve block, an on/off open assembly of three spools, to modernize the hydraulic system (Surplus Center, 1015 West O Street, Lincoln, Neb. 68528; ph 800 488-3407).

He also dropped the front axle and installed short, wide 14.9 by 28-in. flotation tires to make it more suitable for orchard work.

John Neuman, Baraboo, Wis.: "There's nothing the company could do to improve this tractor," says John, well pleased with his 1998 **New Holland Gemini 8360** equipped with power shift transmission and MFWD.

Barney Holling, Denton, Kan.: "My **Ford F-150** pickup equipped with a V-8 engine is my worst buy. They should have called it the Hong Kong special. I've owned Fords all my life, but this is the last one."

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Howard Vogel, Waverly, Iowa: "I like my 1997 **Sears** router. It's equipped with a plunge release on the handle and a speed control and on-off switch. There's also a chuck lock for changing bits."

Levan Yergy, Jacksonville, Fla.: "It's a good tractor and came with all the attachments to suit our needs," says Levan, happy with a 1993 **Kubota L2550 4-WD** equipped with turf tires. "We bought it slightly used but it came with a LA400 Kubota removable front-end loader, a Rhino FM60 finish mower, a Bush Hog RTS 62 rototiller, Woods rake, leveling blade and roller."

Jim Larson, Geneseo, Ill.: Jim likes his no-frills 1983 **Case 4490**. "We weren't looking for anything fancy, just good economical horsepower and it hasn't let us down on that score. It's been trouble-free," says Jim. "However, improved visibility would be a plus because you can't see the drawbar from the cab. Also, it could use more gears in the transmission."

H.L. Olson, Stephenville, Texas: "It has been and still is a good tractor," says H.L. about his 1953 **Ferguson T0 30**. "Fuel economy could have been improved, however."

Jim Schroeder, Bend Ore.: Jim says his 1977 **Massey Ferguson 245** is a great orchard tractor. "The disc brakes are great, the hydrostatic steering makes it a dream to handle, and the suspension seat is comfortable," he says. "It's economical to operate,

easy to maintain, and we've had few troubles with it."

However, he adds, it would be nice to have more than eight forward gears and two reverse gears, although the multi-power transmission was a good transmission.

To make the tractor more useful, Jim added both Cat. I and II stub arms to the 3-pt.

John Schwarzkopf, Chehalis, Wash.: "It has plenty of power for its size and the Select-O-Matic transmission is ideal for loader and tillage work," says John, pleased with his 1971 **Ford 4000**. "My tractor is the gas-powered model, so fuel economy could be better, especially when I'm working it hard pulling a 60-in. tiller in clay soil. Also, the Select-O-Matic transmission is hard to work on and expensive to repair."

Keith L. Rath, Savanna, Ill.: "The loader bucket could be built heavier. Since the tractor has MFWD, the bottom of the bucket bends too easily," says Keith about his 1995 **Case-IH 5230** equipped with a 520 loader.

Jim Emerson, Trempealeau, Wis.: Jim's the satisfied owner of a 1997 **Case-IH 2166** combine. "It has plenty of capacity for six 30-in. rows and gives a great grain sample in the tank," he says. "I'm also quite impressed by the accuracy of the GPS yield monitor. Makes record-keeping and mapping of individual farms very convenient."

J.P. Benn, Swift Current, Sask.: "I had very good service right up until the time the company closed my local dealership," says J.P. about his 1995 **Toyota Corolla**. "Now, parts service is terrible. I've been waiting three weeks for an air filter from only three hours out of Swift Current."

Enoch Aarrestad, Debden, Sask.: His "best buy" is a 500-gal. liquid fertilizer "band wagon" that he built himself using the axle and wheels off an International 91 self-propelled combine. He pulls the "band wagon" behind his Case 1070 2-WD tractor and ahead of his 12-ft. wide Haybuster grain drill. He uses it to dribble band liquid fertilizer between the drill's opening discs and packer wheels. A ground-driven John Blue liquid metering pump, equipped with a hydraulic clutch, delivers the fertilizer through hoses back to the drill. A hitch on back of the wagon is used to pull the drill.

"I use it on all my crops including oats, canola, peas, and barley," says Aarrestad. "It works great because it places fertilizer to the side of the seed so I don't have to worry about burning the seed. I used it for the first time this year and, despite a dry spring and high rates of fertilizer, had no problems. Pulling the wagon between the tractor and drill keeps it out of the way when filling the drill with seed. I also use it when seeding alfalfa. I pull



a roller behind the drill in order to smoothen out the seedbed.

"I paid less than \$400 for steel, \$1,900 for the pump, \$550 for the tank, and \$150 for miscellaneous items. I also paid \$800 for a new distribution kit. My total cost was less than \$4,000."

He used 3-in. sq., 1/4-in. thick tubing to build the frame and mounted the tank and pump on it. The pump is driven off one side of the combine axle.