

250 Trailboss and got excellent value for it."

Ronnie Reedy, Roscoe, Texas: "Our Teejet 24000 sprayer calibration kit is quite accurate and simple to use. I'm able to quickly get into the field without fear of under or overspraying."

Doug McKenzie, Stony Plain, Alberta: "Our worst buy is a 7-ft. Farm King tiller. After 10 min. in the field, all the oil came out of the gearbox and thus the bearings went out. After numerous calls to the dealer and Farm King, I have gotten nowhere. Their solution was for me to bring in the tiller and they would repair the still-new tiller. My solution was for them to replace this lemon, which they refused to do. In the end I decided to just fix it myself and it works fine at this point. But I now have signs on the back of six of my trucks saying, 'Ask us why we won't deal with Farm King and their dealer'. Many people have asked and we tell them. It's not much but it's about all we could do."

Fred Hansen, Santa Rosa, Calif.: "I'd nominate my Fox 844 flail chopper as a best buy. Ours is nearly worn-out by now but over the years this machine out-performed its competition hands down. It was built much sturdier than others. I wish they'd still make them."

"Our Thermal Dynamics plasma cutter is also a great machine."

Jim Schuster, Westfield, N.Y.: "Our best buy is the Green Eater attachment for the side of our tractor that can be used to mow be-



tween trees, vines, under fences, etc. It uses chain saw chain to cut weeds instead of nylon cord and is hydraulically-powered, using the tractor's hydraulic system. It can also use a pto driven pump. Cuts a 17-in. swath."

David Hahn, Chaffee, Mo.: David likes his Jacuzzi water pump designed for shallow wells. "I've used it for more than 20 years in two different houses and all I ever had to replace was the pressure switch. If everything on my farm was as reliable as this pump I'd be bored to death for things to do. You couldn't give me another pump brand. You have to pay for quality."

On the "worst buy" side, he lists his 1985 Dodge 150 4-WD pickup equipped with a 318 cu. in. engine. "It went through two new engines which the dealer paid for. However, I had to spend \$1,500 to power up the second engine and it still doesn't run like it should. It now has a grand total of 65,000 miles on it. If this engine blows I'll replace it with a 360 cu. in. engine. There's no replacement for cubic inches when it comes to power."

Randy L. Daniel, Iron City, Tenn.: "My 1995 Belarus 805 tractor is my best buy. The only problem is that the valves leak hydraulic fluid."

"My 1993 Ford F-250 pickup equipped with a 351 cu. in. engine and automatic transmission is a best buy. It has more than 90,000 worry-free miles."

Jeff Oechsner, Lomira, Wis.: "I'm well pleased with the 1997 Sno-Way 8-ft. snowplow I mounted on my 1996 Dodge 2500 4-WD pickup. It has a clear Lexan blade that doesn't allow snow to stick. The plow is linked directly to the truck subframe and uses a downpressure system to transfer some of

the truck's weight to the plow, allowing the blade to cut through packed snow. I use an optional joystick control which provides very precise control. The direct linkage also eliminates bouncing on the highway and allows me to stack the snow."

Jim Hughes, Cartersville, Ga.: "My 1997 Chevrolet C/K 1500 4-WD pickup rides smoother on rough roads and pulls my trailer with more power than the 1994 Chevrolet model I had been using."

Thor Jordan, Burwell, Neb.: Thor's "worst buys" are the Goodyear Dyna Torque radial rear tires on his tractor. "The problem is that there are rubber ridges inside the tire which tend to chew holes in the radial inner tubes. I had four tires go flat in less than 1,500 hours. I suggest using Firestone tires because they don't have these ridges."

Jim Hubner, Manhattan, Kan.: "My Campbell Hausfeld oilless compressor is my worst buy. I bought it four years ago at Wal-Mart and was able to operate it for only five hours before it quit, but fortunately Wal-Mart replaced it under warranty. However, the new model has less than 30 hours on it and already the motor shaft is broken. No wonder these compressors are maintenance-free. They don't run long enough to need oil or anything else. The instructions should at least tell you how to convert it into an air tank."

Clifford Berthot, Cochrane, Alberta: "My best buy is my 1995 Chevrolet 1-ton dually pickup equipped with a heavy duty diesel engine that's matched with a 4:10 rear end and 5-speed transmission. It has more than 40,000 miles on it with no problems. I use it to haul cattle in a 20-ft. trailer and to haul bales on a fifth wheel flat deck. I also use it as a pleasure vehicle. I'm really happy with it."

Robert E. Whitehead, Kiowa, Colo.: A 1995 Ford 9030 bi-directional tractor equipped with a front-end loader heads Robert's "best buy" list. "It has a 3-pt. hitch, pto, and hydraulic outlets at both ends. It works great equipped with a snowblower on the engine end and a loader on the cab end. The loader is one of the strongest on the market. It has been a dependable tractor. I really like the hydrostatic transmission."

"My 1997 Dodge 3500 1-ton 4-WD dually pickup equipped with a Cummins diesel engine is a best buy. It has only about 6,000 miles on it, but already I like its power and fuel efficiency - 20 mpg."

"I have a full line of New Holland hay equipment - a 114 Hydraswing windrower, 320 baler, and 1069 bale wagon. When they were new they had some problems which were caused by poor workmanship at the factory. However, the dealer took care of the problems and they all work fine now."

Joe Brass, Alton, Ill.: A roller chain repair tool from W.A. Johnson rates as Joe's "best buy" (2340 Ampere Drive, Louisville, Ky. 40299 ph 800 523-3979 or 502 266-7177). "It's designed to let one person repair roller chains quickly and easily. Small hooks on the tips of the tool make it easy to remove (and then reinstall) the spring clip on the master link, and to remove and reattach the 'keeper'. Then the tool can be used to pull the two ends of the chain together to replace the master link."

James R. Gore, Sr., Griffin, Ga.: "My worst buy is my Gehl 9-ft. disc mower. The problem is that it cuts slow. I have to operate my tractor two gears slower than I did with my previous mower, an 8-ft. Vicon model. Also, this mower has three cutting blades per disc while the Vicon needed only two."

FFA's Nominate Best, Worst Buys

Students in the Future Farmers of America class at Brookland High School, Brookland, Ark., recently submitted "Best and Worst Buys" to FARM SHOW as a class project. Here are their reports.

Jeff Moss, Brookland, Ark.: His family's 1997 Polaris Trail Blazer 4-wheeler ATV equipped with a 250cc engine rates as Jeff's "best buy". "It's dependable and has a lot of power, and the automatic transmission and wide wheelbase make it fun and safe to operate. It's also rugged enough to take all the abuse a teenage boy can give it."

Shannon Sims, Brookland, Ark.: "We've put more than 100,000 miles on our 1987 Dodge 1/2-ton 4-WD pickup and it gets 18 mpg. All we've done is change the oil and put new tires on it. It's the best pickup we've ever owned."

Clinton D. Hoozer, Jonesboro, Ark.: "Our 1995 Ford 18 hp hydrostatic drive riding mower has power and is a best buy."

Brent Coggin, Brookland, Ark.: "Our 1994 Kawasaki Mule 2510 is our worst buy. The spark plugs were constantly fouled and as a result it barely had enough power to do even the smallest farm task. Recently the engine blew up and we don't know why. Also, the battery won't stay charged."

Carl Adams, Brookland, Ark.: "Our 1989 Ford 1910 tractor is the best tractor we've ever owned. Our only expense has been to repair a hydraulic line."

Eddie Haff, Jonesboro, Ark.: "Our worst buy is my 1994 Honda TRX 4-wheeler ATV. It has been in the shop several times. The 195 cc engine is big enough to chain-drive the 22-in. tires, but the chain and sprockets aren't built heavy enough to keep them from breaking or bending."

Mike Nowlin, Jonesboro, Ark.: Mike likes his 1984 Deere 111 garden tractor. "It's been trouble-free until last year when the 11 hp Briggs & Stratton gas engine started leaking a lot of oil. We replaced the engine with a 12 1/2 hp Briggs & Stratton and haven't had any problems with it."

Jennifer Lamberth, Brookland, Ark.: "Our 1993 Yamaha Big Bear 4-WD ATV equipped with a 350 cc engine is the most trouble-free four-wheeler we've ever owned. It runs good and can go anywhere."

Keith Hogan, Brookland, Ark.: "I'm well pleased with the comfort, performance, and body style of our 1995 Dodge Ram pickup. I didn't keep it very long because of the payments, but while I had it I put 23,000 miles on it with no problems."

On the "worst buy" side, he lists a 1994 Chevrolet 4-WD extended cab pickup equipped with a 6.5-liter turbocharged diesel engine. "It has only 65,000 miles on it but we're already on our fourth engine and it's getting very weak. The 4-WD is always going out, the radio doesn't work, the doors will hardly shut, and the air conditioner works only on the low setting. Another problem is that if the engine is idling for more than five minutes when the temperature is 75 degrees or higher it will overheat."

Chad Crigler, Jonesboro, Ark.: "My uncle bought a 1981 Honda 200 3-wheeler and used it for deer hunting for 10 years with no problems. My dad and I bought it after my uncle bought a new Honda. We've rebuilt the engine and now it runs great."

Matthew Hafer, Lake City, Ark.: "My best buy is my 1978 Ford 4-WD pickup equipped with a long wheelbase. We paid \$1,500 for it. We've had problems with the front axles and the pinion gears. I guess be-

ing in 4-WD all the time is hard on it. But it has been a very reliable truck."

Kenneth Hillard, Brookland, Ark.: Kenneth's pleased with his 1983 Volkswagen Quantum car equipped with a 5-cyl. gas engine. "We drove it from California to Arkansas and it got 30 mpg."

Rick Brannon, Jonesboro, Ark.: Rick's happy with his 1984 Honda Big Red 200 3-wheeler equipped with a driveshaft. "I bought it used three years ago for hunting and pleasure riding and it has carried a lot of deer out of the woods. Last summer the fork on the front wheel rusted out so I had to put the engine on a new frame. The engine is still going strong."

Jeremy Russell, Jonesboro, Ark.: "My worst buy is my 1987 Honda 250R Fourtrax ATV. I bought it used in June, 1995, for \$2,000 and by the following October I already had to rebuild it. I found out that the engine was bored out as far as it could be. A new cylinder would've cost \$399 so I took a loss and sold the machine for \$1,200. These are good machines - I just wish I had known more about the history of this particular one before I bought it."

Curtis Huggins, Jonesboro, Ark.: Curtis likes his 1989 Toyota 2-WD pickup equipped with a 6-cyl. engine and 5-speed transmission. "It's a good pickup and gets great gas mileage. I've had few problems."

Jason Sullins, Brookland, Ark.: Jason's had problems with his 1982 Honda 125 street bike. "I drove it only for about a week before it started messing up on me and wouldn't go. The brakes kept locking up, and when I tried to kick start it it just kicked back. When I finally got it started the steering system locked up. I finally gave up on the machine."

Jason Austin, Lake City, Ark.: "Our 1980 Nissan Datsun has more than 220,000 miles on it but still doesn't use a bit of oil and gets 25 mpg. All we replaced was the clutch plate and minor engine components such as the water pump and alternator."

Jeremy Williams, Brookland, Ark.: "Our best buy Red Huskey garden tractor is equipped with a 46-in. mower deck and 18 hp engine. We've used it for three years and only had to take it to the shop once. The problem was an oil leak in the engine."

Wes Lawrence, Paragould, Ark.: "It rides smooth and will go almost anywhere," says Wes about his 1995 Honda Four Trax ATV. "The 300 EX engine is easy on fuel. However, the tie rods break easily."

Bruce W. McGill, Jonesboro, Ark.: Bruce gives a "thumbs down" on his 1993 Chevrolet S-10 pickup. "The engine blew up, the power steering pump went out, and a steering bracket broke - all this in a span of only 1 1/2 years."

John McKeel, Brookland, Ark.: "I bought my 1993 Chevrolet S-10 1/2-ton pickup used and have put 20,000 miles on it in less than a year. It's a great truck and is fuel efficient. No problems."

Jason Stroud, Jonesboro, Ark.: "I use it every day in our fields. It goes places where most trucks won't go," says Jason, owner of a 1993 Honda Four Trax ATV. "I've used it to haul a lot of deer out of the woods. The only problem is that the wheel hub on the rear axle keeps coming off."