

Farmers Nominate Best & Worst Buys

grees and steeper where 4-WD is a must. This tractor's controls are conveniently located and it has a good top end speed of 17 mph depending on tire size.

"However, this tractor could use a few improvements. The brake lock is difficult to disengage, and the gear shift transmission is difficult to shift while moving in high range without grinding the gears. The loader cylinders retract at different speeds whenever I try to hook up the quick-tach bucket. I contacted the dealer and he said this was normal, but I disagree. I think a seal is leaking on the rod but I haven't looked into it yet.

"The tractor had a coolant leak at 75 hours, but the cause turned out to be a hose clamp that had been super tightened, deforming the hose a little. The noise from the diesel engine is so loud that I have to use hearing protection. The telescoping drawbar is difficult to move in and out. The bucket tilt cylinders seem slow, but this could also be due to a leaking cylinder seal."

Butch Hanson, Independence, Ore.: "My 12-volt **Swampy** portable cooler plugs into a cigarette lighter and is my best buy (S & S Mfg., Medina, Ariz.)."

Jim Johnston, Flesherton, Ontario: "My 2004 **Dove Tec** corn stove is my worst buy. The stove plugged up. I had to dismantle it to get the auger out. The door wouldn't shut tight due to poor manufacturing. The house filled with corn soot. I had to have the house and carpets cleaned. The company said I should see my salesman, but the distributor said they don't sell them any more. I ended up selling this year-old stove for scrap."

Joel Pominville, Middlebury, Vt.: "My best buy is a 2002 zero-turn **Bobcat** lawn mower. It lets me mow our lawn in half the time we previously spent. I rigged up a weed whipper and mounted it on the side of the machine. I use it to clear grass under miles of high tensile fences. It's almost indestructible."

Jack Wilson, Eldridge, Mo.: "My 2004 **Vicon** rotary mower is my best buy. It cuts good at lower rpm's than most rotary mowers and only requires a 42 hp tractor to power it. It has three cutter blades per disc compared to two blades per disc on most mowers. This lessens the cutting amount per blade, which lessens the power needed to turn the blades.

"This mower's only problem is that it's hard to maintain an even cutting height above ground. I solved this problem by making an outer cutterbar shoe from a tandem disc. I turned the cupped area up toward the cutterbar with a makeshift bracket on the disc to mount on the regular cutterbar bolts. The reason I used a disc was to provide a sled runner surface in every direction."

Robert Anderson, Newell, Ala.: "I like my 2001 **Ford F-150** pickup. I use it for heavy hauling, dragging trailers through mud, etc. No problems after 125,000 miles. It has required only routine maintenance.

"My 1998 **Toyota** pickup, which I bought used, is my worst buy. The original owner told me he had problems but thought they were all fixed. They were, but I got a lot of new ones from the transmission to the water pump, all before the pickup reached 100,000 miles."

Richard Pickar, Sebeka, Minn.: "My 2002 **Polaris 700 4-wheeler** is my worst buy. I bought it in October 2002 and parked it in the garage for the winter. In the spring of 2004, with about 800 miles on it, the water pump seal went out and last spring it went out again. The company wouldn't help at all."

Wayne Manthey, Big Bend, Wis.: "My most recent best buys have been used machinery. My **Mac Don 4000** windrower runs smooth, is easy to adjust and maintain. It also does a superior job of conditioning hay.

"My **Westendorf WL-42** front-end loader is built heavy and goes on and off the tractor easily. The quick-tach bucket allows for many different attachments like a bale fork or pallet fork to be used easily.

"My 1999 **Corn Pro 25** plus 5 tandem dually gooseneck flatbed trailer is my worst buy. After about 1 1/2 years I noticed that it leaned to one side. Further inspection revealed that a bent I beam was used in the main frame. I could tell it was bent because the horizontal channels weren't even touching the I beam when it was welded together. The assemblers at the factory had to have seen this, also. The fact that they still put it together and rolled it out the door shows me they have virtually no quality control. They did a nice job of painting this trailer, but I think a high school shop class could have done a better job of selecting materials and welding them together.

"I complained to the company but it didn't help. They seem to have a policy of not talking to their customers or their dealers. That's a convenient policy to have when you build standard equipment."

Nathan Root, Medford, Wis.: "I've used my **Lincoln Power Mig 200** welder for everything from light 20 ga. Metal to 1/2-in. thick steel plate. No problems. It has performed beyond all my expectations."

Mike Johnson of Clarkton, Mo.: He says he's happy with the 4M trimmer he mounted on the Dixie Chopper riding mower he uses



to mow a local cemetery. He first read about it in FARM SHOW (Vol. 29, No. 2). "It saves me so much time. I know a good quality product when I see one, and this one is designed perfectly. I would definitely recommend it to anyone."

A self-contained hydraulic pump powers the attachment that mounts on one side of the deck of all types of riding mowers. (4M Inc., Martinsville, Va. ph 866 623-8264; www.4mtrimmers.com).

Gary Resch, St. Cloud, Minn.: I'm a long-time subscriber to FARM SHOW and keep a lot of the more recent issues on hand. Not only do I think FARM SHOW is a best buy, but so do my three grand children, ages 11 to 16. Every time they come over to our home, right away they all tear into the magazines. Sometimes they even fight over who gets to read the latest issue. Just like me, they enjoy reading about all the different ideas and inventions."

George Schneider, Pioneer, Calif.: "Some of my worst buys include: ATV's that don't have spin-on oil filters; equipment that engineer/designers never even tried to use; high gas prices and presidential candidates that ignore the problem; judges that make decisions based on politics rather than law; underpowered trucks with a long turning radius; and faucets that freeze in 20 degree temperatures."

Jack Kaschmitter, Paynesville, Minn.: "My best buy is the 'full fingered' auger modification kit offered by **Kendall Roetman** for IH 1020 series bean platforms and featured in FARM SHOW's Vol. 28, No. 1 issue (Hospers, Iowa ph 712 230-1831). The addition of the fingers helps feed the crop in much better, and it lets me slow the reel

speed down and also raise the reel above the sickle. I do some custom harvesting of soybeans with two combines and had both heads modified right before harvest. Kendall offers a 3-minute video on CD that shows the working of a bean head."

Norm Foellmi, Sparta, Wis.: "I love my 2004 **Dodge 1500** Quad Cab Hemi pickup. It has a lot of power and is fuel efficient."

Leon Rasbeck, Wolcott, N.Y.: "My 1978 **International 1450** Cub Cadet tractor equipped with a hydrostatic transmission is my best buy. I bought it used at an auction in 1991. It came equipped with a snow blower, a lawn mower, and a cab. I made a blade for it and also a wheelbarrow tray that dumps on back. The 1450 was starting to show wear so in 2001 I bought an 1864 model. I thought I would sell the 1450 but then, on second thought, I figured I wouldn't get much for it. I'm glad I kept it because it has more than paid for itself."

Edwin G. Lellebo, Presho, S. Dak.: Edwin nominates his **Deere LX 266** and **F525** mowers as his "best buys." "We mow commercially and can't afford down time. These mowers are very dependable."

Bob Simpson, Gallivan, Sask.: "My 1976 **Massey Ferguson 1155** tractor is my best buy. It always starts right up, even in cold weather. I use it for just about everything on my farm including combining, cultivating, spraying, and swathing. The only thing I don't like about this tractor is the tilting cab."

On the "worst buy" side, "My 1979 **Massey Ferguson 2745** is a terrible tractor. The engine doesn't match the transmission, and the transmission doesn't match the rear end. The only good thing about this tractor is the cab. It offers a good view."

Norman Ellis, Maypearl, Texas: "I like my 1993 **Echo 1100** Weed Eater. It's 12 years

old but I just put my first spark plug in it and also replaced the primer bulb. It always starts right up. It does an excellent job.

"My **Kubota BX 2200** tractor equipped with a front-end loader is a best buy. It has had a couple of problems but the dealer promptly corrected them. It's equipped with a 60-in. mower deck, a tiller, and a box blade. It does a great job for a small tractor. It's now 5 years old and has 300 hours on it."

Bruce Stumlin, Holmen, Wis.: "My worst buy is my 2003 **Caterpillar 242** skid steer loader which I bought from Fabco Industries, LaCrosse, Wis. They can't fix it and refuse to replace it with a working machine. The first year I used it I had to return it to the dealer several times, as the hydraulics didn't work properly. I can't control the movement of the bucket. As a result it will drop, not holding the position required. Also, whenever I release the joystick I never know if the wheels will stop right away or continue to turn some."

James G. Jarmes, Postville, Iowa: "Forty years ago we bought the farm we live on now. The well was bad so we dug a new one and hit good water at 200 ft. Then we dropped in a submersible pump made by **Baker Mfg.**, Evansville, Wis. This pump is still providing water to this day. We had to pull the pump once when a hole rusted through the galvanized steel pipe. We replaced the steel pipe with plastic and haven't had any trouble since. My old grand pappy always said that when you start bragging on something it will soon break down. I hope not; it's been a good pump."

Jeffery Morgan, Bigelow, Ark.: "My 1999 **Dodge 1-ton** pickup equipped with a Cummins diesel turbocharged engine is my best buy. It has 598,700 miles on it with no problems."

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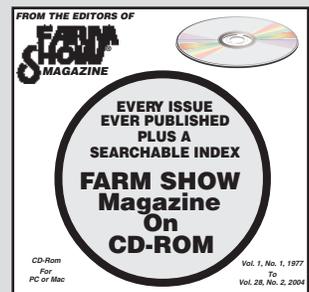
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