

"I bought a hot water pressure washer from **Northern Hydraulics**. At times, it delivered hot water but at other times it didn't. After I made multiple calls to the company they told me that a defect in the computer chip was causing the erratic performance. They replaced the old chip with a new one, and now the machine works great."

Francis Simmers, Jamestown, N. Dak.: "I'm 80 years old and have been retired for 17 years, so I haven't bought any major equipment lately. However, we still live on the farm and have saved several items from the good old days. All of these machines continue to serve us well, and in addition they keep a lot of good memories alive. Once upon a time, they were all best buys.

"The machines include a **Grasshopper** mower with an 18 hp Briggs & Stratton gas engine; an **Allis Chalmers** 720 yard tractor with a 20 hp Onan engine; a **Miller** portable welder; and a series of **Bobcat** skid steer loaders, each one better than its predecessor. The newest one is a 742 model. We've also saved several tractors - a 1958 **Case** 900 B, a 1949 unstyled **AR Deere**, a 1946 **Farmall H**, and my favorite, a 1949 **Oliver** 88. It was ahead of its time and was equipped with live hydraulics, pto, and a smooth 6-cylinder engine. I added a homemade 3-pt. hitch to make it even more useful."

T.J. McCormick, Hamer, S.C.: "My best buy is metal roofing sold by **McElroy Metal Service Center** (Metalogic Division, 4520 Shepherdsville Rd., Louisville, Ky. 40218 ph 800 895-5810). You order the roofing direct from the company and they ship it by truck to you.

"I installed the roofing on my house last year and I think it's without doubt the best roofing product on the market. It's easy to install and there are no exposed screws or nails. I installed the roofing by myself and I'm 75 years old. The biggest job was removing the old roofing material. To do the job I removed a section 8 to 10 ft. wide and covered it, then moved on to do another section. The roofing is made from 24-ga. galvanized

"The quality of this roofing is absolutely great and it should last forever."

steel and is 18 in. wide, with a raised seam 2 in. high on both sides. It's available in any color you want and has a Kynar finish that's similar to Teflon. The company will work with you and help you any way they can. You do need a forklift on hand to unload as the crates of roofing are quite heavy.

"By installing the roofing myself, my cost was about the same as if I had hired someone to reroof my house with conventional roofing material. However, the quality of this roofing is absolutely great and it should last forever. It makes my house look like a million dollars. The company will send samples of the roofing material at your request."

Joseph W. Brocard, Sweet Home, Ore.: "My best buys are two **Ford** tractors - a 5610 that I bought used, and a 1520 with a 3-cyl. diesel engine that I bought new with a belly-mounted mower. Both tractors are easy to maintain."

Jeff Lang, Newport News, Va.: "My **Drill Doctor** drill bit sharpener is my best buy. It's

currently sold by Sears, Lowe's Home Improvement, and Home Depot. I bought mine at Lowe's for \$82.97 and the money was well spent. It does everything the manufacturer says it will do. After I got it home and sharpened a few bits, I couldn't stop until I had sharpened every used drill bit in my shop. It'll even sharpen broken-off bits back to like-new condition. I've probably sharpened 65 drill bits with it, ranging from 3/32 to 1/2 in., yet there is absolutely no sign of wear on the diamond grinding stone. It comes with an instructional video and is easy to use, with a good warranty.

"My **Snapper** riding mower equipped with a 10 hp Briggs & Stratton gas engine and 28-in. deck is a best buy. I'd recommend it to anyone. It does a fine job of cutting."

Steve VanDyke, Holland, Mich.: "My 1996 **Lund** 16-ft. boat is my worst buy. I bought the whole package - boat, motor, and trailer. Everything was great until last August, when the boat began taking on water in Lake Michigan due to leaks and cracks in the hull. I brought the boat back to the dealer since it had a 10-year warranty. Ever since then my boat has been back and forth between the Lund company in Minnesota and the dealer in Michigan. We've spent a lot of money on phone bills, and all we got was one story after another from the company.

"Finally last November they said the boat was repaired. They charged me \$650 and the boat had more leaks in it and looked worse than before they repaired it. The company said I had the wrong trailer, but it was the one that came with the boat package. Then they said I shouldn't use the boat in waves, yet they knew we live by the Great Lakes when they sold it to me. When I went to pick up the boat after this first so-called repair job, we noticed water dripping out of it. After bringing it to the attention of the dealer, they called the company back and were instructed to fill the boat up with water to test it, and they found 16 leaks. The boat was shipped back to Minnesota again, and they repaired it for the second time, saying they found only two leaks.

"Now the boat is ready for me to pick up and they tell me I have pay an additional \$400 for repairs. I now own a 3 1/2-year old boat that's full of patches and silicone and is practically worthless. I guess the 10-year warranty doesn't mean anything. I definitely wouldn't recommend buying a boat from this company."

Jim Kopriva, Raymond, S. Dak.: "**Dectomax** pour-on cattle wormer made by Pfizer is my best buy. It does everything the label says, and more. It not only kills worms, grubs, and lice - it also kills flies for about 45 days. The full price is about \$5 per cow (depending on her weight) which is about what it costs to feed the cow for a week. The lice are guaranteed to be gone for 240 days. This product is effective and convenient. It's absolutely the best wormer on the market.

"Silage corn sold by **Juhnke Seed Co.** is my worst buy. The seed cost about 40 percent more than the Mycogen TMF corn I had been using. It was slow and weak from the start, and short with thick stalks. Nearly every ear had smut on it. This corn just isn't suited for this far north. I didn't ask for my money back so, to be fair, it's possible the company would have stood behind its product if I had asked."

John C. Ziegler, Newton, Wis.: "My worst buy is a freestall barn and feedlot built



Harry Worrell is still using the Gravely walk-behind tractor he bought 30 years ago. He added a row marker for laying out rows in his garden.

"Ancient" Gravely Tractor Still Going Strong

When Harry Worrell bought a used but Gravely walk-behind tractor about 30 years ago, it was already old even though it hadn't been used much. He had no idea how useful it would be or how long it would last.

The tractor came with a single blade 30-in. rotary mower, a 28-in. rototiller and a rotary plow. He added a row marker for laying out rows in his garden.

Along the way he turned the old Gravely into a riding tractor by mounting a seat in front of the engine and adding a short frame and narrow spaced front wheels where front mounted tools attach to the frame. He made the front axle steerable and made steering shafts to control it.

To spot spray around buildings and fencerows, Worrell mounted a hand wand on a pto spray pump that he mounted on the tractor. He gets power to the pump from the Gravely's front power shaft with pulleys and a V-belt. He pumps from a 5 gal. bucket mounted on the left side of the tractor. As he uses up the spray mixture in the 5 gal. bucket, he refills it from a 55 gal. drum he pulls in a small trailer behind the tractor. To spray lawns or small lots, he has a front-mounted 4-ft. boom with four nozzles on it.

He also made a weed "flamer" by mounting a kerosene tank and a pto powered air compressor on his Gravely. He uses air pressure to vaporize the kerosene as it comes out the nozzle.

He's also made two dozer blades - one straight and one V-shaped - to mount on the front of the tractor. The V-blade is used just

by **Keller Structures** of Kaukana, Wis. The roof leaked from the start, and nearly all the corner posts and gate hinge posts broke out of the cement or are loose in the cement. Also, it has poor ventilation."

N. Fanno, Eagle Creek, Ore.: "We own a **New Holland** 315 baler which has done a poor job of tying bales. Every part in the knoter has been replaced twice. We solved the problem by installing an insert in the bale chute. Now it really works well."

Dexter Marsh, Ashland, Ky.: Dexter's disappointed with his **Bush Hog** disc mower. "The problem is that blades on two adjacent discs strike each other. The company's solution was to send me four blades which they had shortened up. The company rep said the blades would still hit each other if they weren't operated at maximum rpm's. However, I don't think these blades should ever strike each other under any circumstances. The mower was operated for only about 12 minutes before the blades were destroyed.



He turns the machine into a riding tractor by mounting a seat in front of the engine and adding a short frame and narrow spaced front wheels.

for snow, but he uses the straight blade for snow, dirt and maintaining his gravel driveway.

For light maintenance on his driveway, he added a brush attachment with a deflector on left side. "We've a crushed white stone driveway. With the rotary brush, the stray rock can be swept back into the tracks," he says.

He says the Gravely also comes in handy for operating a bale and ear corn elevator. He does this by fitting a pto shaft to the Gravely's front power shaft. Finally, the old Gravely also powers a walnut huller that Worrell built from concrete reinforcing rods shaped into a cylinder with a corn picker roller inside that rolls the walnut hulls off. The hulls drop through the cracks between the reinforcing rods and the walnuts feed out the bottom.

Contact: **FARM SHOW Followup**, Harry Worrell, 151 Dunn Dr., Mooresville, Indiana 46158-8684 (ph 317 831-3093).

They produced shrapnel large enough to erode the cutterbar as if it had been beaten by a heavy center punch."

Doug Stolar, Rhinelander, Wis.: Doug's impressed with his 2000 **Ford F-250** 4-WD super duty extended cab pickup with a 7.3-liter diesel engine. "I had been using a Chevy 2500 4-WD extended cab pickup with a 350 cu. in. engine. I liked the hauling capacity and feel of that pickup, but the performance of my Ford is stunning. It'll tow anything, and when I have to pass it takes off like a rocket. It averages 23 mpg, which is much better than the 15 mpg I was getting with the Chevy. Buying this pickup was one of the best moves I ever made."

Andrew Brown, Roosevelt, Okla.: Andrew's the satisfied owner of a 1987 **GM** pickup. "I drive a mail route and have put almost 300,000 miles on this pickup, with very few repairs. It still starts easy and doesn't use much oil. I think it still has a lot of miles left on it."