

made an improvement by installing a 12-volt fan in front of the radiator in addition to the clutch fan. I turn on the fan about five miles before stopping. It's especially helpful in traffic jams."

Frank Dhamers, Geneseo, Ill.: Frank bought a used Woods RM59 mower and mounted new blades on it. "It cuts as smooth as a lawn mower."

Dean Bozell, Xenia, Ohio: Dean says his 1985 Ford 6610 tractor is a "worst buy". "Not only does it lack power, but the cab is hard to get in and out of. The gas pedal has to be held down or it won't stay at one speed. The air conditioner leaks water inside the cab and the seat is uncomfortable. The stationary arms on the seat make it hard to turn around when I want to look back."

Charles Hughes, Searcy, Ark.: Charles likes his Swisher Ride King model R-32 riding lawn mower. "It has a very simple design, short turning radius, few moving parts, and is easy to operate."

George Streit, Electra, Texas: George nominates his Deutz-Allis 7145 tractor as a "best buy". "It has great fuel economy, lugging power, and comfort. I love the air-cooled engine. However, the hydraulic system could be improved."

John Wildermuth, Geneseo, Ill.: A 1990 Deere 622 AMT heads John's "best buy" list. "It works great for many errands and is especially handy for checking hogs farrowed out on pasture. Lets me drive right by the houses and look in to see if the sows have farrowed. Works well in mud and will even go on top of snowdrifts. It's very comfortable to ride and it's easy to step on and off. I also use it to do clean up work in the farrowing pasture."

On the negative side, John's unhappy with a fiberglass sawblade called the Handi-Disc sold by Sears. "It's supposed to cut wood, metal, cement, etc., without wearing out. However, it didn't even work well on plywood and wouldn't hold its shape or cut straight."

Rodger Geisick, Wiggins, Colo.: "It has plenty of power and capacity and threshes grain clean," says Rodger, pleased with his 1989 Case-IH 1680 Axial Flow combine.

Allen Baugh, Glendale, Ky.: Allen's impressed with his 1989 Deere 9500 com-

"It has plenty of power and capacity and threshes grain clean."

bine that has more than 500 hours. "It works so much better than other combines we've owned, including a rotary combine, that we couldn't believe it. It can be adjusted easier in the yard than other combines can be adjusted in the field. We're seed producers so we think we know good harvesting results when we see them. Soybeans harvested by this combine run from 88 to 90% of total delivered weight put in the bag to sell. This is true even though our crop is custom cleaned by a conditioner that's equipped with gadgets such as a gravity table."

Robert H. Adam, Wilcox, Neb.: Robert isn't happy with his 1986 Jacobsen riding lawn mower. "It turns too wide and the right side often doesn't cut at the same height as the left side which results in an uneven mowing job. The height adjustment is too limited. The first and second notches are too low to be of any use and the fourth notch

isn't high enough to cut weeds. I made a shorter clevis that raises the front of the mower deck about an inch so it can cut higher. Our model has a rear bagger attachment that's difficult to take on and off and plugs up easily in heavy grass."

Larry Richard, Horace, N. Dak.: A 1990 Westfield TR 80 grain auger, 10 in. in dia. and 61 ft. long, rates as Larry's "best buy". "It's well designed. It's equipped with a swing hopper that can be operated from both sides and a hydraulic lift that allows easy movement from bin to bin."

"My Micro-Trak 3000 spray controller is also a best buy. It's extremely accurate and has simplified my spraying operation."

Ron Crighton, Sidney, Mont.: "My 1989 Honda 5 hp gas motor always starts, even in temperatures down to 40 degrees below zero. I use it to pump water from my well all year long."

Dwayne Nelles, Wapella, Sask.: "It has a good cab and the foot throttle makes it easy to operate," says Dwayne, whose 1990 Deere 2955 2-WD tractor equipped with an Allied 700 front-end loader has nevertheless had some problems. "The rear window doesn't close tight and the gear shift levers are noisy. Sometimes the viscous fan doesn't cut in like it should. There's no oil pressure gauge or pyrometer, and I wish it had a full power shift transmission."

Mark Shain, Willard, Wis.: Mark's had problems with Goodyear Dyna Torque II biasply rear tractor tires. "They were marked as 15.5 by 38 tires, but they measured only 13 in. across the tread. The short bar/long bar design doesn't allow the tire to clean out and prevents good traction and pulling ability. I'd have just as much horsepower hitting the ground with a bald tire. We replaced them with another brand that has performed better."

Mark's pleased with his Buick LeSabre Limited. "I enjoy driving this car. It's fuel efficient, very comfortable, and has plenty of power. The engine is matched to a great transmission and I like the body style."

Lewis Pittmann, Oakesdale, Wash.: Lewis is pleased with his Deere 175 riding lawn mower, but says it could use one improvement. "They should add more weight on the front end like we did because the front end is too light. It's a problem when the grass bag gets full and you're on hilly slopes."

Jack Gilleland, La Jara, Colo.: A 1990 Polaris 650 snowmobile equipped with a 141-in. long track is Jack's "best buy". "It performed above all my expectations. I've never seen another snowmobile that can match it. It has excellent flotation, acceleration, and hill climbing ability."

LaJuana Solomon, Colorado City, Texas: "It has 15,000 miles and hasn't been back to the dealer for repairs yet," says LaJuana about her "best buy" 1991 Ford Explorer XLT 4-WD.

Richard Andrews, Arvada, Colo.: "It produces a true, uniform cut and the engine has plenty of power and is quieter than some other brands," says Richard, whose 1987 Craftsman 16 hp riding lawn mower has nevertheless had some problems. "It should have a rear pto. The front axle tilt range is too restricted. This causes a loss of rear traction on terrain where the front wheels leave the ground. The battery is too small - it should have a standard auto battery like the one I installed. It fits okay and is more reliable. Another problem is that the choke cable control runs through the battery housing. Battery acid corrodes the cable and causes the choke to stick."

Vern Krueger, Erie, Colo.: Vern likes his 1991 Sunflower Follow King 3000 tillage implement equipped with 26-in. blade sweeps. "I've used it on 200 acres of fallow ground. It leaves the ground level and pulls easier than my 6-ft. blade did. It's easy to adjust the depth control and once it's adjusted it stays in the ground and doesn't plug up in trash. It's built sturdy and transports well. A much needed machine for dryland farming."

"My worst buy is my 1981 Case 4490 4-WD tractor. The engine runs fine but the hydraulic system quits after it warms up. Another problem is that the 3-pt. hitch won't stay up. I have to hold the hydraulic levers in position 90% of the time. When I try to shift, the power shift transmission will almost stop, then jerks forward. If my grandson is riding along with me he'll say 'grandpa, don't do that'. It's hard to explain to a 2 1/2-year-old that's the best Case can do to repair it."

Richard Jennings, Tazewell, Tenn.: "My 1990 Chevrolet Silverado 2-WD shortbed pickup is a best buy. The 350 cu. in. V-8 fuel-injected engine has excellent power and has great fuel economy compared to my other three Chevrolet trucks. The sound system is excellent - my daughter loves it. Chevrolet has come into the 20th century with this truck."

"My Case-IH 6-ft., 10-in. disc mower is the worst new product I've bought from

"Chevrolet has come into the 20th century with this truck"

Case-IH in several years. The shoes that carry the cutting discs are built from such poor quality metal that they wore out after cutting 40 acres. I replaced them with new shoes reinforced with T-1 steel, but then the discs cracked all to pieces due to the poor quality metal. I understand that New Idea makes this mower for Case-IH. I've worked more on this new mower than I did on my old haybine."

Kevin Shopper, Mexico, Mo.: Kevin's happy with his 1989 Deere 240 riding lawn mower equipped with a 48-in. deck, but says it has some problems. "The standard transmission shifts smooth on-the-go and the 14 hp Kawasaki engine has plenty of torque. However, the two-piece belt shields on the mower deck tend to catch grass. The old one-piece style kept the drive belt cleaner and running cooler which resulted in longer belt life and less maintenance. I wish the headlights would shine on the mower deck area."

Ray Rose, Gadshill, Ontario: Ray's had good luck with his 1989 Deere 2555 tractor. "It starts easy, shifts smooth, is fuel efficient, and a pleasure to drive. It's got 500 hours with no major problems."

"We've also had good luck with our 1985 Deere 330 baler. It makes neat, solid bales under most field conditions."

James Benschoff, Summerhill, Penn.: James's "worst buy" is his 1985 GMC 4-WD 1/2-ton pickup equipped with a 305 cu. in. V-8 engine and automatic transmission. "It ran great until the fall of 1989 when it started to lose power and fuel economy. We took it to a large GM dealership and left it there for three days. They rebuilt the carburetor and replaced several pollution devices

for about \$400. It seemed to run better for a while, but in less than two weeks it started losing power again. I called the dealer and was told to bring it back for another look. They were going to bill me for looking at it again. I said no thanks. I put up with the power loss and poor fuel economy until that fall when I made an appointment with the dealer who had sold me the pickup. I told him what had happened before. He kept the pickup for two days. This time the bill was about \$250. When I got the pickup back it seemed to run better, but after about two weeks it lost power again. I went back to the dealer and was finally told by the shop foreman that when this engine gets 45,000 to 50,000 miles it runs this way and can't be fixed. They said there was nothing they could do for me. You can bet this is the last GM truck or car I'll ever buy."

James says his 1990 White American 80 4-WD tractor is a "best buy". "We were finishing potato harvesting when the clutch went out of our Oliver 1550 tractor. Our dealer immediately picked up the 1550 for repairs and dropped off the new White tractor. We had a record amount of rain in 1990. Never having used a 4-WD tractor before I could hardly believe what we were able to go through. If not for this tractor we'd have lost part of our cabbage crop."

John Kamm, Oxford, Mich.: A 1983 Bolens 14 hp lawn mower heads John's "best buy" list. "The mower deck has a three-blade design that puts stress on the bearings, and the drive pulley setup on the deck needs to be redesigned."

Howard Luhr, Metaline Falls, Wash.: "My 1989 Deere MFWD 1450 tractor equipped with a Deere model 100 front-end loader is a best buy. It has 900 hours and so far I've been very pleased with it. It's real economical on fuel."

Richard Davis, East Helena, Mont.: A 1989 Dodge Spirit equipped with a 2.5-liter engine is Richard's "best buy". "It has 28,000 miles with no problems and gets 37 mpg."

Tom McGhee, Arnold, Mo.: "My best buy is a 24 by 36-ft. Morton building. It's built very well. Some paint fell off one door frame but the company fixed it."

"My Stihl Woods Boss 028 chain saw always starts and runs good. It's a best buy."

Harold Wepler, Morse, Sask.: "It makes the best round bales on the market," says Harold, owner of a 1988 Deere 430 round baler. "It's simple to operate and requires little maintenance."

"My 1984 Deere 7721 pull-type combine is also a best buy. It does a good job, is easy to adjust, has lots of capacity, and holds its value."

On the negative side, "The feeder chains on my 1989 New Holland 358 mix mill were installed backward. The mill's engage pin sometimes flies out under a load. The dealer couldn't fix it. Ever since Ford took over New Holland the quality has been poor."

"My 1986 Case-IH 5600 cultivator is also a worst buy. Two sets of shanks had to be replaced and the wing lift binded and fell down, bending the axle. The wing lift hold-up tower tore out of the frame and left hoses dragging. The walking beam axles had to be rebuilt twice."

Harry Franklin, Wakefield, Quebec: A 1988 Deere AMT 600 head's Harry's "best buy" list. "This is the most useful purchase I've made in a long time. The 4-ft. long, 4-ft. wide, 10-in. deep box can easily

(Continued on next page)