

runs economically, has excellent visibility, and rides well for a small pickup."

**B. Neufeld, Rose Prairie, British Columbia:** "My best buy is my Stihl 038 AV chain saw which I use to cut firewood."

**Samuel Noel, Abbeville, La.:** "It rides and performs like no other 4-WD tractor I've ever driven," says Samuel, happy with his 1988 Versatile 876. "The company has simplified maintenance on this tractor without sacrificing quality. I regret that Ford changed the color scheme on this beautiful tractor. Ford blue is flat out ugly and I feel will hurt their sales."

**M. Jarina, Bagdad, Fla.:** His "best buy" is a 1988 Stihl model 028 chain saw. "I've owned it for more than 10 years but it still fires up on the first or second pull. Performance and reliability are outstanding."

**Robert Johnston, Milan, Ill.:** "If all your corn is lying flat on the ground this product will help," says Robert, whose Kelderman down corn reel has nevertheless had some problems. "In standing corn, the reel tends to bend the stalks forward and increases losses at the header. The reel can be raised up, but it takes two men and a boy to do it. A hydraulic reel lift would be a good idea."

On the "best buy" side, Robert nominates his 1988 Mirafount model 3330 cattle waterer. "A cold snap last winter made me a believer. The waterer worked great, even during temperatures of -10° and wind chills in the -30 to -50° range. There's no wiring, no heating elements, no power bills, and it has enough capacity so cattle can drink their fill without waiting."

**Anton Zabolotny, Kildeer, N. Dak.:** Anton likes his Artsway 475 grinder-mixer. "I was so pleased with the old one that I traded for a new one."

He also likes his 1989 Kongskilde grain vacuum.

**Rick Gilmore, Beeville, Texas:** "I wouldn't recommend that anyone buy this lawn tractor," says Rick, unhappy owner of a 1987 Craftsman 38-in., 10 hp model. "It won't hold a charge, doesn't seal out moisture, the starter locks up constantly, and the mower belts and the governor keep breaking."

**Tom Luebke, Mayer, Minn.:** "It's an all-around handy machine," says Tom, pleased with his 1987 Bobcat model 440B skidsteer loader. "I use it to haul feed, load manure, and clean snow off sidewalks. It costs less to operate than a tractor."

**Erling Olson, Maddock, N.D.:** "It's a great buy," says Erling about the 1982 AMC Concord automobile which he bought used in 1984 with 46,000 miles on it. Now it has 240,000 miles. "The engine has never been touched and the 258 cu. in. 6-cyl. engine gets 20 to 24 mpg."

**John Spreser, Jennings, Kan.:** John likes steel farrowing huts made by Farrow Rite Equipment (Rt. 2, Box 634, Lamar, Mo. 64759). "I've tried several other commercial farrowing huts and junked all of them. These huts are state-of-the-art, reasonably priced, and well made. They do the job of modern confinement facilities at a fraction of the cost."

**Lynwood Crary, Norwich, Conn.:** "I'm extremely pleased with my 1987 Ford-New Holland 4610 and 1985 7710 tractors."

"I also like my Ford-New Holland 411 discbine. It has a wider cutting swath and faster ground speed than the New Holland 478 haybine which I previously owned and cuts my mowing time almost in half. It certainly proved itself in this year's wet and tangled crop."

**Brian Miller, Monroeville, Ohio:** "This tractor will pull anything. It's unstoppable," says Brian, pleased owner of a 1980 Steiger

**"This tractor will pull anything. It's unstoppable."**

PTA 325 Panther. "We pull a 13-shank Soil Saver as deep as it will go, but this tractor plays with it like it was a toy."

**Dwight Jackson, Manila, Ark.:** Dwight's "best buy" is his 1987 Deere 9950 cotton picker. "We picked 3,500 bales of cotton before we spent a dime on it."

Dwight's had bad luck with a 1/2-in. drive impact wrench made by Universal Tools. "After a few hours of use it quit working. I replaced it with another one but the same thing happened again."

**Jerry Gardner, Alliance, Neb.:** Jerry's "best buy" is his Dew-Eze flatbed pickup box equipped with hydraulic round bale handling equipment. "We use it to handle all of our round bales, from the time they're moved off the field until they're fed to our 500 cows. We've had no problems in three years of use. It saves a lot of labor."

**Troy Owens, Elba, Alberta:** "I've been very disappointed with the fuel efficiency," says Troy about his "worst buy" 1987 Dodge Ram 150 pickup. "The window sticker claimed 17 to 21 mpg but the very best I've gotten has been 13.8 mpg. We've taken it back for service several times, but nothing they've done has helped at all."

**Maurice Ferguson, Lancaster, S.C.:** A 1988 Ford XLTF-150 Lariat 4 by 4 is at the top of Maurice's "best buy" list. "I've put on about 23,000 miles in 10 months and never had a single problem. Great comfort and performance, excellent mileage."

**Lester Burch, Wilburton, Okla.:** "We baled 2,000 tons of hay with it last year without any problems," says Lester, pleased with his Deere 2955 baler.

Lester's "worst buy" is his 1988 Chevrolet 454 1-ton pickup. "We've replaced the clutch (twice), speedometer cable, fuel injectors, and switch for the dual tanks, and the heater quit. The engine accelerates and slows down even when you're not touching the accelerator pedal."

**John Plathe, Bellingham, Minn.:** "I'm really sold on it," says John, pleased with his 1988 Edstrom drip cooling system (Edstrom Co., 819 Bakke Ave., Waterford, Wis. 53185). "I purchased it in mid-June 1988 and it couldn't have been better timing because we had severe heat all summer long. The cooling system cut the losses in my farrowing barn to a minimum, and sows came out of the crate in much better shape than I could have hoped for. I'm now considering adding another in my nursery."

**Francis Oline, Carpenter, Wyo.:** "This is the biggest lemon Chevrolet has ever produced," says Francis, unhappy owner of a 1988 Chevrolet 1/2-ton 4-WD Silverado pickup equipped with a 4-speed automatic transmission with overdrive. "Lots of things either blew up, broke, or were no good. The odometer was set too slow, the sensor and cable on the front-wheel drive failed, the gear shift selector broke twice, a seat belt broke, the front shock absorbers went out, the pressure return valve on the front wheel drive fluid hose failed and sprayed oil all over the inside of the hood and engine, the fuel filter plugged up, the rear shocks leaked, antifreeze leaked on top of the engine, and

the turn signal lights keep blinking. The transmission went out twice, and the second time it happened I was 500 miles from home. The factory wouldn't do anything, but the dealer fixed almost everything while it was still under warranty. Otherwise it runs and rides well and gets fair to good gas mileage."

On the positive side, "My 1988 12-ft. wide Fuerst flexible tine harrow works great for smoothing wheat grass pasture, breaking up cow chips, and picking up loose wire and string. It disturbs the soil enough to keep it from blowing."

**Steven Ortner, Wakeman, Ohio:** "My 1989 Chevrolet S-10 Blazer 4 by 4 is definitely one of the best purchases I've ever made," says Steven. "It drives great and rides like a dream. The 4.3 liter V-6 engine has plenty of power and still gets 20 mpg. The shift-on-the-fly 4-WD is probably the nicest feature. It's rated to tow 5,000 lbs. sustained."

**Russell Pennock, Kewanee, Ill.:** Russell's "best buy" is his 1989 Belarus 611 tractor. "I'm sure I would have been more reluctant and more apprehensive about buying this tractor if I hadn't seen some favorable comments about Belarus tractors in FARM SHOW," reports Russell. "It has a truly comfortable seat and does everything well and economically. Dealer service has been excellent."

**Lloyd Powell, Morenci, Mich.:** "The garage has had this car more than we have," says Lloyd, unhappy with his 1986 Oldsmobile 98 Regency. "They've installed three new cruise controls, a main sensor, a new transmission, a new power steering unit, and turned the brake rotors twice. I notified General Motors but they didn't do anything about it. We previously owned two Oldsmobile 98 diesel cars and never had a problem with them, but we won't buy another Oldsmobile."

**Lloyd H. Christ, Jr., Holley, N.Y.:** Lloyd's "best buy" is his 1988 Stan-Hay direct seeder. "I direct seed my cabbage seedbed and also direct seed in the field. This is the best precision planter I've ever used. It doesn't waste any seeds."

On the minus side, "I had all kinds of problems with the cab and air conditioner on my 1986 Ford TW-15 4-WD tractor. I traded it in on another 1988 TW 15 which works fine."

**Garrett Guard, Lebanon, Ohio:** "It's easy to put in 16-hour days with this tractor," says Garrett, happy owner of a 1984 Deere 4650 equipped with powershift transmission, mechanical front wheel drive, and radial tires. "It has lots of power, excellent traction, and the cab provides excellent visibility and a quiet ride. It has 4,500 hours

**"It's easy to put in 16-hour days with this tractor."**

on it, but I haven't spent one dollar on repairs."

A 1989 Chevrolet 3/4 ton diesel pickup equipped with an automatic transmission heads Garrett's "worst buy" list. "Three weeks after delivery a head cracked, leaking oil into the cylinder. The oil pressure gauge didn't work so the engine ran dry and threw a rod. Two weeks later the transmission went out. The warranty covered it but there was a major hassle because they said it was my fault. It's only half the truck with

half the room as my previous Ford."

**Moore Ranch, Carpinteria, Calif.:** "Our Weed Badger is a best buy. It has many hours of use without a single problem other than normal wear on the cultivating tines."

"Our worst buy is our 1984 Ferrari 95RS tractor. The dealer sold it to us with a front-end loader and high flotation tires. The front end developed numerous and repeated stress-related problems. Ferrari no longer sells the tractor set up this way. The tractor doesn't live up to the manufacturer's claims for hillside use. In general, this piece of equipment isn't suited to daily on-farm use. It requires extensive maintenance and expensive parts that are sometimes difficult to get."

**Mark Ries, Goodwin, S. Dak.:** "My best buy is my 1988 New Idea 3622 manure spreader. Manure doesn't freeze to it even in -30° below temperatures. Manure in my Case-IH 540 manure spreader sometimes froze up to 6 in. thick."

Mywell Douglas, Creswell, N.C.: "This tool is the best thing we've ever pulled to crush clods on our tough, gumbo clay soil," says Mywell, pleased with his Brillion 15-ft. Cultimulcher equipped with front and rear rollers. "It's built strong. I recommend this tool for hard-to-work soils."

**Thomas Mills, McClelland, Penn.:** "My worst buy is my 1986 Sears 10 hp riding tractor. The throttle constantly slips and it has broken down several times. The last time it broke it took Sears two months to fix it."

**Phil Nalley, Lincoln, Neb.:** "It makes a tight, water-repellant bale that resists spoilage," says Phil about his "best buy" 986 Deere 530 round baler. "The in-cab monitor makes it easy to build a nice, even bale. The neighbors comment on how well the bales look even after they're a year or two old."

**Willie White, Blakely, Ga.:** Willie has had trouble with his 1986 GMC High Sierra pickup. "The brakes squeal every time I touch them. The dealer has tried to repair them twice without success. Now he tells me I'll have to live with it."

**Buster Griffin, Sheridan, Wyo.:** "My 1988 Oldsmobile 88 Royal rides and handles great. The V-6 fuel injected engine has lots of snap which helps a lot in our hills. Great mileage at 30-33 mpg."

**Pat Walker, Tulelake, Calif.:** Pat's "best buy" is his New Holland 1116 swather-windrower. "It's comfortable, easy to operate, and requires little maintenance. It takes the wear and tear out of cutting and conditioning our 200-plus acres of alfalfa and makes the job fun again."

**Mike Routson, Weiser, Idaho:** Mike nominates his 1988 New Holland 451 mower ranks as his "best buy". "It allows me to mow faster and cheaper than with a swather because I can use a smaller tractor. Hay dries faster because it's uncrimped and not in rows. Breakdowns are fewer and repair costs are lower than with a swather. It's also easy to operate."

**Todd Thompson, White Cottage, Ohio:** A 1986 Krone 151 round baler heads Todd's "best buy" list. "It always builds tight and uniform bales, is very simple to operate, has relatively few moving parts and is trouble-free."

**Frank Ziegwied, Deer Park, Wa.:** Frank's "best buy" is his 1987 Deere 317 riding lawn mower. "It starts good, handles well, has many good safety features, and

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