

wheel assist the tractor can turn short. When we're spraying or planting we operate the engine at about 1,600 rpm's and use just under two gallons of diesel per hour. The cab is quiet and comfortable and has good lighting for spraying at night. We had a few minor problems with the tractor which the dealer took care of under warranty. I priced **Deere 7400** and **Case-IH 5250** tractors before I bought it and found that the New Holland model cost considerably less money."

John Turchet, Stauffer, Alberta: "My 1994 **New Holland 488** haybine I've bought from the company. The first one is 17 years old and I still use it. It was a great machine and so naturally we bought another one. However, this one has needed new idler sprockets, a new wobble box, and worst of all, a new conditioning roll. The original one broke after only 300 acres. The dealer was great and after much fighting the company finally agreed to pay for a new roll. I wouldn't have been so upset if the company had used quality parts to begin with, but many of the parts were junk. The conditioning rolls were defective, and it's been a problem on other machines in our area. The company should have admitted the problem and paid for the repair cost without question. It'll be a long time before I'll buy from them again."

John E. Crooks, Horace, N. Dak.: John's the owner of three 1996 **Deere 9500** combines and says they're all "best buys". "They're beautiful machines to operate and do a great job when they're not in a real heavy crop. When they're pushed hard, they tend to throw grain over the straw walkers. Another problem is that after extended use the splines on the wobble box sickle drive wear down and tend to vibrate. To solve the problem you have to replace the entire wobble box. Overall, these combines are highly reliable and have a high resale value. I bought three identical models because parts, repairs, maintenance, and training are easier when all combines are the same."

Mervyn A. Plummer, Clarksburg, Ontario: "I think my 1992 **Deere 2555** is the best tractor the company ever made. I use it to pull an 8-ft. offset disk on heavy clay soil. It's a fuel efficient tractor. I ran the disk 6 in. deep and covered four acres in one hour, yet I used only 2 1/2 gal. of fuel."

"I also like my **Deere 5400** tractor equipped with a shufflesift transmission. It has a quiet engine with a lot of power, and it turns short."

"My **Deere 435** round baler never lets me down. I use it in my custom baling business."

"My 1995 **Dodge 4-WD** truck equipped with a diesel engine, automatic transmission, and super cab is a best buy. It's fuel efficient and has a differential with a 3.5:1 ratio. On one trip I went 55 mph and averaged 46 mpg. Even when I used it to pull my 26 1/2-ft. recreational vehicle, I got more than 20 mpg. It's the best truck I've ever owned."

Tim Louwagie, Cottonwood, Minn.: "It starts good all year long and has a lot of power," says Tim about his 1990 **Case-IH 1840** skid steer loader. "We've put more than 3,500 hours on it with only minor problems."

Weldon Martz, Wilton, Iowa: "Four years ago I bought an **International 1460** combine that had been burned. I rebuilt it and now it's a wonderful machine."

Robert Harris, Leavenworth, Kan.: A 1997 16-ft. **W-W** bumper stock trailer rates as Robert's "best buy" (Finten Co., Hwy.

59, East Atchison, Mo.). "I like the way it pulls - it doesn't bounce around like some other trailers do. Also, it's built heavier than some other brands I looked at. It has heavier-built axles so it can carry more weight."

Bill Leffler, Americus, Kan.: Bill's the satisfied owner of a 1995 **Case-IH 7210** front wheel assist tractor. "It's a very fuel efficient tractor with a lot of traction and lugging power. Also, the cab has good visibility and well-located controls."

On the negative side, he lists his **DMI 4250** dual placement applicator. "The applicator itself is a good product. However, the company changed from a ground-driven piston pump design to a new style which has been a disaster for us. The company realized it was a poor design and changed it on later models, but they wouldn't stand behind our machine. We have to rebuild the pump at least once a year just to keep it going. There isn't even a slide rule or chart that we can use to set it by. We offered to

"We have to rebuild the pump at least once a year just to keep it going."

pay for part of the cost to make it right, but the company refuses to do anything about it."

Ralph Van Sickle, Emporia, Kan.: An **M & W Gear 20** hp riding mower equipped with a 62-in. front-mounted deck rates as Ralph's "best buy". "It distributes the cut grass evenly without windrowing it and has enough power to cut even heavy grass. By pulling two pins I can set the deck upright which makes it easier to clean and sharpen the blades."

Chuck Olsen, Monroe, Wis.: Chuck's happy with his 1993 **Deere 1219** mower-conditioner. "It runs quiet and is designed so that it's easy to adjust the skids and swath width. Very little maintenance is required."

On the minus side, "My 1993 **Parmiter SR52** silage bale wrapper for big square or round bales is my worst buy. The quality of the bale silage it produces is excellent. It's made in England and my machine is only one of two in the U.S., so before I bought it I asked about parts availability. I was told there were enough parts in Normal, Illinois, to build two machines."

"It took a year to get the operator's manual and parts book. I had trouble with the computer and they sent me a new one that was completely dead. An 'O' ring blew almost immediately after I got the machine. I ordered an 'O' ring kit from the company but I didn't get it until almost three years later. When the gearbox split I ordered a shaft and double roller chain out of the parts book. However, both the shaft and chain were too long. I never know when something is going to break or where I'll get parts."

Lloyd Walz, Vassar, Mich.: "The gas engine on our **Deere 3020** tractor was worn out so we replaced it with a new diesel engine that starts great even at temperatures down to zero and uses very little fuel. We're well satisfied with it. It made a new tractor out of an old one. Now everyone wants to drive it."

Warren Batie, Lexington, Neb.: Warren's impressed with his 1996 **Haybuster** tub grinder. "We used it the first time to grind about 70,000 bu. of high moisture corn which we put in our bunker silo. Last winter we used it to grind big round

bales of alfalfa. The governor on the tub is very sensitive and works well which makes it easy on the tractor pto."

Ray Busch, R & J Busch Farms, Ogden, Iowa: "It seemed like my wife was always using our **Polaris 300 4-wheeler** ATV when I wanted to use it, so I bought another 2-WD model. No problems with either one. I like the full floorboards and automatic transmission. I also like not having to change oil."

"My **Westendorf** loader-mounted bale spear is a best buy. I've used it to move hundreds of big bales with no problems. I like the quick tack feature on all the company's loaders and buckets."

Glen Foster, Harvey, Ark.: "My best buy is my 3 1/2-year-old **Lincoln 225-amp** welder. I've used it to make many repairs and the only part I've had to replace was the fan motor."

"I've also had good luck with my **Leyland 270** tractor which has almost 5,000 hours on it."

Thomas Perkowski, Dover, Ohio: "Our **Kawasaki Mule 2510 4-WD** utility truck is our best buy. It's powered by a 20 hp water-cooled twin 4-stroke engine and has automotive-type suspension so it handles great. It'll haul half a ton and can get me anywhere I need to go in a hurry. It's equipped with a high-low range transmission and differential lock. The engineering and construction are superb. There's not one thing I don't like about this machine."

Harold Smage, Elkhorn, Wis.: "Our 1996 **Case-IH 2166** combine has a lot of capacity, a smooth running engine, and an excellent cab. It does a good job of threshing and has top resale value."

"Our 1994 **Case-IH 950** Early Riser 12-row planter does an excellent job. It can plant at higher speeds than other brands and takes less time to fill because it has only two seed hoppers."

"Our 27-year-old **International 1456** tractor still starts good and runs sweet."

Dan Johannes, Underwood, N. Dak.: "My best buy is my **Morris Hayhiker 1400** bale mover (Morris Industries, Ltd., Box 5008, Yorkton, Sask., Canada S3N 3P2 ph 306 783-8585). It makes hauling big round bales truly a one-person job. I can load 14 bales on it in less than five minutes while traveling 4 to 6 mph, and I never have to stop. Unloading is an even faster job. Moving bales less than a half mile from field to yard, I can load, transport, and unload about 60 bales per hour by myself. I added a pressure gauge to the hydraulics for the loading fork which allows me to weigh bales as they're loaded. On several occasions the factory sent someone out to make updates to the machine free of charge."

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Donald E. Calhoun, Stockton, Ill.: A 1993 **Case-IH 7220** front wheel assist tractor is Donald's "best buy". "I like the front wheel assist and the hydraulic system. The clutch is easy to push which I also like."

"My central pneumatic 3/4-in. drive air impact wrench from **Harbor Freight** is my worst buy. It didn't have enough torque so I returned it and the company sent me a new one. But that one was just as bad as the first one, if not worse."

Steve Nielsen, Starkweather, N. Dak.: "My 1992 10-in. dia., 61-ft. long **Westfield** mechanical drive grain auger with swing hopper is my best buy. It's well built, easy to set up, reasonably priced, and virtually trouble-free."

"My 1994 **Flexicoil 37-ft.** chisel plow is my worst buy. The main problem is clearance around the wheels. The walking tandem axles are built in such a way that mud fills up on the frame and rubs against the side of the tire. Several tire sidewalls are almost worn through. The shank design is excellent, but the shanks are positioned so close to the wheels that dirt and residue can start to roll along in front which eventually causes the wheels to stop. The frame is built heavy. I don't think it'll ever break, but it's so heavy that the 9.5L tires can't support it. I've seen it sink into mud until most of the shanks are covered, even though I raised the frame all the way up. Our dealer tried to help, but the company never came to look at it even after they said they would."

Maudena Smith, Alder, Mont.: Maudena likes her **Kramer** low-cost alarm system for driveways (Kramer Enterprises, 498 190th St., Dakota City, Neb. 68731 ph 402 987-3560). It lets you know when somebody drives into your driveway. The buzzer is located in the house and sounds whenever a vehicle drives in or out. Everything you need to install the complete system yourself is included in the basic unit, which sells for \$99.50. "We have several buildings on our ranch and live 27 miles from town so it's important that we don't miss any visitors or service people. We installed four alarms at different places on our farm, and when I called the company they explained fully how the system works and told us how to set it up so that we could run all four alarms from one line using two systems. The system cost \$1,100 less than a locally-made system. Also, it works even in the coldest weather."

"Our 1992 **Deere 5300** tractor works great except for one thing. At 365 hours a hydraulic shaft quit working which caused the tractor to completely stop. The company replaced the shaft. However, it broke again with less than 1,000 hours on the tractor. We had to pay \$785 to get it replaced. The company says no one else has ever had this problem and they don't know why it happened to us. In both cases, we were using the tractor to do only very light work. We'd like to hear from anyone else who's had this problem."

Boyd Voges, Lorena, Texas: Boyd's had good luck with his 1990 **Dodge D-350** 1-ton pickup equipped with a Cummins diesel engine. "It has a 354 rear end so it pulls very well. I use it to pull a 29-ft. trailer that at times has a 20,000 to 25,000 lb. load. It has more than 213,000 miles on it with no problems."

"My 1992 **Deutz KM25** 7-ft. drum mower will cut right through fire ant mounds. I can run it as fast as I can stand to ride the tractor. I wish it cut wider, though."

Fred R. Egleston, White River, S. Dak.: Fred's happy with his 1993 **Belarus 825** tractor and **Allied 594** loader. "Both are reasonably priced and have performed well."

Bruce Londen, Kalispell, Mont.: "I'm well satisfied with my 1995 **Massey Ferguson 8570** rotary combine. We had a cool, wet spring last year which caused a month-long delay in planting. As a result we had to harvest a lot of heavy, somewhat

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