

the rear anti-lock brakes. It needed new fuel injectors at 25,000 miles. My wife calls this pickup my white lemon."

Alan McFarlin, Butler, Ill.: "My worst buy is my **Deere 3150** tractor. It has the worst transmission and hydraulics I've ever seen. A Deere mechanic told me he's seen these problems before. This tractor is a piece of junk and is doomed to fail. The company doesn't care what it costs to maintain the tractor or what I lose in trade-in value.

"The brakes on my 1989 **Chevrolet 3/4-ton** pickup don't always work right at low speeds. The company admits there's a prob-

"It has the worst transmission and hydraulics I've ever seen."

lem but, like many other problems, the all-mighty dollar dictates safety. I'm afraid to sell it to someone or even to trade it because I don't want anyone getting killed. I guess I'm stuck with it."

Dave Picklesimer, Franklin Furnace, Ohio: "In 1989 I bought a **Hesston-Fiat 55-46** tractor equipped with a front-end loader and the dealer's delivery man told me, 'Nice meeting you. We probably won't hear from you again.' He was right. I've had no problems with it at all. After 40 years of farming it's the best money I've ever spent on a tractor. I also bought a **Hesston-Fiat 100-90** tractor in 1991 and a 55-56 tractor in 1993.

"I like my two 1988 **Yamaha Big Bear ATV's**. They're hard working units. We use them for seeding, fencing, and checking on our cattle herd. We've had very few problems with them."

Alan Saathoff, Hondo, Texas: "It's built like a brick outhouse and does an excellent job," says Alan about his **Orthman** row crop cultivator. "I believe it'll last over 25 years. The only problem is that it takes a big tractor to handle it. Also, **Orthman** row markers are the finest I've ever seen."

Gary Baker, Mechanicsville, Iowa: Gary's pleased with his **Artsway 500** grinder-mixer equipped with weigh scales. "I previously owned an **Artsway 325A** grinder-mixer and bought the 500 because it has a longer hydraulic unloading auger. The grinder-mixer works perfectly and the hydraulic unloading auger makes unloading feed into a bulk bin an effortless job. The weigh scale lets me program in rations so that I don't have to memorize everything. It's a 4-ton mixer so I can fill my bulk bins with only one batch."

Warren D. Wing, Newkirk, Okla.: "My best buy is my 1995 **Snapper** hydrostatic drive 42-in. riding mower. It's easy to handle and has power to spare. I really like the hydrostatic drive. It's easy to find a speed that's suitable for existing mowing conditions. So far it's been maintenance-free and economical to operate."

R.S. Burrow, Wilson, Texas: He's happy with his 1995 **Chevrolet Suburban 4-WD**. "It has over 25,000 miles and has been back to the dealer only once for repair work on the air conditioner.

"My 1990 **Dodge Ram** charger 4-WD pickup is my worst buy. The only good thing on it is the engine. The dealer had to work on almost everything else. It was in the shop so many times that I lost count, and the last time it was there for a month. I had an extended warranty on it but the company still wouldn't pay for the repair costs (it had

60,000 miles). As soon as I got it out of the shop I sold it for almost nothing just to get rid of it. I'll never buy a Chrysler product again."

Paul Hurst, Elreno, Okla.: Paul's impressed with **BioRite** which he uses to dissolve solid manure in his liquid manure pit (Solidex Technologies, Inc., 4758 West 950 South, Kewanna, Ind. 46939, ph 219 857-2041). "I've fought solids, crust, and buildup problems in my pit for years. The first few loads I hauled out of the pit were always nothing but water, but since I've been using **BioRite** it looks more like homogenized manure. I never dreamed it could happen.

"**BioRite** is a powder that comes in a 1-lb. package and sells for \$19.95. You mix it with water, then simply dump it into the pit. I use about one third of a package per application in my 10,000-gal. pit. Whenever we used to empty the pit we always had about 2 ft. of solid manure left at the bottom, but now we're able to empty out all the manure which increases pit capacity and therefore saves time. We had been cleaning out the pit every seven days or so, but now we can wait 9 or 10 days before we have to empty it out."

Jerry L. Cornforth, Cremona, Alberta: Jerry nominates his 1992 **Mazda B2200** pickup as his "best buy". "It has over 125,000 miles on it with no problems. It doesn't use any oil and gets 30 to 35 mpg. It doesn't have any rust and the Bridgestone tires last a long time. When it's washed up it's a very nice looking little pickup."

David Schlies, Denmark, Wis.: "It has unmatched capacity and reliability," reports David, pleased with his 1990 **Gehl 1060** forage harvester. "Last year one man using three wagons couldn't even keep up with it although we were only one mile from our silo.

"My 1995 **Hesston 1160** 14-ft. mower-conditioner goes right through heavy crops and leaves a uniform windrow that dries quickly. I'd buy both the **Gehl** and **Hesston** machine again without thinking about it."

Lowell Crabb, Kingsley, Iowa: Lowell's impressed with his 1994 **Deere 550** Mulch Master tillage implement. "I bought it in order to comply with government programs. The first time I used it to kill an alfalfa field and it worked great. After that I mounted a 300-gal. tank on it so that I can incorporate **Treflan** in one pass. The only problem is that it takes a lot of power. However, considering the work it does, that's okay."

Carl Scheuerman, Dolores, Colo.: Carl's "best buy" ever is his 1965 **Ford 3/4-ton 4-WD** pickup equipped with a 6-cyl. engine. "The engine has never been overhauled even though the pickup now has 267,000 miles on it. It's gone through three water pumps, two fuel pumps, plugs and points, tie rod ends, and one set of brakes.

"My **Hesston 6400** swather is also a best buy."

Kim Kercewich, East Alstead, N.H.: "I like my 1996 **Dodge Ram 2500** heavy-duty extended cab pickup equipped with a Cummins diesel engine. It has a lot of power, rides comfortably, and is fuel efficient - 22 mpg and still climbing as it gets broken in. It always started right up last winter even at 20 degrees below zero.

"The **Myers CT-8.5** snowplow that I use with the pickup is my worst buy. The plastic see-through blade itself works good but the push frame that mounts it on the pickup is another matter. It takes 15 to 30 minutes to hook up the snowplow and the frame has only 6 1/2 inches of ground clearance. When

I remove the plow and drive with the frame only it's constantly hitting curbs and frost heave bumps on roads."

Tom C. Thomas, Madisonville, Tenn.: A 1993 **Krone-Niemeyer** rotary hay rake rates as Tom's "best buy". "It has raked a lot of hay and been used on a lot of rough ground with no problems. It makes perfect fluffy windrows and I can use it as fast as the ride will allow at low pto rpm's. It turns wet windrows inside out."

Marshall Mangold, New Tripoli, Penn.: Marshall's impressed with his 1995 **Great Plains 10-ft. no-till drill**. "It does a good job of placing seed and is easy to adjust. Optional weight racks make it easy to get good soil penetration in tough soil conditions. However, it could use a better paint job. I keep the drill inside a shed but the paint job on the wheels, cast disc openers, and under the rear platform is poor and rust is beginning to show. In places the paint comes off in sheets."

Jack Robson, Deleau, Manitoba: "My best buy over the past few years is my 1986 **Massey-Ferguson 3545** tractor. After over 4,000 hours of use we've spent only about \$4 on parts for a set of alternator brushes. The tractor is well balanced and handles all loads easily and economically.

"Our **Ford New Holland 9030** bi-directional tractor equipped with a loader is a best buy as is our **New Holland 116** haybine. Both do a good job with minimal maintenance."

On the negative side, he's had problems with his **Tonutti 10-wheel 3-pt. V-rake**. "It just won't turn over a 16-ft. windrow without bunching and lumping. After just a few hours of use there's so much play in the adjustment locks that it's virtually unusable."

Bobby J. Hardy, Jr., Hull, Ga.: "In 1978 we bought a **Vermeer 504C** round baler. We used it for 11 years in all kinds of

"It just won't turn over a 16-ft. windrow without bunching and plugging."

conditions and all we replaced were two bearings in the belt rollers and a couple of slip clutches. We had the belts re-laced twice and when it left our farm in 1989 it still had the original belts. We traded it in for a **Vermeer 504I** round baler which is also a best buy. **Vermeer** balers are simple to work on and parts are easy to get.

"My two 1978 **Ford** trucks are both best buys. I think 1978 and 1979 **Ford** trucks were some of the best trucks **Ford** ever made. Both of mine still run great. I'd like to hear from other readers who own these trucks."

Clarence D. Drewry, Plymouth, Wis.: "I had problems with the 33 vinyl clad **Anderson** windows that I had installed in my farm house. After a few years two of the windows developed cracks in the vinyl on the sill. That's when I found out that the vinyl was warranted for only one year."

Ernest Wagner, Delta, Ohio: "My best buy of all time is my **Power King** garden tractor which I bought 20 years ago. Every year we've used it to rototill an acre and to mow another acre. Not long ago someone asked me if I ever had any problems getting parts for it. I had to confess that I never needed any."

Gerald Claussen, Garwin, Iowa: "My 1994 **Agco Allis 9630** tractor works great

but has had a lot of minor problems. The company and dealer have been slow to act on warranty work.

"My **Gehl 1875** baler makes good bales. It's well built."

Alfred Grabofsky, Loring, Mont.: "It rides comfortably and has a lot of power," says Alfred, pleased with his 1993 **Ford F-150 4-WD** pickup equipped with a 302 cu. in., V-8 fuel-injected engine.

"My **Westfield 10-in. dia., 61-ft. long** grain auger is a real grain eater. It has hydraulic lift so it's easy to set up and take down."

Jeff Custer, San Pablo, Calif.: Jeff's disappointed with his 1987 **Ford Ranger STX** extended cab pickup. "The 2.9-liter 6-cyl. engine is gutless and gets only 14 to 18 mpg, and the fuel injection is unreliable. The cab has tilt steering and air conditioning and comfortable air-supported seats. However, this pickup doesn't live up to **Ford's** reputation. Mechanically it's unreliable."

Oren C. Pinkley, Fredericktown, Mo.: "My best buy is my 12-ton, low-profile log splitter made by **Speco Products** of Golden, Colo. I've used it for 12 years. It does a good job, is easy to handle, and has been virtually trouble-free."

Daniel L. Snyder, Gettysburg, Penn.: Daniel likes his 1982 **White 2-65 4-WD** tractor. "I had to put in a new clutch. No other problems."

"I like my **New Holland 846** round baler which I bought used. I've used it to make about 2,800 bales with just one bearing replacement."

William Twidwell, Frankfort, Kan.: "My 1996 **Dodge Dakota** pickup is equipped with a 318 cu. in. V-8 engine, 4-speed automatic transmission, and 3.9 rear end ratio. This power combination produces a real runner yet it still gets 20 mpg on the highway. It's a well-built pickup."

Robert Lee Mollenhauer, Bison, Okla.: "One of my best buys of all time is my 1969 **Deere 4020** tractor. I still use it.

"My 1985 **Ford Thunderbird** is a best buy. I just traded it in for a 1997 **Buick LeSabre** which I hope will perform just as well.

"My 1994 **Ford F-150** pickup equipped with an extended cab pickup and 302 cu. in. engine has been trouble-free. It has 31,000 miles on it.

"On the worst buy side I'm disappointed with my **Deere 175** hydro lawn mower equipped with a **Kawasaki** engine. The body of the air cleaner warped at 20 hours. I had to buy an entire new air cleaner - element and all. It wouldn't start in cool weather until I put an electric fuel pump on it and gave it a little ether. The idler bearings, which were made in Hungary, were poor.

"My 1979 **Datsun** pickup got only 18 to 23 mpg. It burned oil and the exhaust valve seats came out at about 65,000 miles so I had to overhaul the engine.

"My **Sears Craftsman 9-in.** hand grinder was a piece of junk. The armature fell apart but the company wouldn't even provide a cost estimate on a new one before sending it so I put it in the junk where it belongs. I bought a **Sioux** grinder which I really like."

Bert Van Raay, Iona Station, Ontario: Bert's the satisfied owner of a 1995 **Krause 5215N** no-till drill equipped with 3/4-in. fluted coulters. "It does a good job of seed placement and has enough weight on front to penetrate heavy clay soil without lifting the back end of the tractor. It can be pulled by any 80 to 100 hp tractor. My only com-

Continued on next page