

comes up around him. The rest of the heat is blown directly into the warmer and onto the calf. I'd recommend it to anyone."

On the negative side, he's unhappy with a new radiator that he ordered from **CT Farm & Country**. "The box it came in said it was made in Korea."

Elmer Pinkerton, Elmwood, Neb.: "My worst buy is my 1989 **Dodge** truck. At 25,000 miles the engine had to be overhauled. The overhaul was covered by the pickup's warranty. However, when they put the oil pan, valve covers, and spark plugs back on they threaded them on only finger tight, which allowed oil to leak bad. I had to fix the problem myself. Now at 60,000 miles, with the pickup still under warranty, it's 'drinking' oil. I removed a valve cover and found that it was full of floor sweeping compound. Apparently, the parts were on the shop floor and weren't cleaned off. They flushed the engine clean but denied there was any contamination. They accused me of trying to con them for a new engine. I'm stuck."

Dave Linstad, Porterfield, Wis.: "My **American Farm Works** 8900 electric fencer is my best buy. It works even if the fence wire gets grounded out. It doesn't burn out circuit boards like my **Premier** 110-volt fencer did during electrical storms. The Premier fencer had to be repaired twice under warranty and then twice at my own expense. It worked fine whenever the circuit boards weren't burned out, but for what I paid for it I could have bought three 8900 fencers."

Louis Vaessen, Sublette, Ill.: Louis is happy with his 1991 **Case-IH** 1660 combine. "It has a quiet cab, and the Cummins engine starts easy and has a lot of power. Repairs have been minimal and it's easy to work on."

Robert Gabriel, Endora, Kan.: "My best buy is a corn head reel designed to pick up lodged or down corn that's made by **Harv's Farm Supply** (Rt. 1, Giltner, Neb. 68841). It's mounted on my **Case-IH** 1063 corn head. Last fall it saved us about 20 bu. of corn per acre. It paid for itself in one afternoon."

"My worst buy is my 1992 **Hesston** 1014 hydroswing 14-ft. swather. It works okay under normal conditions, but heavy or damp hay gets plugged up in the auger immediately even if the crimpers rolls are removed."

Eldon Christensen, Stapleton, Neb.: Eldon likes the 1979 **Ford** 3/4-ton pickup. "Back then they still built pickups to last. We bought it for \$1,500, then had it rebuilt like new from end to end. For about \$6,500 we have a like-new pickup that doesn't have all the computers and pollution control devices on it. It runs great and pulls a trailer even better."

"My 1989 **Deere** 1600 swather is my worst buy. The crimper sidewalls are built too light. Both sides got bent and cracked. The company told us they knew it was a problem but didn't offer to help pay for the repair. This swather was built poorly. We have a **Mac Don** now."

Kenneth Breon, Hedrick, Iowa: A 1969 **Ford** 5000 tractor heads Kenneth's "best buy" list. "I bought it used with 4,000 hours on it. It now has over 8,000 hours and has never been in the shop."

"My 1986 **Ford** 8700 tractor is also a best buy. I've put 2,000 hours on it with no problems. I had the fuel injector checked once."

"My 1986 **Honda** Accord had 20,000 miles when I bought it and now has 95,000 miles. It's had only regular maintenance."

Eldon E. Gabel, Akron, Iowa: Eldon likes his 1994 **Morton** machine shed. "It's built with quality materials and construction was excellent. It should last for a long time."

"Last year I bought a **Brent** gravity wagon equipped with brakes and flashing lights. I feel a lot safer when hauling crops to the elevator in town."

Omer Laleman, Minneota, Minn.: A groundwater "furnace" made by **Earth Systems Ltd.** that uses the constant temperature of underground water to heat and cool rates as Omer's "best buy" (124 Oak St. West, Leamington, Ontario, Canada N8H 2B6). "I put it in my 1,500 sq. ft. home in 1987 and I've never had to spend a cent on repairs or had any problems with it. I get by spending less than \$300 a year for heating and cooling. I also installed a heat exchanger in my home which really keeps the windows dry in winter."

Jerry Ackermann, Lakefield, Minn.:

"I get by spending less than \$300 a year for heating and cooling."

"My **Deere** 9500 combine has outperformed all my expectations. I like it better than other International, Gleaner, and Deere models I've used in the past. I'd recommend it to anyone."

"My **Deere** 4240 tractor equipped with a front-end loader is also a best buy. It starts easily in cold weather and has plenty of power for the jobs I use it for."

Louis P. Woltz, Buffalo Junction, Va.: "My best buy is my 1990 **Ford** Ranger XLT pickup equipped with a 6-cyl. engine. It has everything on it except power windows. With over 99,000 miles it still doesn't use any oil. Rides and handles like a car."

Tom H. Bottorff, Loraine, Ill.: "I'm well satisfied with my 1994 **Ford** F-150 4-WD pickup equipped with a 6-cyl. engine and 5-speed manual transmission. It rides and drives well and has a lot of power. It's also fuel efficient and consistently gets 15 to 17 mpg. I've put 12,000 miles on it with no problems. The clear coat finish is easy to clean and looks good."

On the "worst buy" side, he lists **Firestone** ATX radial tires. "The tires were original equipment on my 1992 **Ford** F-150 4-WD pickup which I bought new. They lasted only 10,000 miles - the steel belts separated on three of the four tires. I replaced them with **B.F. Goodrich** mud terrain radial tires which I really like. They have 25,000 miles on them and I've never had a flat tire."

E.J. Mertz, Bowdle, S. Dak.: A 1994 **Gehl** 1710 round baler rates as his "best buy". "We put up over 2,500 bales every year with it. It's a super good baler. It starts easily and handles all types of hay. It's well built."

Dale Piel, Red Bud, Ill.: "My 1992 **New Holland** 520 manure spreader runs smooth and quiet. In fact, I can't even hear it running. It also does a good job of spreading. The controls are easy to operate. The hydraulic-operated endgate is also easy to operate and keeps liquid manure inside the machine. The fiberglass floor doesn't freeze in cold weather and is easy to clean. I'm well pleased with it."

"My 1993 **Wagner** 230 9-piece power painter is also a best buy. It doesn't require an air compressor. All that's needed is an

extension cord. As long as the paint is thinned correctly it does a professional job. It's easy to use and lightweight."

"I'm disappointed with my 1993 **S & H** 16-ft. gooseneck trailer. Three months after I bought it two floorboards rotted out. The company replaced them at no charge. Ten months later nine more floorboards rotted out."

Jonathan Koehn, Halstead, Kan.: "I like my 1994 **Monomixer** 1210 mixer wagon (Sioux Automation Center, Sioux Center, Iowa) which we use to feed our 58 cows. It has a capacity of 210 cubic feet and has a single 26-in. dia. auger. It's equipped with knives on the auger and on the sidewall. It also has scales. It can handle great amounts of hay. We use it to feed 23 1/2 lbs. of hay per cow, mixed with 65 lbs. of grain and silage, in two feedings. It's a low maintenance machine. It has a planetary drive for the auger with a pto-to-auger ratio of 25 to 1 and a hydraulic unloading door with a hydraulic-operated chain conveyor. It requires only a 45 hp tractor. It's a little less expensive than other comparable mixer wagons."

Robert Ingram, McArthur, Cal.: A **Pow Con** 200 amp Mig welder rates as Robert's "best buy" (PowCon Inc., 8123 Miralani Drive, San Diego, Calif. 92126). "It's a versatile machine that can be used for both stick and Mig welding. It can Mig weld up to 1/2-in. thick material. On clean metal the wire feed Mig process cuts my welding time in half because I don't have to stop to change electrodes or chip away the slag. It's a very reliable machine."

"I'm somewhat disappointed with the **Apollo** seat swivel that I purchased for our **Deere** 2940 tractor. Installing it was not a simple bolt-on procedure as I was led to believe. I had to modify nearly everything on it. But now that it's on I really like it (Apollo Industries, Box 725, Bismarck, N. Dak. 58502)."

Dana Dittbenner, Seaforth, Minn.: "I like my 1994 **Toyota** 4-WD pickup equipped with a 4-cyl. engine and 5-speed transmission. It gets 22 mpg. I previously owned a 1984 **Toyota** 2-WD pickup equipped with a 4-cyl. engine and 4-speed transmission. It got about 28 mpg and was nearly problem-free. I traded it at 130,000 miles and it's still running good for the new owner. These pickups are very reliable and economical but somewhat small for transport. I hope my 1994 model perform as well as the 1984 one. So far so good at 15,000 miles."

"I also like my 1992 **Honda** 11 hp pressure washer. It delivers 3,000 psi. I have a sand blasting nozzle for it that works well for restoring old farm equipment."

"My **Harbor Freight** 4-in. angle grinder and Harbor Freight electric impact wrench are both worst buys. They're lower priced models that have finicky switches. I wish I had spent twice as much money for better quality tools."

Russ Johns, Portland, Ore.: Russ says his 1992 **Case-IH** Cub Cadet 1020 riding mower is his "worst buy". "We started having problems with it the first year. It wouldn't hold a charge. Another problem is that when I put it in neutral it won't stay put - it creeps either forward or backward. It also backfires every time I shut it off. It took the company's service department six months to fix it. I had to replace the engine the second year for \$600. It still doesn't run worth a darn and they'll give us only \$600 toward a trade-in."

Wayne A. Stuhr, Wellton, Ariz.: A

1995 **New Holland** swather rates as Wayne's "best buy". "It works well and has had few problems."

"We're happy with our **Deere** 4955 MFWD tractor which we bought used four years ago."

Robert Inget, Ashland, Ore.: "Does anyone know why there's transmission noise in neutral and fifth gear on **Chevrolet** K-20 pickups equipped with either 4.3-liter gas engines or 6.5-liter diesel engines? Mine has rattled since 1992 when I bought the pickup new. The dealer says all of these pickups make this noise. Does anyone else have this problem?"

Nelle Myers, Shelbina, Mo.: "In 1994 I paid \$2,000 for a **Bryan** insulated outdoor furnace. I tried to use it for three months with no success at all. A candle would have put out as much heat as this furnace did. I complained to both the company and dealer that it wasn't working right but got no help from anyone. The dealer said he didn't know how to operate the furnace. So it has sat for over nine months doing nothing. I've had three people tell me that something is wrong with the damper."

Edward R. Thoenes, Parkers Prairie, Minn.: "My worst buy of all time is my **Gehl** 733 liquid manure spreader. Broken spindles and axles have been a constant problem. We finally had to replace all the axle spindles and bearings with ones made by a different company. Gehl refused to stand behind its product. The company should hire some common sense engineers."

Michael Phillips, Delmar, Del.: "My 1989 **GM** 2500 pickup is my best buy. It has over 110,000 miles with very few problems."

Paul J. Bennett, Sr., Toddville, Iowa: Paul's impressed with **Versa Teeth** loader forks designed to attach to front-end loader buckets (Fisher Mfg. Co., Box 118, New

"Broken spindles and axles have been a constant problem."

Paris, Ohio 45347 ph 800 437-7879). "The forks come with interchangeable teeth in 2, 3, 4, and 6-ft. lengths. They can be quickly attached or detached with just two pins. I like being able to use the right teeth for the job. They're shipped UPS so they're easy to buy."

Herman Hiemstra, Clarion, Iowa: "I like my 1990 **Jeep** Cherokee which I bought used three years ago. It has 123,000 miles and still doesn't use any oil. No major problems and it's less expensive than a smaller 2-WD car. It has nice leather seats. I like to drive it."

Owen Ory, Larsen, Wis.: "My best buy over the years is my 1967 **Ford** 3000 tractor. It has needed only routine maintenance. I hope my new 1995 **Ford** 1715 tractor works as good as this one."

Bill Bryan, Boonville, Mo.: Bill nominates his 1992 **Knight** 2300 silage wagon as "best buy". "We use it to feed three to four loads every day but it still shows virtually no wear. Maintenance has been limited to routine lubrication. We mix silage, grain, by-products, and small square hay bales in it. It does an excellent job chopping and mixing bales and mixes feed in only three

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