

chunks. The company wouldn't do anything about it."

A.T. Smith, Hindsville, Ark.: He likes his 1988 Ford tandem axle fertilizer and lime truck spreader equipped with a 240 cu. in. engine, 16,000-lb. front axles, and 40,000-lb. rear axles. "It does a perfect job over all kinds of terrain and doesn't use any oil."

Glenn Rooker, Tuttle, Okla.: "My 1992 Makita 7 1/4-in. power hand saw is the best balanced and smoothest running saw I've ever used. The line guides are true and the saw performs well."

George A. Hunt, Orange, Mass.: George says his 1993 Deere 3255 100 hp tractor, equipped with a Sound Gard cab, is his "best buy". "It's the first tractor we've ever had that was equipped with a heater, defroster, air conditioner, and stereo radio. We use it for plowing, harrowing, spreading manure, and chopping haylage and corn silage."

Butch Turner, Tichnor, Ark.: "In 1989 my brother and I made the worst mistake of our lives when we bought a Deere 9600 combine. It wastes more rice (over the walkers) than any other combine made. Company representatives told us to buy a new CTS model, but it costs about \$120,000. We have six Deere tractors and wouldn't buy any other brand. But Deere made a big mistake when they put the 9600 on the market and they know it. Why else would they have made the CTS so soon after they introduced the 9600? I believe Deere let us and their other customers down big time."

Eugene Hagene, Pinckneyville, Ill.: Eugene's the satisfied owner of a 1992 Hesston 1120 mower-conditioner. "It never plugs up no matter if hay is wet or dry. It's well-built and mows fast."

"Deere made a big mistake when they put the 9600 on the market and they know it."

Artie Worthington, Ayden, N.C.: Faced with the chore of cutting an acre of lawn, Artie purchased a 1989 Deere 170 gear-drive riding mower. "My only maintenance expense in 4 years has been to replace the belt on the deck."

Rich Flees, Helenville, Wis.: Rich's 1966 Deere 4020 diesel tractor, equipped with a synchro-range transmission, is at the top of his "best buy" list. "We bought it 18 years ago and have used it hard for many different jobs with no major problems. It has been overhauled twice and got one new clutch but still performs like new. It just won't give up."

Jim Schmotter, Hastings, Minn.: "It hasn't missed a beat in almost 20 years," reports Jim, pleased with his 1974 International Cub Cadet 1650 riding mower equipped with a 50-in. deck. "I use it to mow over two acres around our home and to pull a 2-wheel trailer. It just keeps on going. It's my best buy ever."

Donald E. Swank, Rossburg, Ohio: Donald likes his DR trimmer/mower. "We have a lot of plastic board fence and this mower works great for trimming around the posts."

Richard Schoen, Downs, Kan.: A 1993 Ford Crown Victoria LX car rates as Richard's "best buy". "It had a loose wire in the ignition when we took delivery of it and

died before we left town. The dealer immediately sent us home in his own car and fixed the problem. Ever since then it has operated like a dream."

Virgil Broehl, Bismarck, N. Dak.: "My Deere 525 mower is a best buy. It works good for mowing around trees and cutting along and under fences. After 105 hours of use my only maintenance expense has been to replace a belt."

Walter W. Jaster, Weyburn, Sask.: Walter's impressed with his 1993 Chevrolet Silverado K-1500 4-WD short box pickup equipped with an extended cab. "It has comfortable bucket seats with nice upholstery and there's room for five adults. The 5.7-liter engine has a lot of power. It's a great truck."

Kirk W. McLaughlin, Unadilla, N.Y.: "My Pel PE 155 Power Fencer is made in New Zealand. After I bought the fencer I had trouble getting an adequate ground established so I talked to the salesman, only to realize that his understanding of grounding and conductivity did not agree with mine. I was able to get the unit working correctly, but not the way the dealer advised me. It worked excellent for a while."

"The problem came the next year when lightning struck the fence. I had not done an adequate job of protecting the fencer from lightning. The salesman told me the fencer would probably work again if I replaced the two fuses on the input line. He didn't have the fuses in stock, but I was able to find them at a local Radio Shack store. When I took the fencer apart it was apparent that there was much more wrong with it than bad fuses."

"After discovering all the damage, I went out and replaced the fencer with one sold by a local dairy farmer. He's available 365 days a year and understands cattle. If he doesn't have parts to fix it on the spot, he'll find a way to make sure my fence stays charged until all repairs have been made. My Pel fencer worked super when it was functional, but it's only as reliable as the people who service it."

Dennis Siegle, Waconia, Minn.: "My Pressure Cure Dry bin from Custom Marketing Co., Inc., is my worst buy. I have a bin full of moldy corn because the company didn't give us specific instructions on how to operate it. I called the company representative many times for advice on how to use the temperature sensor readings. He came out when I wasn't home, without calling first. He said we could keep the fans on once the weather turned cold or wait until spring to start drying again. I decided to wait until spring."

"In February, temperatures in the bin started to rise. I called the company and told them that I suspected my corn was spoiling. A new representative (the old one had left the company) confirmed my fears that there were hot spots in the bin."

"I called the company again and talked to a vice president. He came out to look at my corn and told us we should have kept the fans running in winter until the corn was dry. He said he'd stop by and check the corn later, but he never did. We ended up with 4,000 bu. of moldy corn that we had to nearly give away and a bin that we hesitate to use again."

Robert A. Scott, Avoca, Iowa: "I like my 1993 Deere 7800 tractor. It has excellent visibility and great pulling power for a 150 hp tractor. The company is finally listening to farmers before building new products. The cab is moved ahead and the wheel base lengthened, giving it an excellent ride."

"Another best buy is my Deere 630 tandem disk. It does an excellent job penetrating and leveling soil, and doesn't pull as hard as I thought it would."

"Farm Dayta2 electronic market information is another best buy. It's one of the most important management tools I use on my farm. I don't know how anyone can farm without the wealth of information this service provides. Just catching the market at the right time for making a grain or livestock sale can pay the subscription fee for several years. It's an excellent management tool. I look at it many times each day."

James Walker, Leonard, Minn.: A used 1985 Hesston 1091 mower-conditioner rates as James's "best buy". "The header is suspended so well that it floats over gopher mounds and rocks as if it could see them coming. It runs smooth and quiet and is an incredibly well-engineered piece of equipment."

"The header is suspended so well that it floats over gopher mounds and rocks as if it could see them coming."

"One of my best buys ever is my 1959 Case 600 diesel tractor. It has power steering, live dual hydraulics, live pto, is fuel efficient and has plenty of power. I bought it used four years ago for only \$1,200 and my only maintenance expense has been to replace the fan belt and fuel and oil filters. It has an oil-bath hand clutch which is what turns most people away from it but, even though it's 34 years old, it'll probably still outlast some tractors built in 1993. It has features such as triple fuel filters and water drains that make me think it was designed to last a lifetime. It's quite a contrast to the high tech, high torque, high-priced, throw-away stuff we see so much of nowadays."

On the negative side, James is disappointed with his Deere 450 mower equipped with a 9-ft. sickle bar. "It did a good job of cutting, but the wobble box was difficult to work on. I don't recall this mower going for a full season without requiring at least one new set of bearings and a few new sickle head bushings."

John E. Ward, Sr., Aragon, Ga.: John's the owner of a "best buy" 1993 AGCO Allis 5670 tractor. "It has a short turning radius, excellent power to gear ratios, a good dual hydraulic system, 540 to 1,000 rpm pto, remote hydraulic control switch, and a comfortable seat. It's easy to hook up implements and the front-end loader is quick and easy to operate. My only complaint is that, for me, the instrument indicating lights are hidden behind the steering wheel."

"My Bead Buster, a tool designed to take the work out of changing stubborn tires, is also a best buy (Gans Tool Co., 730 Eastern Ave., P.O. Box 22, Malden, Ma. 02148). "I've used it to break the bead on rusted-on tractor tires for my neighbor. It's easy to use and well made and should last a lifetime. I gave it to a visiting missionary from Bolivia so he could use it in the jungle. He uses a 4-wheel ATV and a small tractor to mow an airstrip, and this tool saves him many hours of hard work whenever he needs to fix a flat tire. I bought another one for myself."

Ricky Kirkpatrick, Cottontown, Tenn.: Ricky's impressed with his 1993 Hesston

555T round baler. "For years I've waited for a round baler that would make bales as tight as a square baler. This baler hydraulically compresses bales from 4 ft. up to over 6 ft. in dia."

On the "worst buy" side, Ricky lists his 1990 Walton hay tedder. "The tine arms have a tendency to bend back with extended use. It seems the manufacturer keeps changing the tine arm design each year from flat arms to pipe arms, but the tines still aren't strong enough. However, it does a good job when it's adjusted properly."

Mann Rowley, Eckert, Colo.: He nominates his 1993 Polaris 350L 4-WD ATV as his "best buy". "I use it in my furrow irrigated fields. I drive alongside gated pipe and use a walking stick to open and close gates. I also use it to drive cattle."

Dale J. Appelman, Brooksville, Ky.: Dale's pleased with his 1992 Balzer 3350 slurry spreader tank but says it could use a couple improvements. "I had problems operating the tank, and the undercarriage broke after only six months. The company sent a factory representative out both times and fixed the problems to my complete satisfaction."

Hollis Schauer, Eau Claire, Wis.: "My 1992 Ford Explorer has been trouble-free. I like the high seats and leg room. The 6-cyl. engine has plenty of power and gets 22 to 24 mpg."

"My worst buy is my Agri Technologies M-100 applicator that applies hay preservatives on my baler. The unit was not well designed. The pump failed after 100 gal. of use. The brass parts should be stainless steel. It's also overpriced. On the positive side, the flow meter makes it easy to calibrate application rates, and the preservative really works. New models have been improved."

Marvin Langley, Fountain, N.C.: Marvin mounted "best buy" 1993 Martin row cleaners on his Deere 7200 MaxEmerge planter. "We use them to plant soybeans into wheat stubble and corn into soybean stubble. They work better than any other row cleaner on the market. However, I would recommend one improvement. The row cleaners bolt on in place of the coulters. I wish I could use both coulters and row cleaners."

Dick Rugh, Coal Valley, Ill.: "Dick's pleased with his 1993 Deere 318 riding mower. "It's an excellent mower without any faults. Does everything well."

Ronald Rakes, Waverly, Ill.: "My Deere 725 mower is my best buy. It's easy to operate and service, has plenty of power, and great maneuverability. I use it to mow five acres and to trim around 400 trees. My wife loves to drive it."

John Heiser, Dayton, Ore.: "My Deere 2455 MFD tractor is a best buy."

"I also like my Deere 2755 MFD tractor. The front wheel drive adds about 10 hp whenever the pulling gets tough."

David C. Branigan, Albin, Wyo.: "My 1982 Versatile 875 tractor has been trouble-free. The Cummins 855 cu. in. engine has a lot of power. My only maintenance expense has been for a new air conditioner belt."

"My 1988 Oldsmobile Royal Brougham automobile has over 180,000 miles and still looks, drives, and runs good. It doesn't use any oil and gets 29 to 30 mpg at 65 to 70 mph."

John T. Dougherty, Waukon, Iowa: "My 1989 Ford F-250 pickup is my worst

(Continued on next page)