

grease zerks and also didn't clean hay off the ground as well. In heavy winds the drive wheels would slide whereas the drive wheels on the New Holland rake continued to turn. I traded it back in."

Donald Thomas, Jackson Springs, N.C.: "The most overlooked labor-saving investment a farmer can make is a trained stock dog. A few years ago I bought a registered, trained Border Collie and words cannot describe the pleasure and help that dog has been in my operation. A properly trained dog can do more work than 3 or 4 men and do it smoothly. They're always on the job 7 days a week, 365 days a year. They require no insurance, social security, workman's comp, or holidays and they never sue you. The price of the dog, spread over a normal working life of 12 to 15 years, is the best buy I've ever made. My wife and I now raise registered Border Collies for farm work, breeding nothing but fully-trained, farm-raised dogs of known instinct and intelligence."

Allen Plater, Stayner, Ontario: "My 1992 Stihl FS 86 brush and grass trimmer is my best buy. I use it to trim grass under miles of electric fence and to cut brush along fence rows and ditches. No problems. I just fill it with fuel and go."

Laurence Pacey, Miltonvale, Kan.: Laurence nominates his 1991 Deere 535 net wrap baler as his best buy. "We've had good results baling our own hay and also custom baling."

Henry Winter, George, Iowa: "My 1992 Country Home Products professional DR trimmer-mower is my best buy. It pushes easy and is a time saver. It cuts with two 22-in. nylon cords that can be easily replaced. It's the best mower I've ever owned. I use it on our yard and also in the field."

Dennis Smith, Kingfisher, Okla.: "I like my 1992 Weldonpower G8000 gas-driven welder and power generator equipped with a Briggs & Stratton Vangaard 2-cyl.

"I should have bought it five years ago. It's the best machine I've ever owned."

engine. When I bought it I had never done any welding. I tinkered around with it doing odd jobs, and soon I was welding pipe for a corral. I can't say enough good things about it."

Darwin Hartkopp, Hampton, Iowa: A 1992 Hiniker 5000 row crop cultivator rates as Darwin's "best buy". "After a few adjustments it worked great. My neighbors couldn't believe how fast I could go with it. I should have bought it five years ago. It's the best machine I've ever owned."

Darwin's had trouble with his 1990 Dixon 442 mower. "These mowers shouldn't be sold to people who live outside city limits. They work good on small, flat lawns - but who has those? The drive train and transaxle are built too light, and the deck is hard to clean unless you tip it completely over. It's also underpowered. I'll never buy another one."

Craig Griffieon, Ankeny, Iowa: "My Case-IH 7120 tractor has good visibility and power. I like the comfortable ride and ease of maintenance. No problems. I bought a 7140 three years earlier and haven't had much trouble with it either."

"My New Idea 838 husking bed is my

worst buy. The shafts at the end of the rolls and the chains are always breaking. The machine always seems to plug up in green seed corn. It's a joke."

Guy McDuffett, Alma, Kan.: Guy's pleased with his 1991 Case-IH 7110, 1992 Ford 1220, and 1992 Case-IH 5140 tractors. All have front wheel assist. "I'm satisfied with all of them. They have handy controls and perform well. I haven't had any problems with any of them."

"My Better Bilt liquid manure tank is my worst buy. Basically, the machine works fine but when a valve broke on the back, the company didn't have the part. After two months I still don't have the part. They say it's on a ship from Italy. They wouldn't consider taking a valve off their assembly line."

"I've also had problems with my 1992 Westendorf TA 45 front-end loader. My main complaint is with the quick tach mounting system. It handles that you pull up to unhook the bucket. However, dirt and gravel can get in where the rods work up and down. I have to use a bar to pry the rods up so I can get the bucket off. Also, the main frame broke during the first year."

Clark E. Zipse, Freeport, Ill.: Clark's had good luck with his 1984 Deere 430 diesel tractor. He uses it with a 60-in. wide mower and a 48-in. wide blade. "It has plenty of power for mowing and pushing snow on our hills. No problems."

Darrel J. Liebl, Elbow Lake, Minn.: "Our 1992 Chicago 170-amp wire welder is a best buy. We've already put 50 lbs. of wire through it. We use it to weld everything from 20-ga. steel to 2 in. thick steel."

"Our 1992 Bead Buster (Gans Tool Co., 730 Eastern Ave., Box 22, Malden, Ma. 02148) takes the work out of repairing tires. It's a best buy."

John A. Cass, Bonaparte, Iowa: John's 1983 Ford Crown Victoria has over 235,000 miles and is a "best buy". "The heads, transmission, and differential have never been taken apart. I change oil every 3,000 miles and have never had to add any oil."

"My Homelite ST 155 string trimmer is my worst buy. It still has the original spool of string so I haven't used it that much. It has been in the shop twice, once under warranty. The other time I had to pay \$25.00. It doesn't work now because the fuel tank leaks."

Norman Probst, Brady, Texas: Norman's pleased with his 1992 Ford F-250 diesel pickup, but says it could use one improvement. "It's a good work truck, but needs a bit more power for pulling gooseneck trailers loaded with cattle. It's fairly fuel efficient when loaded."

Ken Nelson, Herbert, Sask.: "I'm happy with my 1992 Deere 8960 tractor and 1992 Flexi-Coil 5000 air drill. Both companies have always treated us well."

"Our Ford-Versatile 276 tractor has high maintenance costs. We've never received any support from the company to try to make it more trouble-free."

Don Nightingale, Chickasha, Okla.: Don's impressed with his 1991 Hesston 1150 mower-conditioner. "I've used it for six cuttings on 55 acres of alfalfa. It cuts clean, and even at 5 to 6 mph it operates smooth. No problems."

Darrel Heiden, Clark, S. Dak.: "My 1986 Deere 4450 tractor just goes and goes. It's a best buy."

"My 1990 Mercury Grand Marquis rides comfortably and gets more than 30 mpg. It's real quiet."

August Von Behren, Shelbyville, Ill.:

August is pleased with his 1989 Chevrolet 1500 pickup but has had a couple problems with it. "It had 9,000 miles on it when the fuel pump went bad. I took it back to the dealer and he installed a new pump. Then at 19,000 miles the starter failed to work right and the dealer replaced it under warranty. There have been two or three other small problems, but each time my dealer solved the problem. The pickup is easy to service, has a cab with plenty of room, and is easy to drive and handle. The V-6 engine runs quiet and is fuel efficient."

William V. Tucker, Butler, Ill.: "It does a good job - plants accurately. We're pleased with it," says William about his "best buy" Deere 450 drill.

"Our Bachtold weed mower is our worst buy. We've had two other Bachtold mowers in the past and they worked satisfactorily, but we don't like this new one. We hope the company changes the design and also gets ours working right. It isn't balanced right and is difficult to use."

Merle Thomas, Bluffton, Ind.: Merle nominates his 1992 Deere F911 riding lawn mower equipped with a 60-in. deck and 22 hp engine as his "best buy". "The mower sits out in front and is carried partly by the tractor instead of just being pushed on the ground. It also has an optional \$500 hydraulic seat for an extra smooth ride. Sells for \$13,500. Quite a mower indeed."

Alexander Fisher, Sabot, Va.: "Our 1989 Aerway 8-ft. aerator is our best buy. It helps us do a better job of managing pastures by keeping water from running off hills."

Edwin Mattix, St. Elmo, Ill.: Edwin nominates his 1989 Deutz-Allis 7120 tractor as his "worst buy". "The brakes clatter

"These dealers aren't familiar with my tractor and can't seem to correct the problems."

when they get warm. When I open the door with the dome light on, the radio resets back to zero. One of the headlights keeps blowing a fuse. When Deutz bought out Allis-Chalmers they eliminated the Deutz dealers in my area and kept most of the Allis-Chalmers dealers. These dealers aren't familiar with my tractor and can't seem to correct the problems. They want me to pay for repairs, but the company should pay for them because my tractor was under warranty when they appeared."

Jason Starnes, Salisbury, N.C.: Jason's has good luck with his 1993 Ford Explorer. "It has plenty of room, and the 4.0-liter V-6 engine has plenty of power and is easy on fuel."

Fred Hoag, Niles, Mich.: "My 1991 Chevrolet S-10 pickup performs well. It's my best buy."

Dennis Scheresky, Max, N. Dak.: Dennis mounted a Haukaas side arm folding field marker on his air seeder and says it's a "best buy". "I've never had any problems with it. It's built heavy enough to take a lot of punishment."

Alvin Warner, New Knoxville, Ohio: "My 1991 Polaris 2 by 4 ATV is a joy to ride and has floor boards to keep my feet dry. It shifts like a car."

"My Deere 4240 diesel tractor has 2,100 hours and is a best buy. The only mainte-

nance has been for oil and filter changes."

Jay H. Mennenga, Wellsburg, Iowa: "Our 1988 Deere MFWD tractor is easy to drive and always starts right up. The power-shift transmission works perfect."

"Our 1990 Deere 4255 tractor also runs perfect."

"Our 1989 Ford F-250 pickup is our worst buy. Both doors are bent. The 5-speed transmission is geared too high - the pickup has only 60,000 miles but is already on its third clutch."

Larry C. Wacker, Osmond, Neb.: Larry's "best buy" is his 1992 Chevrolet 1500 1/2-ton 4-WD club cab pickup. "It drives comfortably and the 4.3-liter V-6 engine runs smooth. It gets 17 to 19 mph on short trips and 19 to 22 mpg on the road."

Larry's pleased with his 1990 Buffalo 4600 cultivator but says it could use one improvement. "The only complaint I have is with the sealed bearings on the disc hillers. The seal doesn't keep dirt and water out. It's molded to the bearing which keeps me from doing a good job of hand repacking. Otherwise I like the cultivator. It does a good job and is well built."

Glenn Attoe, Wild Rose, Wis.: Glenn likes his 1992 Deere 4455 tractor. "It works well and service has been good."

"I'm also well satisfied with my 1991 Deere 2955 tractor."

George Janeczek, Washington, Iowa: A 1992 Titan flatted gooseneck "beavertail" trailer equipped with dual wheels and two 9,000-lb. axles heads George's "best buy" list. "We use it to haul lumber, steel, hay, and equipment. Last spring we put a 1,500-gal. starter fertilizer tank on it and used it to haul a day's supply of seed to the field."

On the "worst buy" side, George lists his 1991 Ford F-250 4-WD extended cab pickup. "At 22,000 miles the transmission failed and left me stranded on the road. At 28,000 miles the transfer case broke and I was stranded again, this time with a gooseneck trailer full of hogs. At 32,000 miles one of the front hubs broke. At 34,000 miles the anti-lock brake sensor broke, and at 38,000 miles the 'check engine' gauge on the dash began to flash. The rear seat is mounted too low to be comfortable. I've used it only on the highway, never for chores."

"I use my best buy 1981 Chevrolet pickup to do chores. It has 145,000 miles and the transmission is original."

Harold Swick, Jr., Morral, Ohio: Harold bought a used 1988 Ford F-250 diesel pickup with 98,000 miles and says it's a "best buy". "It runs smoother and has much more power than an older Chevrolet gas model it replaced."

"My 1991 Case-IH 496 25-ft. disk levels the ground better than the Krause model it replaced and is easy to adjust."

"My worst buy of all time was my Adja silver marker which laid down silver marks made by an aluminum-based concentrate mixed with diesel fuel. It never did operate properly. The dealer came out twice to see if he could help solve the problem. We checked all electrical circuits on the tractor, but the problem was with the control unit. The company replaced it twice without any luck. They refused to refund the money I spent on it. However, they did come out with a new foam model."

Eugene Manard, Baylis, Ill.: "My 1975 Homelite XL-12 chain saw is my best buy. I've used it to cut firewood for two houses over the last five years, and it still starts and

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