

the Bridgestone tires. They're made poor and wear out at low mileage. Another problem is that radio controls are positioned below my knees where it's hard to see them. I really should pull off the road to adjust them safely. Also, the seat belt retractors won't rewind without help and if I close the door without making sure the slack is taken up, the belt hangs outside the door."

**Michael L. Smith, Fulton, Mo.:** Michael nominates his 1992 full-size Chevrolet Blazer "Sport" equipped with a trailer package as his "best buy". "It's a joy to drive, rides comfortably, and has plenty of pulling power. I never get below 17 mpg. Whatever GM does, they should leave this one alone."

**Melvin Schuler, Lexington, Ill.:** Melvin's K.E.W. power washer heads his "worst buy" list. "It lasted only about two years before it broke down. I had to take it to a distributor in Iowa because my dealer went out of business. When they tore down the washer they lost part of the pump, yet they still charged me to tear it down. I requested a parts breakdown so I could try to repair it myself, but they were generally uncooperative. I didn't get an instruction book with the washer. I won't buy anything from the company again."

**Craig Dittmer, Lacona, Iowa:** Craig's had trouble with his Dynamark push mower. "I bought it equipped with 'tricycle' rear wheels for what I thought was a low price. But in the end I got what I paid for. It had lots of problems with the rear

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wheels bending and twisting off and also with the handle breaking off where it attached to the deck. It was frustrating to have to continually repair these components. However, when I could keep all the parts together it did a good job cutting.

"My best buy is my Snapper 11 hp lawn mower. For five years I operated a lawn mowing service around town. The only riding mower I owned was the Snapper, but it was all I needed. It never failed to start and walked right through thick, wet grass. The extra cost for an electric start engine was well worth it. It's a tough engine. I had only one breakdown after five years of heavy use, and the dealer promptly took care of the problem. I have no idea how many hours are on this machine, but I know it's a lot. Now it has an easier life, mowing only my dad's yard."

**Jim Roark, Silt, Colo.:** "My best buy is my 1992 'Antonio Carraro' tritrac 5500 4-WD tractor that's made in Italy. I wasn't impressed when I first saw it in the brochures, but once I saw it in operation I was sold. It's bi-directional and has a 3-pt. hitch on each end which makes it very versatile. I'd like to become a dealer."

**William Griessler, Delanson, N.Y.:** William's pleased with his 1979 Ford 4600 52 hp tractor equipped with a factory cab. He bought it used. "It's just the right size for me and very economical. I have to travel about two miles to another farm. The heated cab makes it a real pleasure to drive when the weather is cold and nasty."

**J.E. Shelton, Jr., West Alexandria, Ohio:** He nominates his 1992 Vicon 121M round baler as his "best buy". "It makes

great bales in hay, rye, sudangrass, clover, or wheat straw. It's the best baler I've ever owned."

On the "worst buy" side, he lists his 1984 Ford F-150 pickup. "The 3-speed gearshift on the column is made out of cheap metal that breaks easily. I've had to replace the column four times. My dealer sells so many replacement columns he can't keep them in stock."

**W. David Goodson, Jackson, Mo.:** David's pleased with his 1991 Chevrolet 1500 truck equipped with a 6-cyl. engine. "I use it to pull a small trailer. It can handle up to 6,000 lbs. No problems and it gets great gas mileage."

"I'm disappointed with my Walters 52 by 70-ft. building. The first problem was that they didn't install all the braces. Then it started leaking at the end of the door tracks. Now the door is rubbing paint off the side of the building. Maybe if I make enough phone calls to the company they'll patch it up."

**Buddy Dotson, Bullard, Texas:** Buddy nominates his 1992 Husqvarna 36 air-inducted chain saw as his "best buy". "It's lightweight, easy to crank in cold weather, vibration-free, and costs little to operate. I use it to clear brush from fence rows and for other jobs around the farm."

**Joe Martin, Georgetown, Ind.:** "My all-time best buy is my 1982 Massey Ferguson 124 baler. We've made well over 100,000 bales with it, but it'll still easily produce 400 bales per hour all day long."

"My 1990 Ford F-350 4-WD truck equipped with a 7.3-liter diesel engine is a best buy. It's expensive but worth the money. It can easily pull 300 to 400 hay or straw bales and is trouble-free."

"I've also had excellent service from my 1983 Hesston (Fiat) 1180 tractor."

"My worst buy is my 1986 Hesston 1085 mower-conditioner. It does a good job in heavy first or second cuttings, but in a light or short crop hay builds up on the flotation springs and falls off in big gobs. The company and dealer were of absolutely no help, suggesting only that I trade it in for a newer, improved model. I did - a New Holland 492."

**Stanley Hullah, Poplar Grove, Ill.:** Stanley's had trouble with his 1990 Deere 714 mulch tiller. "It won't stay in the ground. When we added weights - it's designed for that - the frame broke on both sides. Also, we couldn't keep the frame tight. The company said it broke because we pulled it too fast. They won't admit that the frame was built too light."

**William Angle, Dakota, Ill.:** William has lots of trees and shrubs on his lawn, so he purchased a 1989 Woods lawn mower equipped with a front-mounted deck. "It lets me trim underneath trees and shrubs without having to use a weed whipper to finish the job. Really saves time."

**Donald Simon, Bowling Green, Kent.:** "My 1991 Deere F525 lawn mower equipped with a front-mounted deck handles well and is a best buy. My daughter uses it to mow our yard as well as my uncle's, and she loves the way it handles. Plenty of power."

**Garth Miller, Copley, Ohio:** "Our 1987 Woods 306 6-ft. belly mower mounted on a Farmall BN tractor is a best buy. It does a better job of mowing than any riding lawn mower we've ever owned. The only maintenance we've had was to replace the belt last year."

**Charles Crossman, Ortonville, Mich.:** "My 1991 Case-IH 7130 Magnum is my best buy. It's a pleasure to drive and the

powershift transmission is awesome. The engine starts well in cold weather, and the cab is easy to get in and out of compared to Deere cabs."

On the "worst buy" side, Charles lists his 1984 Chevrolet 1-ton stake truck equipped with a 6.2-diesel engine and 4-speed transmission. "The truck is good, but the engine is bad news. The glow plug system causes nothing but problems. When the plugs go out the starter goes bad, too. I've had to put five new starters on this engine. The injection pumps don't last long, and now it needs a new clutch. Also, the oil pan rusted out. All this in 66,000 miles."

**Doug Balk, Lawler, Iowa:** "Our 1982 Deere 4240 is trouble-free and a best buy. It really performs in the field. We haven't had even one major breakdown. It's comfortable to operate because all the hydraulic, pto, and gear shift controls are conveniently

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located so you don't have to reach for them. It's an excellent machine."

"We're disappointed with Surge quarter milkers for our pipeline milking system. The dealer didn't tell us that they require a lot more vacuum than our older milkers. We didn't know about the problem until our creamery came out for a check. They're also clumsy and hard to handle, and they don't wash out very well in the corners."

**Jim Lock, La Plata, Mo.:** "My 1992 Deere mulch finisher is a great conservation tool. It levels the ground and leaves residue on the surface. Makes a great seedbed."

**Martin Fuhrman, Cummings, Kan.:** "Our Motorola business band 2-way radio system is a best buy. The repeater provides excellent mobile to mobile coverage. Dealer service has been extremely good. The company has a great warranty, but we haven't had to use it. We use hand-held radios for base stations and they work well with the repeater."

"Our Martin Row Cleaners for no-till planting are also a best buy (Howard Martin, Kentucky Farms Inc., 169 Allegra Road, Elkton, Kent. 42220 ph 502 265-5817). They consistently give us good stands in both no-till and conventional tillage."

**Wayne Cole, Page, N. Dak.:** Wayne's impressed with his 1991 Sharp 2200 pocket organizer. "It'll hold 32K of information and allows me to make three separate telephone lists. I put in the names and the pocket organizer automatically puts them in alphabetical order. The names can be retrieved at random or I can review the entire list. It's also a memo pad, anniversary reminder, calendar, clock, and calculator."

**Grant F. Jones, Arena, Wis.:** "Works great in mud or snow and handles with ease when loaded," says Grant about his "best buy" 1989 4-WD Jeep Comanche. "It's an excellent vehicle in all respects. I haven't had any problems. It has the 4.0-liter 6-cylinder engine. It's quick and responsive which makes it fun to drive."

**Leon Velde, Wood Lake, Minn.:** "My 1991 Chevrolet 1500 pickup is a best buy. The only problems I've had have been minor ones with the heater and fuel filter. The dealer fixed them immediately."

**Mike Nickell, Allerton, Iowa:** "My

Case-IH 800 planter is simple, places seed accurately and at the right depth, and will plant no-till without any special attachments. It has one seed hopper for accurate metering. It's easy to change from soybeans to corn."

"My worst buy is my Noland freeze-guard nipple waterer. Water started leaking from it shortly after it was installed and we had to tear up new concrete to solve the problem. When I presented my warranty claim to the company, I was charged for a replacement waterer and I had to pay for removal of the concrete and also for the water bill. I didn't have any choice at the time because I had to get water back in."

**Jake Brucher, Little Falls, Minn.:** "Our 1991 Deere 2555 tractor does everything the dealer said it would do. We've used it to haul silage wagons, cut hay, grind feed, and bale hay. It has plenty of power and is fuel efficient. We use it all around our farm."

**Clarence Davenport, Callaway, Neb.:** "One of the best buys I made last year was a 12-row 20-in. Deere corn head that I bought from Bish Mfg., Giltner, Neb. They custom-built it out of smaller used corn heads. I used it to pick several miles of row ends with no car loss. It gave our combines lots of room for unloading and maneuvering on headlands."

"I also like my Jetco 30-ft. tandem axle grain trailers that we pull with semi's (Jet Co. Inc., Highway 169 N., Humboldt, Iowa 50548). Each trailer holds up to 920 bu. and is road legal at 800 bu. The 37-ft. axle spacing allows tight turns in narrow field entrances. The electric rollover tarps operate from inside the cab and work like a dream. The hopper slope angle sheds even high moisture grain and there are side chutes for auger use."

**Craig J. Peterson, Westerville, Neb.:** "My 1986 Steiger Puma is my best buy. It has a quiet cab with handy controls, and it runs economically. I use it to plant and cultivate in 30-in. rows."

On the "worst buy" side, Craig lists his Glencoe 3500 34-ft. Soil Finisher field cultivator. "It's built lighter than previous models. The lift cylinders that fold the wings break and the shanks wear out rapidly. We've had breaks in the frame. Glencoe quality declined after Farmhand took over the company."

**Charles F. Braun, Ann Arbor, Mich.:** "It would be nice if it was built a little lower to the ground," says Charles, who otherwise is pleased with his 1992 Dodge 250 4-WD extended cab pickup equipped with a Cummins diesel engine. "It handles well, has plenty of power, and is fuel efficient."

**Ethan Britten, Hoswell, Colo.:** "It does a good job of placing seed at the proper depth and pulls easy," says Ethan, who has nevertheless had some problems with his 1992 Deere 60-ft. hoe drill. "The drill started skipping after the first hour I used it. On the second day the boxes started cracking in the corners. Both problems could have been prevented if the company had built the drill right. They didn't tighten the set screws or install corner reinforcements in the boxes. It cost the company a lot of money and me lots of time and trouble as well as loss of crop. My dealer did all he could. If it wasn't for him I wouldn't own any Deere equipment any more."

**Joe Walters, Boonville, Mo.:** Joe's pleased with the 1988 Caterpillar Challenger 65 tractor that his father bought in

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