

Best & Worst Buys

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1991 with over 400 hours. "It's an excellent tractor and has plenty of torque. Because of the rubber tracks, nearly all of the horsepower goes to the ground, with only 2 to 3% slippage. The rubber tracks cause minimal soil compaction and allow me to work the ground a day before everyone else. It runs cool and rides smooth in any direction across the field. The cab offers good visibility and has room for two. It's also fuel efficient and I can drive it at 18 mph on the road with no problem. The transmission is very smooth."

Paul Wielfaert, Britton, Mich.: Paul nominates his 1990 Deere 918 flex head as his "best buy." "It performs much better than the 200 series platform that I traded in. Runs smoother and quieter and makes the combine perform much better. One problem was that the dealer who sold it to us said it would adapt right up to our combine. It didn't. We had to add some electronic controls and auger flighting. We also had to change some sprockets and pulleys in order to get the proper speeds. Once we did this - with no help from the dealer - it worked well."

Ken Turbett, Winnipeg, Manitoba: Ken's "best buy" is his 1992 Deere 2755 tractor equipped with mechanical front wheel drive. "Starts well in cold weather, is maneuverable, has good power, and is an all-around good machine. One major problem, though, is that this tractor, as well as its predecessors, is so noisy that earplugs should be offered as standard equipment."

Art Thomas, Stryker, Ohio: Art's happy with his 1990 Case-IH Maxxum 5120 tractor equipped with a cab and powershift

and kids to handle. I use it to check on our irrigation system and cattle. I made a spray boom for it to go with a commercial spray tank. Works great for spraying."

William J. Thele, Burlington, Iowa: William's the satisfied owner of a 1992 Parmak Magnum 12 electric fencer. "It runs on a 12-volt car battery. A charge lasts a month and a half, and weeds don't short it out. I checked three local farm stores, and it was the only brand I could find that was made in the U.S.A."

Eric Vagedes, Vagedes Farm Drainage, Gosport, Ind.: Eric's the owner of a "best buy" 1992 Dodge 3/4-ton 4-WD pickup. "The diesel engine gets 15 to 16 mpg around the farm and 20 mpg on the highway carrying tools and fuel that weigh an average of 7,500 lbs. It has more than enough power in all cases."

Ralph Kropp, Grove City, Ohio: "Ralph isn't pleased with his 1991 Ford F-250 Supercab pickup. "It has an extremely poor paint job. The dealer won't admit the problem, but he touched up the paint and says it's okay now. Also, he had to replace the ring and pinion gear twice with only 4,000 miles on it. We should have kept the 1979 Ford F-250 that we traded in. It had a great paint job and still ran good."

"My best buy is my 1990 Deutz-Allis 9150 tractor. It has 150 hp. After the dealer installed several update kits, it now has plenty of power and uses only about 70 gal. of fuel a day, compared to 100 gal. a day on the 100 hp tractor that we traded in."

James E. Davis, Clifton, Texas: "My 1991 Dodge Ram 250 diesel pickup is my best buy. It pulls better than any pickup I've ever seen. Handles well and gets 23 mpg."

Harris Peterson, Blooming Prairie, Minn.: "It's a great tractor," says Harris about his "best buy" 1990 Deutz-Allis 7085. "Handles well and is surprisingly fuel efficient."

"My 1990 Ford Ranger equipped with a V-6 engine is also a best buy."

Marvin Madsen, Morton, Minn.: "I'm completely satisfied with it," says Marvin about his 1992 Ford Ranger STX 4-WD pickup equipped with a V-6 engine and extended cab. "Handles well and is fuel efficient."

Duane Becktold, Blanket, Texas: "My 1992 Deere 4055 and 1991 Case-IH 7120 mfdw tractors are both best buys. Both are fuel efficient and handle well. Both have about 500 hours on them with few problems. It took longer to seat the valves on the Deere, but the dealer took care of the problem."

Alvin Van Den Brink, Fenville, Mich.: Alvin likes his 1991 Dodge D150 pickup equipped with a 318 cu. in. V-8 engine and creeper gear transmission. "It has power at low speeds, yet goes fast on the highway. It gets 15 mpg on local driving. Handles well, rides comfortably, and carries a 2,000-lb. payload with no problem."

Clarence Paul, Custer, Wash.: Clarence likes his 1992 Chevrolet 350 pickup equipped with a 6.5-liter turbocharged diesel engine. "The engine has as much power as a 454 cu. in. gas engine and gets 16 to 17 mpg. It has an excellent warranty. We put 11,000 miles on it in six months."

Philip M. Broer, Iowa Falls, Iowa: "So

far I really like my 1991 Agco Deutz-Allis 9170 tractor. The cab is roomy and quiet, and the air-cooled Deutz engine has plenty of power. This tractor cost a lot less than other brands. However, I wish the company offered a full powershift transmission."

"I also like Milwaukee power tools. Two years ago I bought a 1/2-in. drill equipped with a keyless chuck (model 0235-1) and last year I bought a Super Sawzall reciprocating saw (model 6527). I haven't had any problems with either one, and I keep finding new uses for the saw. Both are heavy duty industrial-quality tools."

Michael Dunn, Meriden, Iowa: "I bought my 1981 International 1460 rotary combine used three years ago and it's a best buy. Excellent stability and capacity."

"I also bought a used Super B grain dryer last October. It's extremely energy efficient and maintenance-free."

"My Westfield 8-in. electric motor driven auger is also a best buy. No problems at all. It's made in Canada."

Robert Boettcher, Big Sandy, Mont.: Robert's had problems with his 1986 Steiger Cougar 1000 tractor. "Last July the transmission failed. Because of extremely poor dealer service in diagnosing the problem, the tractor was out of service for a month."

Menard E. Bartell, Golden, Ill.: Menard's "best buy" is his 1992 12 hp Murray riding lawn mower equipped with a 38-in. deck. "All controls are placed in exactly the right place. It has a perfect variety of ground speeds and will cut any grass, short or tall, and discharge it evenly. Makes it a pleasure to mow our lawn."

"My 1987 Chevrolet Caprice has 60,000 miles with no problems."

Willis Harder, Moundridge, Kan.: Willis is pleased with his 1992 Ford F-150 XLT pickup, but says it could use one improvement. "I wish it got better mileage. It gets only 14 to 17.5 mpg. However, we've driven 18,000 miles with no mechanical problems."

On the negative side, "I've had trouble with my 1991 Crustbuster 3300 double-disc drill. This drill has engineering deficiencies. The ground drive system is very complicated and hard to lubricate. One drive broke the second day. Also, the markers are clumsy and unwieldy which makes it hard to plant close to a fence or other obstruction. The drill cost 20% less than a competing brand, but it was no bargain. Dealer service, however, has been good."

Ronald J. Swank, Belleville, Ohio: "I've had good luck with my 1992 Skil 2503 cordless drill. It has plenty of power and the charge lasts much longer than I expected. It's also lightweight which makes it easy to handle even in awkward positions."

"My 1985 Chevrolet S-10 pickup is also

is my worst buy. The ratchet gear broke so I took it back to the company. Instead of replacing the ratchet they gave me a rebuild kit with parts made so poor that once they were installed, the ratchet wouldn't work."

Robert L. Stobaugh, Atkins, Ark.: "One of the best buys we've ever made is our rice levee builder equipped with a hydraulic-powered seeder built by Hula Mfg. Co. (Hazen, Ark. ph 501 255-3028). Anyone with 250 acres or more of rice can pay for it in two years. This levee making and seeding machine saves us money in many ways. On some of our heavier ground we had been making as many as seven trips on one levee to ensure good water retention, but with this machine we never made more than four trips anywhere on our farm last year. Not only do we save time and money by making fewer trips, but we also hold more water where it should be. We've been able to grow soybeans right next to a rice field where soybeans had drowned in the past because of leaking levees. We can fill the 18-bu. seed hopper with the same bulk seed handling equipment that we use to fill our Deere 530 grain drill."

Bryce Troester, Marsland, Neb.: Bryce likes The Jug automatic livestock waterers made by Noland Systems, Inc. "These waterers are trouble-free, clean, and made from high quality materials. Cattle have no trouble learning to drink from them. The company has been good at answering my questions and taking care of any problems. We became a dealer simply because our initial order qualified us. Before we made the order, the sales manager guaranteed us that if we weren't satisfied we could send the waterer back for a full refund. He won't get them back."

Wayne Snodgrass, Altus, Okla.: Wayne bought a used 1985 Versatile 856 tractor with 2,700 hours on it a year ago and says it's a "best buy." "It doesn't use any oil and starts right up. It uses less than 3/4 gal. of diesel fuel per acre pulling a 33-ft. sweep plow at 4.3 mph."

E.H. DeVault, Cedar Hill Farms, Spring Hill, Kan.: "Our 1991 Deere 4255 tractor is our best buy. The only maintenance has been for oil changes, filter replacements, and a flat tire."

Harold Beach, Leonard, Mo.: Harold had his 1979 Deere 8630 tractor repowered with a Cummins diesel engine installed by Kinze Mfg. and says it's a "best buy." "The conversion worked out exactly the way Kinze said it would. It costs less to repower with a Cummins and the tractor's better now than it was before. I'd do it again if I had to."

Roy Magler, Amery, Wis.: "Our best buy is our Case-IH 3309 mower-conditioner. It doesn't plug in down, tangled, or wet hay. Does a very good job of conditioning and has a modest power requirement."

Knute Larsen, Strathmore, Alberta: "My 1991 Haybuster 256 balesther shredder big round bales and puts the shredded material in a windrow for feeding. It can also be used to spread straw over a 25-ft. wide area for bedding. You don't have to remove the twine because it wraps up on the shredder and can be removed later."

"My Deere 185 lawn and garden tractor equipped with a 46-in. mower and power bagger works well for mowing and bagging grass and leaves, but has terrible steering. It's so hard to turn the steering wheel that by the time I'm done mowing the lawn my arms are sore."

"My 14-year-old son hopes that I'm ready to buy a new pickup in two years so he can have this one."

a best buy. It's equipped with a 4-speed transmission and 2.8-liter V-6 engine that has plenty of power to pull a 1,500 lb. load. It's trouble-free and fun to drive. My 14-year old son hopes that I'm ready to buy a new pickup in two years so he can have this one."

"My Sears Craftsman 3/8-in. drive ratchet

"This tractor is so noisy that ear plugs should be offered as standard equipment."

transmission. "It does what it's supposed to do. It had a few minor problems at first, but the dealer took care of them right away. My only complaint is that some of the controls aren't very handy to use."

Steven M. Owen, Henry, S. Dak.: "My 1979 GM pickup has 241,000 miles but the body and cab are still solid."

Raymond Carrier, Monmouth, Ill.: Raymond says his 1991 Case-IH 5130 Magnum is a "best buy." "This tractor is much more powerful than the horsepower would indicate. It has tremendous engine torque from 1,000 rpm's to full throttle under full load. Handles nice, has a quiet cab, and is fuel efficient."

Ronald Melchert, Seymour, Wis.: Ronald likes his Snap-On KR600B roller storage chest. "The drawers are mounted on ball bearing slides which makes them very easy to open. The more weight on them, the easier they seem to move."

Dave Mussmann, Ruskin, Neb.: "I love my Yamaha Big Bear 350 ATV. It has lots of power, is easy to drive, and responds quickly. However, it could shift easier. It shifts fine for me, but is hard for my wife