

Best & Worst Tractors

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manure and round bales and even to pull a 4-bottom plow. The engine is efficient but hard to start in cold weather. The transmission is not the best for loader work," says Wayne Lebold, Millbank, Ontario.

"I like our 1981 Allis-Chalmers 6060 FWA tractor with a Frey 8010 loader. The loader is well built and easy to take on and off. I converted it to single lever joystick control. The loader design makes it easy to service the engine."

"It's the nicest running tractor I've ever owned or operated," says William H. Myers, Denton, Kan., about his 1993 Case-IH 7120 Magnum. "It has adequate power but uses a little more fuel than I thought it would. It has a lot of electronic gadgets that we'll never use. I also like our 1964 International 606 54 hp tractor with front-end loader. We use it almost every day for everything from hauling and handling round bales to loading our manure spreader. It's always ready to go. The engine has been rebuilt only once."

"My 1979 International 1086 is a great tractor," says Dale Losey, Oakley, Kan.

"It has adequate power but uses more fuel than I thought it would."

"All I've ever done is change the oil and filters. I change the oil every 50 hours and the transmission oil every two years. I also change the fuel filters every 50 hours and clean the air filter every 10 hours. If you want a tractor to work you have to take care of it. I couldn't be happier with the tractor's handling, comfort, and fuel economy. I removed the short muffler and installed a stainless steel curved exhaust stack in place of it (the "Muffler Eliminator" made by Thomure Mfg., East Prairie, Mo). Previously, the muffler got so hot it peeled the paint on the hood. Now it runs cooler and has more horsepower. Thomure also installed an 'Easy Breather Access Plate' on the side of the hood that lets me remove the air filter without first having to remove the entire hood panel. I'm getting out of farming so the tractor is now for sale."

Jerry Schmidt, East Sound, Wash., is the satisfied owner of a 1994 Deere 5400 tractor. "It has a lot of power and is easy to operate. However, the differential lock should be moved from the right side to the left. I have a 1994 Deere 540 front-end loader and like it a lot. It's easy to put on and take off. I can quickly remove the bucket and install pallet forks. The bucket self-levels going up but should self-level going down, too."

"I like the pulling power, ease of operation, and comfort," says Dennis Behler, Culesac, Idaho, owner of a 1986 Deere 4450 MFWD tractor. "It starts easy and goes easy on fuel. No problems and it's a real pleasure to operate. However, I wish it had a bigger cab. The tractor wasn't factory equipped with a warning system so I installed a sending unit and a 12-volt buzzer that warns me of any loss in engine oil pressure."

"I'm 65 years old and have bought many tractors in my lifetime, but I've never had any that I like as well as this one. The engineers did a super job on it," says Joe Brubaker, Hamlet, Ohio, owner of a 1993 Deere 7600. "It has about 110 hp and is just the right size to pull my 15-ft. Deere no-till drill. It has a super cab with excellent visibility."

"We're well pleased with our Kubota 7100 4-WD," says Harlan Hertzke, Ellsworth, Iowa. "We use it to operate a 3-pt. mounted, pto-driven Kubota tiller, rear blade, front blade, and mower deck. The deck is suspended under the tractor. I'm impressed with both the tiller and mower. I use a Westendorf WL42 loader and am well satisfied with it. The paint is a little faded but the loader is still straight and strong."

"My 1990 Ford-Versatile 276 bi-directional works great and has the versatility to do a lot of different jobs," says Bob Moore, Elsie, Mich. "It has an excellent loader that mounts on the rear. Controls are on a turntable that rotates 180 degrees so you can work the tractor in either direction, making for excellent vision and control. One improvement on the loader would be to beef up the center frame since it gives a bit when most of the load is on one side of the bucket. Hydrostatic drive makes it easy to control tractor speed for accurate field work. One problem is that hydraulic hoses run from one end of the tractor to the other and fit tight against each other where the tractor articulates. The hoses bind in there and can leak."

"We use a 3-pt. hitch on front to push a cultivator and a planter. We really like it because it gives us excellent visibility."

"It handles well and the powershift transmission is a dream. It also has a lot of power. However, I wish it was a little more fuel efficient," says Edward Rudolph, Medford, Wis., about his Case-IH 7110 4-WD tractor.

"I like my 1985 Deutz-Allis 8070. However, it should have had a longer wheelbase to give it a smoother ride and the radiator should have a better seal around it to keep debris from clogging it. Visibility from the cab is somewhat limited. I'm satisfied with the 1992 Westendorf 46B loader that I use with the tractor. It has great power and lifting capacity and can also be used on other tractors," says Richard Scheurich, Rensselaer, Ind.

"I'm satisfied with my 1990 Deere 4555," says Glen Wirka, Cedar Bluffs, Neb. "When I bought this tractor my Deere 4630 could outpull it, but then the dealer reworked the hydraulic pump and it's pulled great ever since. I hope they build the next series tractors to turn sharper. I need 24 end rows to turn with an 8-row, 30-in. planter."

"I like my 1946 Ford 9N tractor," says Charles Hoyt, Medina, Ohio. "It's a small tractor that uses less gas than my 18 hp lawnmower and is highly maneuverable. It has a good hydraulic system and a good 3-pt. hitch. I use it to mow my 6-acre lawn, to haul firewood out of the woods, and to split wood with my home-built, 3-pt. mounted vertical log splitter. I added external hydraulics and a selector valve to power the splitter. I also use the tractor to grade and



"Stirrup Step" For Deere Tractors

"I don't know what problems farmers have in other parts of the country, but down here the bottom step on Deere 2955's and 2840's tears up cotton when working a standing crop," says Bruce Gamble, La Feria, Texas, who came up with a pivoting "stirrup step" for his Deere tractor that worked so well he put it on the market.

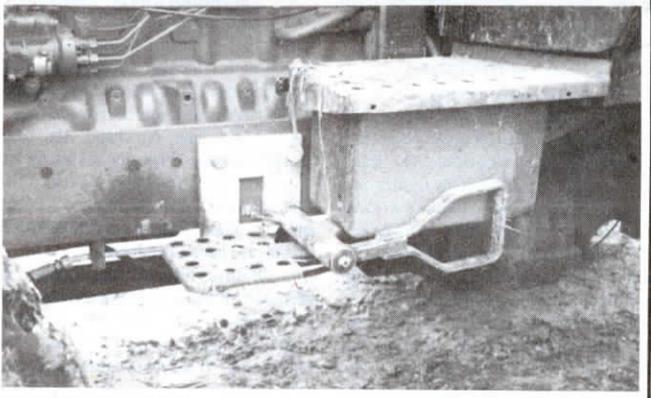
"Deere 2955's are the most common tractor in this area for spraying and other crop work. A lot of guys take off the bottom step but then you have a heck of a time getting up into the tractor. You end up stepping on the tractor lugs and, if they're slippery, you can have problems."

Gamble removes both the first and second steps and then bolts a mounting bracket to the side of the tractor - using existing

bolt holes - that holds both the second step and the pivoting stirrup step. The step pivots on a large bushing that's fitted with a spring and detent ball. Once you're up, you just give it a nudge with your foot and it pulls up horizontally and stays there. To get down, you just kick it down with your foot. The step hangs down 14 in. below the second step.

Gamble has also fitted his stirrup step to a Deere 2840 and notes that the idea may work on other tractors. Sells for \$100.

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move dirt and to plow snow with a front-mount, 6-ft. blade that's controlled with an add-on power steering pump running piggyback off the tractor's 12-volt alternator (salvaged from a 1968 Chevrolet car). It provides live hydraulics at about the same volume as the tractor's original hydraulic pump. The tractor starts every time thanks to the 12-volt alternator, and doesn't run out of battery power when plowing snow at night.

"Fifteen years ago I added a Sherman overdrive transmission that has six forward speeds forward and two reverse, and a 2-speed pto. It provides more volume to the hydraulic pump which helps when mowing. The Ford dealer just happened to have this transmission in stock and sold it to me for \$70."

"We like our 1992 Case-IH 7110 Magnum 2-WD tractor a lot," says Leon Beisch, Waubay, S. Dak. "The powershift transmission works great and is easy to operate, and

all the new features on it make it easy to plow. My brother bought a 1993 Belarus 825 front wheel assist tractor with a loader. It's a good chore tractor and worked especially well in all the snow we had last winter."

"I recently traded in a 1990 Case-IH 7120 with 675 hours on it for a 1993 Case-IH 7120 front wheel assist tractor," says Chris Oehler, Strasbourg, Sask. "I was well satisfied with my 1990 model but haven't used the new one yet."

"I like my 1992 Case-IH 7120 Magnum. It has a comfortable cab with good visibility. It's easy to operate - my 12-year-old son uses it to pull a grain cart. It has adequate power and easily handles a 30-ft. air drill. The ladder up to the cab should be relocated because in 30-in. rows it's right over the top of a row. It's a problem when cultivating in taller corn," says Chuck Grimes, Dumont, Minn.