

BUYING TIPS YOU CAN USE

Randomly selected farmers “tell it like it is” in nominating their “best” and “worst” buys.

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Farmers Nominate Best, Worst Buys

OPINION

Marvin Gustafson, Dallas, S. Dak.: “My 1991 **Belarus** 825 tractor equipped with a **Leon** front-end loader is my best buy. It took some time to get used to the gearshift pattern and I had to have a number of O ring seals replaced, but now I think it’s a great tractor for the money. After five years of use it doesn’t owe me a lot.

“I like my 1995 **Suzuki** LT 4-WD ATV. I use it a lot for spot spraying.

“I had a bad experience with a 1994 **Chevrolet** S-10 pickup equipped with a 6-cyl. engine. The engine had to be replaced at 72,000 miles and I eventually traded the pickup off for a **Chevrolet** 2500 model. The dealer eventually fixed things under my extended warranty but he never had parts on hand. I think dealers should always have a few basic parts on hand, not just spark plugs and filters.”

Rod Knutson, Foley, Minn.: Rod’s happy with his **N-Tech** liquid manure pump, prop, and tanker. “It’s built to last and uses quality off-the-shelf parts. It’s also easy to operate. I’d recommend it to anyone.”

He’s had problems with **Sorel** insulated boots. “The boots are warm and comfortable until they crack. They always crack in the same spot - on the inside by the base of the big toe. The flexing fatigues the rubber

Chester Sirois, Jonesboro, Ark.: “In 1994 we bought a new **Massey Ferguson** 383 tractor and last year we bought a **Massey-Ferguson** 399. They’re both best buys. They run quiet and have a lot of power. We’re well satisfied with them.”

David Allen, Gowanda, N.Y.: Three years ago David bought a pair of **E-Z Trail** self-loading basket wagons for small square bales (**E-Z Trail, Inc., R. 133, P.O. Box 168, Arthur, Ill. 61911**) that eliminate the need for a bale thrower. Bales are pushed up an angled chute. With optional top extensions, each wagon holds about 120 regular 38-in. long hay bales. Bales gravity-unload through an 11-ft. wide rear gate. “They unload in seconds with no extra help so two of these wagons do the work of three conventional wagons. They’re real labor savers.”

Robert Stettler, Alma, Wis.: Robert’s the owner of a 1996 **White** 6604 planter. “It has an excellent seed metering system that works well except in soybeans. The factory rep hasn’t been any help. Another problem is that dry fertilizer hoses leading to the disc openers plug up easily. The **Yetter** trash-clearing row units on the planter work great, even in heavy trash.”

Jon E. Otts, Canastota, N.Y.: “Our **Stihl** 023 chain saw is our best buy. It has a lot of power, is well balanced, and starts easy. My son and I do some custom tree work and use it as a topping saw. It’s the best saw we’ve ever used.

“We’re disappointed with our 4-year-old **Echo** 6700 professional chain saw. It’s hard to keep adjusted properly and the air filter cover constantly comes loose no matter how tight we put it on. The saw doesn’t even have 100 hours on it. I guess we wasted \$650. We won’t buy another one.”

Kenneth C. Brecht, Moorcroft, Wyo.: Last year Kenneth bought a used 1987 **Chevrolet** S-10 extended cab 4-WD pickup equipped with a 6-cyl. 2.8-liter engine and 5-speed transmission. It’s his “best buy”. “It had 115,000 miles on it when I bought it and I’ve used it for about six months so far with no problems. It doesn’t use any oil or show any major wear anywhere. The front end alignment is still good, it has a tight body, the doors fit well, and all the controls work. It gets 21 mpg.”

Max Atkins, Vulcan, Alberta: “It’s a tremendous pickup,” says Max, pleased with his 1989 **Dodge** D250 equipped with a **Cummins** diesel engine. “It’s fast, steers well and has a good heater and air conditioner. Even at 75 mph it gets over 31 mpg. My only complaint is that it’s a little too noisy.”

Len R. Naley, Nisswa, Minn.: “Our best buy of all time is our 1968 **Deere** 112 10 hp garden tractor which we bought used in 1972. It works great. We use it to mow the lawn, blow snow, and haul stuff around our yard. The starter was rebuilt once and all the transmission gears were replaced three years ago. It’s done a lot of work for us.”

William V. Anderson, Prior Lake, Minn.: William nominates his 1995 **Ford** Ranger extended cab 4-WD pickup as his “best buy”. “This is my second Ranger. The first one was perfect - not one problem with it. So far this one has worked perfect, too.”

On the “worst buy” side, he lists his 1995 **Northern Hydraulics** pressure washer. “It’s supposed to deliver 1,500 psi, but instead the pressure constantly fluctuates between 500 and 1,000 psi. It’s not a dependable machine, although the 5 hp **Briggs & Stratton** engine runs good.”

Howard E. Wilthard, Beaverton, Ore.: Howard’s the satisfied owner of a

and causes it to split. You can put patches over the cracks but they won’t hold. The company should reinforce the boot. After going through several pairs, I switched to another brand.”

Alan Pegram, Lincoln, Ill.: Alan’s impressed with the **Selectro** row shutoff he bought for his **Case-IH** planter (**Selectro Co., Box 226, Avon, S. Dak. 57315**). “I farm on contours so I have a lot of point rows, and with no-till I don’t cultivate so I have to be able to shut off the planter on point rows. The row shut-off lets me stop planting as I enter point rows. It saves seed and prevents overpopulation of the crop. I still cultivate end rows to eliminate double planting.

“My 1980 **Case** 2290 tractor is my worst buy. The rear end and transmission each went out twice. All of the steel hydraulic lines broke and I lost 20 gallons of oil every time a line broke. Also, the fan went through the radiator. After the warranty expired I traded it in for a **Deere** 4440 tractor. The **Case** company spent over \$6,000 on repairs during the warranty. They closed several stores which doesn’t help for service.”

John D. Bata, Adams, N. Dak.: John says his 1991 **Vermeer** 605J baler makes big, tight bales with few problems and is his “best buy”. “We’ve owned two other **Vermeer** balers, a 605C and a 605G, but this is the best one yet.”

Emil Kudrna, Ivanhoe, Minn.: “My 1994 **MTD** snowblower does a good job. It blows snow a long way and is easy to handle.”