

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

Tell Us About Your “Best or Worst” Buy
Send your nominations to:
**FARM SHOW, P.O. Box 1029,
Lakeville, Minn. 55044, or use
the survey form on our website at
www.FARMSHOW.com,
or E-mail your comments to:
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Stuart Klingel, Nazareth, Pa.: “My worst buy of all time is my 1993 **Belarus** 825 tractor. It has had a lot of problems including hydraulic failure (twice), malfunctioning brakes, wiring problems, and an fuel injection pump that had to be replaced. All of these problems happened within the first 60 hours of use. The company took the tractor back and gave us another new one but unfortunately we had the same problems with that one, too. Also, the new model started to blow oil out the exhaust.

“We used the tractor only for light duty work. One day my dad was using the tractor to pull two empty wagons when the thumb screw holding the telescoping steering wheel worked itself loose. The steering column came apart and my dad lost steering control. The tractor veered off the road and hit a tree, which caused a lot of damage to the tractor and injured dad. The tractor was taken back to the dealer. They fixed the damage to the outside and put the steering column back together, but they couldn’t guarantee us that it would stay together. They said the oil blow-by had been fixed and that the problem was ‘just a loose bolt’. However, while the tractor was still at the dealer we noticed fresh oil

The engine finally blew the crankshaft when it was only two months old. No one would honor the warranty. They just passed the buck. I faxed the company but got no response. I’ll never buy any of their products again or recommend them to others.”

James Allen, Clare, Iowa: An add-on chopper kit for his Case-IH Axial Flow combine, which was featured in FARM SHOW, rates as his “best buy”. The kit is made by **Brian Skipper**, 4371 Gleeson Line, Rt. 1, Tilbury, Ontario, Canada N0P 2L0 (ph toll free: 877 754-7737). “I paid less than \$100 for it and have used it for five years. It consists of a chopper bar that’s fitted with sickle sections that replace the original short, U-shaped cutter blades. They wear well and stay sharp longer. The real difference shows when cutting green stem soybeans. We installed kits in our Case-IH 915 and 2388 combines. It makes the factory chopper work like a real chopper. It’s possible to get 2,500 to 3,000 acres from one of these kits.”

“Our 1993 **DMI** 730 Ecolo Tiger disc ripper still looks as good as new and is a best buy. We use our 20-ton, 400 hp Steiger tractor to pull it. We’ve never used a welder on it because nothing on it ever broke. It’s a good tillage tool that’s built to work in any condition.”

Irwin M. Nolt, East Earl, Pa.: “We have four **Deutz** tractors with air-cooled engines and they’re all best buys. They’re 15 to 20 years old with 4,000 to 5,000 hours apiece on them. They’re fuel efficient and none of the engines has failed.

“Our two **Bobcat** 743 skid steer loaders have held up well over the years. They have 3,000 to 4,000 hours on them.”

Jon C. Thompson, Kalamazoo, Mich.: “We’ve purchased items from **Harbor Freight Co.** in California for the past 15 or 20 years. It’s true that some of their products are rough, but you can’t beat their low prices. Any complaints we’ve had have been handled quickly and fairly.

“We purchased a **Black & Decker** table saw and it ran through a “special” belt after we had used it only twice. When a new “special belt” was installed, the motor quit after about six more uses. **Black & Decker** used to have quality tools, but regretfully that no longer appears to be true.”

Richard Jaescke, Northampton, Ma.: “My 1999 **Gilcrest** HTD rotary mower is my best buy. It’s a rear-mounted, heavy duty

running down the exhaust stack.

“They said they would fix the engine problems but they didn’t and we’ve been in litigation since 1995. The company finally made a financial compensation offer in December of 1999, but we turned it down because it was less than what we paid for the tractor. Then in March of 2000 we found out that Belarus is in bankruptcy. But they have a parent company so our lawyer is pressing on. Our tractor has been at the dealer’s since January of 1995 even though we paid for it in full. I’d like to hear from anyone who has had similar problems.”

Thomas Lakia, Boulder Creek, Calif.: “I like my 2000 **Toyota** Corolla car. I use it as a commute vehicle for work or school. It’s an excellent and affordable performer. Gets 32 mpg under spirited mountain driving.”

Craig Sedlmayr, Stoddard, Wis.: Craig owns three **Stihl** chain saws - models 064, 026, and 019 - and says they’re all “best buys”. “The 064 has been in service for many years with no problems except for general maintenance. I never had to touch the carburetor adjusting screws.”

Tom Rice, Galesburg, Mich.: “My 1999 **Bobcat** 753 skid steer loader is my best buy. It’s easy to use and has great balance and power. This is the sixth Bobcat we’ve owned over the past 30 years or so.”

On the negative side, he lists his **Manco** 4-wheel go-cart type ATV equipped with a **Tecumseh** 4 hp engine. It was made by Manco Products, Ft. Wayne, Ind. “The engine leaked oil from the start. The dealer said they all leak oil and not to worry about it.



Twoose “Boom” Mower

model equipped with rubber tire drive. It holds up to our rugged New England fields. There were some problems with the tail wheel assembly but they’ve been solved on new models. I like the rubber tire drive system because it protects the tractor’s driveline.

“My 1998 **Twoose** 520 hydraulic boom mower is also well built. I do guard rail mowing for local towns so the machine I use has to be reliable. This one is made in England. A lot of thought went into the design, such as the routing of the hoses. The rotor is belt-driven so as to protect it from shock, etc. I’d recommend this machine to anyone.”