

BUYING TIPS YOU CAN USE

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

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Charles and Roy Grona, Amarillo, Texas: “Our worst buys are two 1999 AGCO tractors – an 8765 model and a 9745. The 8765 has been in the shop five times for transmission problems. The transmission oil overheated and melted the plugs out of it. The plugs were made of plastic and there’s no transmission temperature warning light. The dashboard ‘sweats’ so that moisture gets into the tachometer and ground speed indicator. The dashboard was replaced but two hours later the same thing happened again. The factory says there’s no way to solve the problem. The transmission seals leak so bad we have to add of transmission oil every day.

“The 9745 model has been in the shop so many times that we’ve stopped counting. None of the gauges work, and everything is made out of plastic which breaks easily. The tractor is rated at 145 horsepower, but it doesn’t have enough power to pull an 18-ft. plow without overheating. The radiator is too small and isn’t accessible for cleaning. The pto went out and the pto engagement, which is made of plastic, wore out after 250 hours. They managed to put a sun roof on this tractor, but they didn’t think to put a cup holder inside the cab.

“We’ve owned several Deutz and Allis-Chalmers tractors equipped with air-cooled

with the company for not backing up its product. We’ll never buy another New Holland tractor again.”

Larry W. Freeman, Newalla, Okla.: “While reading the last issue of FARM SHOW I noticed that John Landreth of Durant, Okla., is disappointed with his **Red Wing** boots. I, too, have a pair of Red Wing shoes that I purchased at a cost of \$130 last year. The leather cracked open after only three months, the soles came off after six months, and the heels came off a month later. I contacted the company but got the run-around for so long that I no longer even want to deal with them. I’m finding out there are lots of others in my area who have had the same experience. I’m sorry there are others who will have to find out about these shoes the hard way as Mr. Landreth and I have.

“Mr. Landreth also mentioned that his best buy was a **T-Post Puller** manufactured by U.S. Lever Mfg. from Newalla, Okla. He stated that the company was no longer in business. I’m the president and CEO of U.S. Lever Mfg. and we are still in business. However, we now build our products under a different name for several distributors in the U.S. You can buy our post puller at local farm and ranch stores or just write me and I’ll send him one of the original T-Post Pullers for \$60, which includes shipping and handling (21401 S.E. 59th St., Newalla, Okla. 74857).

“I now lease out my farm but I still hang around my farm friends. We all read FARM SHOW and pretend we’re still the biggest farmers in the state. Your magazine has such good articles on how to build things for the farm that I wish I did still farm.”

Meredith Ewing, Spencerville, Ohio: “My best buy is my 1982 **Volkswagen** pickup equipped with a diesel engine. It had more than 520,000 miles on it when I recently retired it. I bought it used in 1990 with about 100,000 miles on it. The company made this pickup only from 1981 to 1983. It looks like a VW Rabbit with a truck bed on back. I used it for my job which is delivering mail so I did a lot of stop-and-go driving with it. I really drove it hard but it took every bit of it. The biggest repair I ever made was to install a new head at 320,000 miles. It also went through a new generator, oil seals, timing belts, etc., and quite a few sets of tires. It got 40 to 42 mpg which really paid off.

“When I bought the pickup it had been undercoated and they really put good paint on this pickup – the tan color has held up very well. I did sand the rocker panels and repaint them every two years due to stones chipping the panels.

“I finally stopped driving it after the engine lost so much compression that it wouldn’t start on its own. I had to push it to get started. My son is now using it for parts. I’ll probably never own a pickup as good as this one again.”

Harry Kruize, Donnelly, Minn.: “My **Makita** 4-in. angle grinder is a handy tool that has performed well. I use it a lot. It’s my best buy.”

Stefan Bjornson, Riverton, Manitoba: “Last fall I purchased a **MacDon** 9300 swather equipped with a model 972 25-ft. header. It’s my worst buy. After only four hours it already had four broken guards and six broken sickle sections. At 10 hours I noticed that the drive belt on the wobble box was severely cracked. I complained to the dealer and he said the cracks didn’t matter. Wrong. I had to pay for a new belt. At 11 hours the pickup reel fell apart. I called the dealer and asked him to send someone out to fix it, but I ended up having to fix it my-

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:
Editor@FARMSHOW.com**

engines and they were all best buys. However, the new AGCO tractors are equipped with water-cooled engines and just aren’t as good. In our opinion, both of these tractors should be sent back to the factory as examples of how not to build tractors.”

D. Matheson, Embro, Ontario: He likes his 1998 **New Holland** 644 round baler. “It’s very reliable and does an excellent job making tight, well-formed bales. We’ve used it to make 2,500 bales of hay, straw, hemp, bean straw, and corn stalks with no problems. We wish we had bought it years ago.”

On the “worst buy” side, he lists his **Ford New Holland** 8770 Genesis tractor. “We bought it less than four years ago to replace an older White 155 tractor and expected it to run reliably for many years. But right from the start it was plagued with breakdowns, most of them minor. Then the fuel pump began malfunctioning. It took several trips to the local dealer to get it repaired. The initial repairs were covered by the 3-year warranty. We could have extended the warranty but we didn’t because the tractor had only 1,750 hours on it and we thought all the bugs had been worked out. Unfortunately, they hadn’t. Six months later the engine blew a piston even though we had always serviced it regularly. The company wouldn’t stand behind its product and pay for an obviously defective engine. We paid a lot of money for a tractor that should have lasted many more years before needing any repairs of this sort. We’re very disappointed with this tractor and