

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,
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Neil Korhonen, Annandale, Minn.: A 1980 Case 2390 tractor rates as Neil’s “worst buy”. “It has about 5,500 hours on it. There’s no problem with the engine - it has a lot of power. However, I’ve had to replace two hydraulic pumps, three power shift transmissions, and one torque limiter. More major repairs are being done to it right now. I’ve spent thousands of dollars. Another problem is that the differential lock clutch plates come ‘unglued’ regularly. It’s the worst piece of equipment I’ve ever owned.”

Thomas W. Fulton, Fresno, Calif.: “My best buy is my 1985 Ford F-250 4-WD pickup equipped with a 460 cu. in. engine and C-6 transmission. It has more than 247,000 miles on it. The only trouble was at 120,000 miles when I lost a carrier bearing in the rear axle. I give part of the credit to Amsoil which I’ve used in the engine, transmission and rear end ever since I bought the pickup. The engine and transmission are still going strong.”

Harley E. Baer, Orrville, Ohio: “We bought a used 1982 Deere 4640 MFWD tractor with only 4,800 hours on it and it’s our best buy. It’s equipped with a 200 hp engine and a powershift transmission. We use it to pull our chisel plow. It’s a real workhorse.”

James F. Dougherty, Lake City, Iowa:

Cole Aldinger, Laporte, U.S.: “My best buy is my 1950’s Massey Ferguson 50 tractor which I bought in mid-July along with a snowplow and a brush cutter. I can use it to mow right through chest-high grass without stalling. Travels at speeds up to 21 mph.”

Terry Whitefield, Greenwood, Miss.: “It’s the best ATV on earth,” says Terry about his Honda Fourtrax 300. “It has a lot of power and will outperform any other ATV on the market. I use it to check on our cows and haul off sticks and limbs, etc. One suggestion - the company should bring the prices for its ATV’s down. It can’t cost that much to build them.”

Charles Russler, Martinsburg, W. Va.: A 1998 Deere 5410 4-WD tractor equipped with a front-end loader and a cab, air conditioner, and heater rates as Charles’ “best buy”.

He’s also happy with his Deere 425 garden tractor equipped with a 54-in. mower deck. “It’s a 20 hp model so it has a lot of power for mowing my lawn. It has reduced my mowing time by up to one hour compared to the 18 hp mower I had been using.

“My 1999 GM Sierra Classis 1500 series pickup has performed exactly as I expected. It’s a best buy.”

John H. Poland, Jr., Ava, N.Y.: John’s impressed with his 1999 Ford F-350 Super Cab 4-door pickup. “It has a car-like ride and good brake response. The four doors make it easy to get things out of the rear seat.

“My 1997 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 extended cab 3-door pickup is my worst buy. One problem is that it rides very rough. I had to install helper springs on back in order to make it ride better. Another problem is that the braking system works terrible on slick surfaces. The brake pedal pumps up and down causing the pickup to slide all over the road. My dealer said it was just the ABS brakes ‘working’. Panic stops made me ‘panic’ as braking didn’t start for seconds after I was practically ‘standing’ on the brakes.”

Chris R. Williams, Comox, B.C.: Chris is impressed with his 1997 Ford F-150 extended cab pickup equipped with a V-6 engine and automatic transmission. “It rides like a car but works like a truck. It can haul 2,200 lbs. of fertilizer or a 24-ft. travel trailer with no problems. I did have to install overload springs on it.

“My 1993 Deere 2755 tractor has been trouble-free. I use it to pull a mower, baler, forage harvester, and rotovator. I really like the air-conditioned cab.

“My 1996 Massey Ferguson 253 4-WD tractor has 48 pto horsepower and works good for what I use it for. It does have its faults. For example, the levers for the remote hydraulics, pto, 4-WD, and hand brake are all clustered too close together. The driver always has to look down to make sure that he’s grabbing the right lever.”

On the “worst buy” side, he lists his 1994 GM 1/2-ton pickup equipped with a V-6 engine. “Parts fell off, the body rattled, and it had a terrible seat. If I drove it any more than two hours at a time, when I got out of the cab I would walk like I was 90 years old. I finally traded it in two years ago for a new Ford F-150 pickup. It works great. There’s no comparison between the two.”

Kay Reitz, Mayport, Pa.: Kay likes her Makita 12-volt battery-powered drill. “I’ve used it to screw on hundreds of sheets of roofing. Now that I have it I usually grab the drill and screws instead of a hammer and nails. No problems at all.”

Ed B. Price, Caldwell, Idaho: “My best

“We use a Phason 5-stage automatic control system to ventilate our pig nursery. It’s our best buy. We bought it two years ago. It has two variable speed stages for fans and three stages for heating or cooling. It keeps the room temperature within one or two degrees of the setting. Numerous settings can be programmed into the controller.”

William Price, Warwick, Md.: “Our Dodge D150 shortbed 4-door pickup rides and handles well. It’s a hard-working truck.”

“Our worst buy is our Troy Bilt 12 hp wood chipper. The problem is that after it chips off about half a branch the stick turns crossways, which prevents any more sticks from feeding in. We have to use a hook to fish the pieces out in order to get it going again. The dealer installed new blades in it but it still doesn’t work right. This is the second Troy Bilt we’ve owned. The first one was a 10 hp model that also didn’t do the job. We returned it to the dealer and got the 12 hp model, which is the company’s largest.”

Stanley Overmyer, Park Rapids, Minn.: “We’re well pleased with our New Holland 853 round baler which we bought used. It’s easy to maintain and adjust and starts a bale in any size windrow.

“We’re happy with our New Holland 469 haybine which we bought used.”

Bruce Hischke, Suring, Wis.: “Our 1997 Deere LX176 riding mower is built tough and durable. It has a heavy duty mower deck that’s easy to remove.”