

## BUYING TIPS YOU CAN USE

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

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**Don Walkenhorst, Ogallala, Neb.:** Don has had problems with the air conditioning in his 1994 **Deere** 7600 that he bought new.

“The cold air comes out below your knees in front and the air return is located behind the seat so it keeps your knees nice and cool, but the rest of your body sweaters on a hot day. I tell other farmers who’ve complained about the same problem in their 7600’s that they just don’t know how to operate it: On hot days, you’ve got to quit work by noon to keep from roasting.”



“I complained about the air conditioning problem right away and the dealer and the company fooled around with it for two years without correcting the situation. So I sued Deere but the judge threw the case out of court.”

“The real problem is I’m stuck with the tractor because nobody around here is willing to take it in trade since the air condition-

**Debo Jacks, Mountville, S.C.:** “I’ll never buy another product from this company,” says Debo who’s had bad luck with his 1994 **Yamaha** Kodiak ATV. “It won’t start in cold weather with the electric start; you have to use the pull rope. I took it back to the dealer when it was still new and they adjusted a few things and installed hotter spark plugs, but it didn’t help. When I called the dealer again, he told me all Yamahas have the same problem. Even with a new battery, it seems like it takes all the power to just to turn it over with none left to fire it off. I’m also on the third set of front end bearings.”

**Bobby E. Hedrick, Jr., Denton, N.C.:** “My ‘best buy’ is my 1997 M4700 **Kubota** tractor,” says Bobby. “It pulls a disc mower and a 3-bottom plow better than the tractor I traded off for it.”

**Robert A. Johnson, Canyon, Texas:** Robert’s pleased with his 1993 **Dodge** pickup equipped with a 250 cu. in. Cummins diesel. “I bought it with 266,000 miles on it. It now has 290,000 and it’s needed nothing except routine maintenance. It pulls a heavy trailer everywhere I need it to. I’ve never had a pickup as good and solid as this.”

**Allan Polyock, Zenda, Wis.:** “It does a great job leveling fields with no downtime. It’s easy to adjust and well-built,” says Allan about his “best buy” 1998 6432-33 **Sunflower** Soil Finisher.

**Jared Metzger, Steen, Minn.:** Jared likes the four sets of **Agri-Speed** “quick-hitch” hook-ups he’s purchased for his tractors, choppers and wagons (Bergman Mfg., Box 82, Arthur, Iowa 51431; ph 800 551-4554).

“They’re the greatest thing since sliced bread for hauling silage or pulling hayracks,” he says. “You simply back up to the wagon hitch and they hook up by themselves. Then you pull a cable from the tractor seat to lock them. They save a lot of time and are very strong and durable.”

On the negative side, he’s unhappy with his 1994 **Case-IH** 496 25-ft. disk. “We’ve replaced bearings in this disk every year we’ve owned it and they just keep failing. Our old Deere 230 disk is 20 plus years old and we haven’t had to replace a single bearing yet.”

“Another thing I don’t like about the disk is that it leaves ridges throughout the field no matter how many times you try to level the disk.”

**Robert M. Corbin, Finksburg, Md.:** Robert’s much happier with his 1998 **New Idea** 4844 round baler than he was with the **Deere** 430 baler he had before.

“The hydraulic pump on the Deere wouldn’t operate at anything less than maximum rpm’s. It was such a heavy machine it required a 70 hp tractor to pull it to make a 4 by 4-ft. bale. It wouldn’t work properly in dry or damp conditions. The ‘Bale Command’ electronics also didn’t work well.”

“On the other hand, the New Idea requires little horsepower. The bales it produces are consistently the same size and weight. It’s a lightweight, compact machine and the electronic bale wrap feature works well.”

**Jerome Kline, Brooklyn, Iowa:** “My ‘best buy’ is my **CountrySide** corn-burning stove,” says Jerome (American Energy Systems Inc., 50 Academy Lane, Hutchinson, Minn. 55350; ph 800 495-3196 or 320 587-6565). “It’s easy and economical to operate. I burn a renewable energy fuel - corn, which I have plenty of. I use less than a bushel a day to heat my 1,100 sq. ft. home during a typical heating season.”

**Bruce Loudon, Kalispell, Mont.:** “I bought it new and ran it between 700 and

# 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**  
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ing problem seems to be common in all these tractors.

“In frustration, I put an old ‘swamp’ water cooler off a Minneapolis-Moline tractor on top of the cab just to attract attention to the situation.”

**Gordon Van Alstine, Cherry Valley, N.Y.:** Two of Gordon’s “best buys” come from **Agri Metal** (Agri Metal Inc., 1006 Rue Principal, Wickham, Quebec, Canada J0C 1S0).

“My self-propelled 5 hp 1997 Agri Metal 30-bu. feed cart sure beats the small push cart we used before. It features front-wheel steering, which lets me turn on a dime in even the tightest of corners. It unloads both haylage and corn silage quickly and has been trouble-free.”

“Agri Metal’s bedding chopper does an excellent job shredding baled hay and straw and pushes easily over rough surfaces. We had another chopper before that didn’t shred bales nearly as well. The Agri Metal chopper has more knives and more air flow so it blows hay and straw further than other rigs, too. A neighbor says his Agri Metal chopper also works well for chopping newspaper for bedding.”

**Donald Olayer, Beaver Falls, Pa.:** “The more I use it, the more I like it,” says Donald about his new **Deere** 7400 equipped with MFWD. “It has plenty of power. I really like the Power Quad transmission. The cab is exceptionally quiet. In my book, this tractor could become as popular as the 4020.”