

BUYING TIPS YOU CAN USE

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

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Larry Collins, Belvidere, S. Dak.: “This grain cleaner is advertised to clean 300 bu. per hour, but it won’t clean 50,” says Larry about his “worst buy” seed and grain cleaner he bought a year ago from **Farmstead Products**, Hinckley, Minn.



“The whole machine shakes from side to side, which causes bolts to come loose all over the machine. The rubber ball screen cleaning system at the bottom doesn’t work and the shoe is so heavy it won’t shake. I called and asked for help, but the person at the company said he was too busy. I asked for a refund, but he said he was short on cash. I asked to sell it back to him, but he said he was not in the market for a grain cleaner.”

Jarrett Rolston, Delisle, Sask.: “It’s an excellent all-around tractor especially with

they would replace the beaters free of charge. Since having the hitch reinforced, we have been in contact with the dealer we bought it from but have heard nothing further from the company.”

Craig Shaw, Lacombe, Alberta: “I only wish I’d found this machine sooner,” says Craig about his 1997 **New Holland TX66** combine equipped with a 25-ft. Honeybee header. “It’s a well thought out machine from front to back. The header controls and vine lifters allow the machine to work equally well in lodged or standing crops. The back of the combine allows me to drop straw or chop it very fine with the flip of a lever. Performance outshines New Holland rotary machines when conditions are tough. I’m putting on fewer hours and doing more work with it than with the 1991 R-70 Gleaner I had before.”

On the other hand, one of Craig’s worst buys is his **Sakundiak** 65-ft. mechanical swing auger.

“While I had extremely good luck with their standard augers, I paid a premium price for this poor unit. We had numerous bearing failures but the worst problem was with shear pins. They broke off and were difficult to replace because of their location. I can’t afford to keep a machine that is not only slow but unreliable as well.”

Peter M. Friessen, Meade, Kan.: Peter’s well pleased with his 1997 **Deere 2-WD 8100** tractor. “It has plenty of power and is easy on fuel. The Comfort Cab is real quiet and easy to get in and out of, and the air ride seat is exceptionally comfortable. My only complaint is that shifting between 12th and 13th gears is not as smooth as I feel it should be. However, I understand the dealer can fix that.

“I bought front wheel fenders from an after-market dealer and they work well in keeping gravel from hitting the windshield” (M.D. Products, 1998 215th St., Humboldt, Iowa 50548; ph 515 332-3550).

“I also used copper tubing to move two grease fittings to the side of the front axle pivot. This makes it a lot easier to grease than having to get under the tractor to service them.”

Ben Kambeitz, Richmond, Sask.: “In 1979, I bought a short wheelbase **Ford Supercab** pickup equipped with a 460 cu. in. engine and C-6 automatic transmission with 3.50:1 axle ratio. Fuel economy was about 11 mpg with mediocre power.

“At 37,500 miles I replaced the heads with 1969 era 429 heads called DOVE-C’s. I also planed .050 in. off the heads to give me a 9.5:1 compression ratio and re-timed the camshaft to 1969 specs, which amounted to about an 8 degree advance compared with 1979 specs.

“The horsepower doubled and fuel economy went up to 14 mpg. Then I replaced the 3.50:1 axle with a 2.71:1 gear set, which gave me plenty of power and boosted fuel economy to 18 mpg.

“The truck now has over 212,000 miles on it and the pistons and automatic transmission have never been touched. It has never let me down in the field or on the highway even though I use it to pull trailers, old tractors, etc. I’m hoping to get over 300,000 miles out of this ‘best buy’ pickup.”

Richard Grant, Raphine, Va.: “It’s always ready to bale hay when I am,” says Richard, well pleased with his **Deere 535** round baler.

Joe Burkart, Rocheport, Mo.: “It cuts cleanly and quickly and doesn’t plug in heavy hay,” says Joe about his **New Holland 1411** discbine. “It’s also easy to maintain.”

Bill Minis, Uriah, Ala.: Bill’s the proud

the mechanical FWD option,” says Jarrett, pleased with his 1994 **Case 7240**.

Alex Brennenman, Elkhart, Ind.: A 1997 **Deere 466** round baler heads Alex’s list of best buys.

“After more than 8,000 bales, this baler still makes the tightest, densest bales of any machine on the market. The computer controls so many functions that one rarely needs to leave the tractor seat during a full day of baling. The belts and splices are so tough that five of the six belts are originals. The other was replaced under warranty with no hassles. The mega-tooth pickup does an excellent job while baling at a typical speed of 8 to 10 mph.”

On the negative side, Alex has had problems with his **H&S 430**-bushel manure spreader.

“It’s made so cheaply our 20-year-old Knight spreader is in better shape. First, the hitch bent. Next, the beaters bent because they’re built so soft and thin. Then, the end-gate bent back so far it contacts the beaters when it’s raised. The bearings on the beaters went bad three times. The spreader is permanently in high gear because the shaft connecting the low gear sprocket broke in half. To top it off, the seals on the end-gate cylinders blew out because the cylinders are cheap. We replaced the seals only to have the same problem again. We ended up replacing the cylinders with after-market cylinders. The company told us they would pay to have the hitch reinforced at a local welding shop and that

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.**