

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

Earl Thompson, Whitlash, Mont.: Earl recently contacted FARM SHOW regarding fires he's had in a 1992 **Ford New Holland** 9030 bi-directional tractor. Here's what he told us:

“We bought the tractor new in the fall of 1992. In the fall of 1994, while still under warranty, we had a fire which apparently started in the brakes. My son and I were able to put it out by getting quickly to a plowed field and throwing loose dirt on it. New Holland fixed it under warranty.

“On July 5, 1997, we'd made just one round swathing hay with the tractor when we noticed smoke coming out from under the brake area again. We packed green hay into the tractor to slow the blaze down. But by the time we got help from the fire department, \$15,000 to \$20,000 in damage had been done. It's now being fixed at Great Falls, Tractor Inc., where we purchased it.

“We feel this is a company problem that should be taken care of by Ford New Holland. Here's why:

- “If my son and I hadn't been lucky on the first fire, the whole thing would have burned to the ground and the company would have had to replace the whole tractor.

- “When you have the same problem twice with the same tractor, you have a factory flaw

the Power Stroke engine - it lets me pull loads weighing up to 18,000 lbs. at 70 mph on the freeway. It gets about 17 mpg empty and 12 to 13 1/2 mpg loaded. Some of my friends own Dodge diesel pickups, but no way would I trade with them.”

“My worst buy is my 1995 **Dodge** Intrepid car. On the way home the air conditioner duct fell down on top of the brake pedal which could have caused a wreck. Every time I hit a bump the plastic dash pops up about 3 in., and plastic pins keep falling out of the windshield wiper cover. At 43,000 miles the engine is making a strange noise. Another problem is that the brake pedal sticks out too far. The car rides rough and is noisy on the highway. Also, it has hard seats. It drives, looks, and handles good. But I wouldn't buy another one.”

K. Jay Chrisman, Arcanum, Ohio: He nominates his 1996 **Ford** F-350 crew cab pickup equipped with a Power Stroke diesel engine as his “best buy”. “It rides good and gets 15 to 22 mpg. No problems after 25,000 miles.

“I really like my 1996 **Deere** 325 lawn tractor. It's powered by an air-cooled 17 hp engine that works great. No problems.”

David Jones, Jordanville, N.Y.: David's had problems with his 1995 **Deere** 6400 4-WD tractor. “At 90 hours the hydraulic system broke as I was planting corn. It took nine days to get it repaired because the company sent the wrong part. Then the switch that engages the front wheel assist broke. I sold the tractor at 450 hours and used the money as a down payment on a farm.”

James R. Hursh, Cropwell, Ala.: “Our 1995 **Deere** 5300 tractor has 500 hours on it and has performed great so far.”

Ted Thompson, Thompson, Iowa: Ted likes his 1994 **Dodge** 2500 pickup equipped with a V-10 engine. “I've never owned a Chrysler product before but this pickup is a pleasure to drive. The V-10 engine has a lot of power for pulling fifth wheel trailers and uses no more fuel than other pickups I've owned.

“My 1996 **Deere** 8100 tractor has only about 400 hours on it, but already I'm impressed with the operator comfort and new electronic controls. The cab offers a better view than any other cab I've been in, and the engine has a reserve torque that seems to be almost limitless.”

Richard R. Spencer, Hot Springs, Ark.: After reading about the water-powered **Borit** earth boring tool in FARM SHOW (Vol. 20, No. 3), Richard decided to buy one. It's his “best buy” (Borit Mfg. Co., One Rainbow Canyon, Box 748, Encampment, Wyo. 82325 ph 800 591-7500). “It lets me lay conduit under roadways without having to break the pavement. It can be used to lay cable or pipe under sidewalks, driveways, or any concrete pad up to 60 ft. wide. All you need is a 1/2-in. electric drill and water from a garden hose. The digger bit screws onto the end of a piece of 3/4-in. dia. galvanized water pipe. Water from the hose flows out through the bit and the drill turns it. You simply add additional lengths of pipe as needed.”

Jerry Phillips, Putnam, Ill.: “I like the Lil' Snip tree cutter made by **Agra Axe F & S Industries** (Box 297, Havana, Kan. 67347). It works great on trees up to 8 in. in diameter.”

Dan Rhodes, Myerstown, Pa.: “The best pickup ever made has to be my 1989 **Dodge** 350 equipped with a Cummins diesel engine and 5-speed transmission. It has more than 260,000 miles on it but still has the original exhaust system. We use it a lot to pull goose-

which makes it the company's problem.

- “We were lucky that the ether bottle on the tractor didn't blow up and blind someone since the fire was all around it.

- “We not only lost our swather tractor but had to rent a 2550 Ford New Holland swather, which took seven days to locate and deliver.”

Larry Flesher, Ridgeville, Ind.: “My best buy is my 1996 **Ford** F-250 4-WD pickup equipped with a 460 cu. in. engine and 4:10 rear end. We use it to pull a 550-bu. hopper wagon, a gooseneck livestock trailer, and a 24-ft. flat trailer. It handles all of them with ease.

“My 1968 **International** 606 utility tractor is trouble-free and has a lot of power for its size.”

On the “worst buy” side, he lists his 1978 **International** 4586 4-WD tractor. “I'm sure this tractor gave the original owner many long hours of good work, but when I finally got it I had nothing but problems. The first year the turbocharger went out. The second year the clutch went out. The third year the camshaft went out. The fourth year the tractor itself went out, and a new **Case-IH** Magnum 7240 came in.”

Martin J. Fischer, St. Clair, Mo.: A 1996 **Ford** F-350 4-WD pickup equipped with a 7.3-liter Power Stroke diesel engine and 5-speed transmission rates as Martin's “best buy”. “We sell farm equipment and use the pickup to pull a triple axle trailer. It has 20,000 miles on it with no problems. I like