

## BUYING TIPS YOU CAN USE

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

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**Glen E. Brothers, Dix, Neb.:** “My best buy is my 7-ft. wide **Erskine** snowblower that mounts on the front-end loader on my Deere 3010 tractor (Erskine Mfg. Co., Inc., Erskine, Minn. 56535 ph 218 687-4045). The snowblower was designed for front-mount use. I bought it new in 1985 without any mounting brackets or driveline. I made my own brackets and converted an old driveline



that I already had. The driveline hooks up to the tractor’s existing front pto. A 3-ft. long slip joint allows the snowblower to be raised up or down without damaging the driveline.

The snowblower attaches to the loader with four bolts. A safety chain keeps us from raising the blower so high it pulls the driveline apart.

“I’ve used it to blow hundreds of tons of snow with no problems,” says Brothers. “It throws snow out more than 100 ft., and I can

**Deere 8100 MFWD tractor.** “It’s a nice tractor with an excellent engine. But the armchair controls on this tractor are the pits. Because of their poor design, I’ve come close to getting into serious accidents. The transmission control makes it hard to distinguish between park and reverse. The rocker switches that operate the hydraulics are awful, and the instruments mounted on the side are hard to notice. This would be a nice tractor if it had the controls the company uses on its 7000 series tractors.”

**Doug Simpson, Orton, Ontario:** Doug owns a **Westfield** 8-in. dia., 51-ft. long grain auger and says it’s his “best buy”. “It has a lot of capacity and moves grain fast. It has been trouble-free.

“My 1999 **Deere** Lt133 lawn mower works great.”

**Y.Z. Gauthier, Arnaudville, La.:** “**FARM SHOW** is my best buy. I’ve built many projects based on stories I’ve read in the magazine.”

**Shane Dennis, Saint Paul, Minn.:** “My 1988 **Chevrolet** C1500 longbed pickup is my best buy. It has more than 200,000 miles on it and is still running strong. It has the original engine and 5-speed transmission. I put a heavy duty tow bar on it to haul my boat and camper all over the state. The pickup’s 4.3-liter, V-6 gas engine has provided plenty of power for my needs.”

**George E. Holmes, Trumansburg, N.Y.:** “I bought a 1999 **Case-IH** 7220 tractor with low hours on it, and it’s my best buy. It has a lot of power and is easy on fuel. No problems.”

On the negative side, he lists a **Kewanee** 1175 22-ft. disk which he bought used. “I can’t use this disk on more than 30 acres before it breaks down. One problem is that the axles are too small. Also, U-bolts that hold the flex springs keep breaking.”

**H.K. Holyoak, Alapaha, Ga.:** “My 1995 **Freightliner** six-wheel semi truck is my worst buy. I’m a fish farmer and over the years have owned many trucks which I use to haul fish and equipment. This Freightliner is by far the worst truck I’ve ever owned. I’ve tried to sell it, but no one will buy it when they find out what kind of truck it is. One problem is that many of the truck’s parts are made from plastic. Another problem is that whenever a part has to be replaced it takes weeks for them to arrive. For example, when the truck needed new brakes, they had to be shipped from Canada and it took three weeks for them to get here. That’s a lot of down time, which costs me a lot of money. I’ll never own another Freightliner.”

**Richard E. Adams, Winnebago, Minn.:** “We’re impressed with our **Sears Craftsman** 2.2 chain saw. In three years we’ve used it to cut 150 pickup loads of firewood. All we have to do is sharpen the chain.”

**Jud Greene, Brinson, Ga.:** “I’m impressed with my 2000 **Case-IH** MX 170 tractor. It has an excellent cab with good visibility, and runs quiet. It handles well, will easily pull a 24-ft. disk, and has good hydraulics. However, I wish it had a full powershift transmission like the one on my **Case-IH** 7220 tractor. I’ve been pleased with all my **Case-IH** tractors.

“I own two **Zimmatic** center pivot irrigation systems, one a 1999 model and the other 2001. These pivots have been trouble-free except for an endgun that quit working on the 2001 model.

“My 1997 **New Holland** GT 65 lawn and garden tractor equipped with a diesel engine and 48-in. mower deck is my worst buy. The tractor itself works okay, but the mower is

# Farmers Nominate Best, Worst Buys

## OPINION

### Tell Us About Your “Best or Worst” Buy

Send your nominations to:  
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Lakeville, Minn. 55044, or use  
the survey form on our website at  
www.FARMSHOW.com,  
or E-mail your comments to:  
Editor@FARMSHOW.com**

raise it up high enough to cut the top off a 6-ft. drift. It also does a great job chopping up chunks of ice. A shear bolt on the driveline and auger drive protects against damage in case some foreign object is picked up.”

**James L. Szabo, Franklin, Tenn.:** James is happy with his 1994 **Dodge** D-3500 1-ton pickup equipped with a Cummins 5.9-liter diesel engine and 5-speed transmission. “As far as I know this was the first 1-ton diesel pickup in our county. It has more than 220,000 miles on it but still runs great. It gets more than 20 mpg on the highway, and for the most part has required only routine maintenance. We replaced a fan idler at 125,000 miles and a clutch at 185,000 miles. The batteries and muffler lasted 6 1/2 years before they had to be replaced. This pickup uses a special synthetic transmission oil that isn’t cheap. It costs about \$90 every time we change the transmission oil. But overall, this is a great pickup.”

**Marvin Vlietstra, Kalamazoo, Mich.:** Marvin’s satisfied with his three **Case** skid steer loaders. They include two 1845 C models, one made in 1996 and the other in 2000; and a 1999 85 XT. “The 1845 C’s are used extremely hard but we’ve had very few problems with them. They’re both powered by Cummins diesel engines which are virtually trouble-free and start easily in cold weather. Their controls are precise and operator-friendly. The 85 XT works fast and is easy to operate. It will outload many larger end loaders. All these rigs are somewhat hard on tires, however.”

On the “worst buy” side, he lists his 1999