

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:
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Alec Yeager, Hendley, Neb.: “My 1999 J & M 750-bu. grain cart equipped with a hydraulic-operated spout is my best buy. It pulls easy and smooth in the field and dumps fast without vibrating. The hydraulic-operated spout makes it easy to fill a truck without overloading one side of it.

“My 1999 **Convey-All** belt-type tub conveyor is my worst buy. I bought three of these units for use in my grain cleaning business. However, I’m convinced the company’s engineers didn’t have a tape measure or a notepad when they designed this machine. It moves only about one third as much material as advertised and is a bit crude. Fortunately, it has enough capacity for what I use it for.”

Arnold Fish, Bremerton, Wash.: “My 1981 **Isuzu** pickup equipped with a diesel engine is my best buy. I bought it used in 1988. It has more than 262,000 miles on it, yet I still drive it every day. The engine has never been taken apart although it does use some oil now. The starter and alternator are original. The transmission had problems shortly after I bought it and had to be rebuilt and upgraded. This pickup has only about 57 horsepower so it shouldn’t be used for haul-

satisfied with it.”

On the negative side, he lists his **1996 Gehl** 2175 9-ft. mower-conditioner. “The third year I owned it the conditioning roll shaft broke. I had an expert analyze the metal in the shaft and he concluded that the problem was poor metal. My dealer wouldn’t help at all. I had used the machine to cut only a total of about 1,500 acres. I had to spend \$3,000 on repairs. I was able to cut only five more acres with it before the main shaft coming off the gearbox broke. I traded the machine in for a Hesston 1340 12-ft. model and haven’t been back to the company since.”

Roland Tordeur, Green Bay, Wis.: “I’ve owned three **Case** backhoes in the last 20 years and they’ve all been best buys. I sold my 1980 580 C model when it had about 6,800 hours on it. It required very little maintenance. When I sold it I actually got \$2,000 more than I had paid for it. My 1994 580 SK model had about 5,000 hours on it when I traded it off for a new 2000 590 Super L, which is the best one I’ve had. It has a lot of power and comfort.”

Tommy Carey, Boulder, Mont.: “My 1997 **MacDon** 9300 swather has plenty of power. I like the big tires front and back which allows it to ride smooth even over center pivot irrigation tracks. It has a comfortable air ride seat and a quiet cab.

“My **Water Ace** submersible water pump is my worst buy. I used it in a sump for pumping livestock water. One day the pump burned out. The dealer gave me another pump but it failed, too. Each time all the oil in the pump leaked out which made a big mess in the water. I switched back to a better known brand and haven’t had any more problems.”

George Hendricks, Beaver, Ohio: A **WoodMizer** LT30 bandsaw mill equipped with an 18 hp gas engine rates as George’s “best buy”. “It cuts well and makes good quality lumber. It’s like having my own lumber yard. The company has provided good service.”

August Andersen, Long Eddy, N.Y.: August likes his **Farmi** 456 3-pt. mounted winch. “I use it on my 70 hp tractor and it does an excellent job. It really comes in handy for retrieving tractors and wagons stuck in muddy fields. The cable can reach up to 150 ft. away.”

Burton Lounsbury, Woonsocket, S. Dak.: Burton likes his 1983 **Sears** chainsaw. “We use it every year to cut enough firewood for the entire winter, and after we’re done it’s always ready to go for the next winter. It has never let us down.

“My 2000 **Berklene** deluxe recliner chair equipped with a heat and back massager is my worst buy. The back brackets and the metal frame rivets broke. It has been in the shop for three weeks and still hasn’t been fixed.”

Calvin Ray Wilson, Campbellsburg, Ky.: A 1990 **Deere** Gator AMT 622 utility vehicle rates as Calvin’s “best buy”. “I’m well pleased with it and haven’t had any problems at all. It’s by far the handiest machine I own and is a lot of fun to drive for checking fields and small hauling jobs. Saves a lot of wear and tear on my pickup. It’s equipped with an electric dump bed which makes it ideal for hauling dirt and rocks. I don’t know what I’d do without this vehicle.

“My 1997 **Ford** F-250 XLT 4-WD supercab pickup rides and handles like a car and is a best buy. I bought it used two years ago and haven’t had any problems with it at all. The 4.6-liter, V-89 has engine is easy on fuel, even though this pickup has an automatic transmission. I like being able to shift

ing big loads or for pulling trailers - However, it has been reliable and gets more than 30 miles per gallon. I attribute much of its longevity to the **Chevron** Delo 400 15/40 motor oil I use in it. I use Delo motor oil in all my equipment.

“My 1973 **International Harvester** 1310 1-ton pickup, which I bought used, is my worst buy. I tried to fix it up but it broke a piston the first time I really put it to work. Fortunately, I was only out about \$1,200 and the time I spent working on it.”

C.A. Wilder, Dallas, Texas: “My 1993 **Chevrolet** 1/2-ton longbed pickup has more than 220,000 miles on it and is my best buy. It hasn’t required any major repairs. All I have to do is change the oil and transmission fluid regularly. This pickup still looks good, too. I put new Hoosier tires on it about every 50,000 miles. I guess I’ll drive it until the wheels fall off.”

Robert Fisher, Kewanee, Ill.: Robert nominates his 1999 **Deere** 445 riding mower equipped with a 22 hp engine and 54-in. deck as his “best buy”. “I haven’t had a minute of trouble with it. It’s easy to run and maintain. It makes mowing my three-acre lawn an effortless job.”

Jerry Kroll, Montague, Mich.: “This pickup is a pleasure to own,” reports Jerry about his 1999 **Dodge** 3500 equipped with a Cummins DSL engine and 5-speed transmission. “I own five different trailers and have yet to find anything that this pickup can’t pull easily. It has a comfortable ride and gets 24 miles per gallon. I’ve put more than 40,000 miles on it without a breakdown. I’m well