

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

Raphael Ebelhar, Owensboro, Kent.: "My 1991 Deere 9600 combine is a worst buy. The biggest problem is that I find cracked corn in the grain tank at all moisture levels, in good corn and bad, no matter what brand I'm harvesting. I installed Kuchar filler plates which reduced the amount of cracked corn by about one third over standard Deere plates. They also solved the problem of dust buildup in the cylinder which was causing a lot of vibration. My dealer has done everything possible to help, but this combine is just a corn cracker. Considering what it cost, I'm disappointed."

"My 1990 Ford-Versatile 946 tractor has 1,000 hours with no problems. It has never been back to the dealer."

Ted H. Pyle, Miles City, Mont.: "My 1990 Ford F-350 4-WD crew cab pickup equipped with a 7.3-liter diesel engine is a best buy. It's simply a pleasure to drive this vehicle. It's a well made product. We're very proud of this pickup. We have driven Fords for the last 50 years and they just keep getting better."

Joseph Adams, Roberts, Ill.: "My 1978 International 1586 tractor is a worst buy. It has had numerous repairs including failed O-rings, a new rear housing (\$832 for ring

formation. Microsoft Word does the same with text. All in all, Apple Mac is fun and easy to use."

S.D. Hays, Steens, Miss.: "My 1990 Krone 151 round baler is a best buy. It's virtually trouble-free and doesn't make a lot of dust. It puts up uniform, firm bales that withstand the weather."

Harry J. Duffey III, Centreville, Md.: "It's very comfortable and easy to get on and off," says Harry, pleased with his Massey Ferguson 390-T 4-WD 80 hp tractor equipped with a loader. "Handles better than other 65 hp tractors and can pull just as much as our 105 hp 4-WD Deere. It's a real utility tractor."

Geo. Moore, Castor, Alberta.: "My 1991 Case-IH 7120 tractor is a best buy. It handles and steers well and has a lot of pulling power. I really like the 18-speed power shift transmission. It increases the tractor's efficiency by 75%."

Dale Steenblock, Campbell, Minn.: Dale owns two 1981 Steiger ST-251 Cougar tractors equipped with Cummins 855 cu. in. engines. "The dealer asked me 'Why buy bigger models when you can get the same power with the Cougars?' They pull 45-ft. cultivators and 33-ft. chisel plows with ease on our heavy ground."

On the "worst buy" side is a 1990 Lormaster 60-ft. harrow packer. "We used it on two fields, then on the third field it fell apart at the welds. They brought us a new one the next year and we used it once before it got bent again."

"We bought a Flexcoil 60-ft. harrow packer. It's an excellent machine."

Glen Riekhof, Concordia, Mo.: "My 1990 Great Plains 10-ft. no-till end wheel drill works great but is hard to adjust for conventional tillage. I have to change the press wheels and raise the harrow. It works best on level ground - doesn't work well on terraces. I use it to plant wheat, soybeans, canola, grass, legumes, and oats. Yields are equal to or better than conventional tillage. It saves labor, fuel, and equipment expenses."

Dan Biddinger, Ithaca, Mich.: "It plants seeds accurately and at the right depth and is set up to apply liquid fertilizer. It's an excellent buy," says Dan, pleased with his White 5100 12-row planter.

"Our Case-IH 1063 6-row corn head is also a best buy. It leaves corn stalks in excellent condition for plowing or chiseling and works great in down stalks."

Chester Kantosky, Sr., Grafton, Ohio.: "It has a flimsy front end and poor steering system," says Chester, who otherwise is pleased with his 1990 Cub Cadet 802 mower.

"My worst buy is a 1990 Bolens 16 hp mower. It's poorly designed and extremely difficult to work on. We got rid of it."

H.J. Moser, Jefferson City, Tenn.: He nominates his 1991 John Blue high pressure pump as a "best buy". It injects liquid nitrogen and other liquid fertilizers into the ground. "We use the system to sidedress all of our corn with liquid nitrogen plus 11-33-0. Fertilizer is placed close to the root zone which we hope will allow us to use less nitrogen in the future. We've looked for years for a way to inject liquid fertilizer, but because of rocks didn't feel we could use an injection knife. The orifices are mounted about an inch above the ground directly behind spring-loaded coulters. A high-pressure stream of liquid goes into the slot. We run the coulters 4 to 5 in. deep. Injection eliminates the tie-up of nitrogen by surface residue which is important with no-till."

gear and pinion), radiator repairs, a cracked hydraulic line, rebuilt starter (\$400), new hydraulic mainline, resurfacing of the exhaust manifold, alternator repairs, new head gasket, new clutch, new rear end bearing, a leaky 3-pt. cylinder, new rings, bearings, oil pump, oil gauge, rear end, and some transmission problems. Most of the repairs came in the spring and fall, causing lots of headaches and hassles. We had about \$17,000 in repair bills before we finally traded this junker in for a used 1988 Deere 4640.

"We like our M & W Earthmaster 1165 tillage tool. We pull it with a Deere 8430 tractor. It stays in the ground and does a really fine job. M & W's no-till rotary hoe is aggressive and works well, when it's needed."

"Our 1987 Cam Spray GH1200 high pressure washer is a best buy. It has plenty of pressure and volume. The Honda GX-110 engine always starts. It runs quiet and is easy on fuel. I use this washer a lot and it works great."

"Our 1988 Apple Macintosh SE computer and Imagewriter II printer is also a best buy. It has 2.5 megabytes of RAM and a 40 megabyte internal hard drive. The Apple computer is easy to use. I bought mine used and I didn't get (and don't need) the manual. The computer is a bit overpriced, but worth it. Quickletter lets us easily make letters, envelopes, and addresses. Quicken helps us keep the checkbook balanced. On Cue starts programs pronto. Excel does about anything with numbers and in-