

BUYING TIPS YOU CAN USE

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

by Harold Johnson
Editorial Director

Mark Newhall
Editor

Bill Gergen
Associate Editor

Farmers Nominate Best, Worst Buys

OPINION

Donis Willigar, Patten, Maine: He's unhappy with his 1989 New Holland 790 forage harvester that he uses in both corn and hay. "It doesn't have enough capacity and continually breaks shear pins. Another problem is that the welding on a collar protecting a pair of shafts on the gearbox keeps breaking. It has broken three times so far. Recently we've had trouble with the splined end of one of the shafts chewing out the inside of the collar, ruining the collar and the shafts. The dealer repaired it. This all happened during our first silage harvest.

"We contacted the company and asked them to pay the repair bill and for the cost of transporting the machine. They told us they'd pay for part of the repair bill, but not for transport. The company admitted that this model was built with a couple problems and that our machine has both of them.

"Last year the collar broke again. We made more phone calls to the company, dealer, and factory representative. Last July, the factory representative and a dealer mechanic came out and worked on the machine. We tried to get the company to take back our machine and give us a new one, but they refused. We honestly feel that there's no way that this will ever be a good

it. I'm really pleased with it."

Herman Daugherty, Bogard, Mo.: Herman's had trouble with two Morton buildings. "We put the first one up 10 years ago and it always leaked. The company came out a couple of times but never repaired it. We hired a carpenter and he fixed it. Last year we bought another Morton building and paid the company extra money to bird-proof it. The birds can't get in, but they do build nests in the door track. When we open the sliding doors the nesting material falls inside the building.

"Our 1990 Vermeer Model J baler is also a worst buy. When my son he comes in at night after a day of baling, the first thing his wife asks is 'How many shear pins did you use today?' We also had to replace a bearing before we had even made 900 bales."

W.A. Gibbs, Elmwood, Tenn.: He says his 1991 Woods Cadet 7-ft. rotary cutter is neither a "best buy" nor a "worst buy". "After the first three to four hours of use the entire slip clutch and half of the pto shaft fell off, bending all but one or two bolts on the slip clutch. I took it back to the shop and discovered that the shear bolt hadn't been installed. I used a heavy hammer to drive the slip clutch onto the gearbox, then installed the shear bolt and tightened the clamp bolt. Since then I haven't had any more trouble."

Jack Monteith, Balcarres, Sask.: Jack likes the "Protect-Air" chemical cab filter made by Dutch Industries of Regina, Sask. "It's one of the few things I've bought that I can describe in two words - 'it works'."

Gordon Norby, Bemidji, Minn.: Gordon is impressed with his 1989 Black & Decker 14-in. chop saw. "It cuts angle iron up to 4 in. thick and doubles as a grinder for mower blades. It cuts faster and cleaner than a cutting torch. However, I wish it was as portable as a cutting torch.

"I also like my 1990 Belarus 250 AS tractor. It's economically priced."

Gordon's had problems with his 1991 McCulloch model 110 14-in. chain saw. "My 1980 model 110 ran for 11 years with few problems. The new model doesn't have an automatic oiler and is short on power. I don't think it will last."

Daryl Beachy, Kalona, Iowa: Daryl is the satisfied owner of a Buffalo 4600 no-till cultivator equipped with a Scout automatic guidance system. "We band our corn herbicides and this year it was so wet that we couldn't cultivate on time. When we did cultivate we had solid foxtail 1 ft. tall in the middle of the rows. We went right through without plugging and got almost all the weeds."

Morris Miller, Macon, Miss.: "My Stihl FS 86 brush cutter is powerful and lightweight and comes with many different types of heads for different cutting applications."

John Tibbs, Jr., Cohutta, Ga.: "Our best buys are a 1990 Deere 2155 4-WD tractor equipped with a model 175 front-end loader and a Deere 9504-WD tractor also equipped with a Deere loader. We farm and do some landscaping, and we use these tractors like small dozers to spread and level dirt. They also work great in the hay field.

"Our Deere 335 round baler, 626 AMT, 316 lawn mower with grass catcher, and 7-ft. rotary cutter are also best buys. They're outstanding."

Emmett Grady, Fall River, Wis.: "It rakes real clean and keeps the leaves on the stems," says Emmett about his "best buy", a 1990 Claas WS 330 hay rake.

"We also have a Columbia golf cart which we use to do odd jobs around the farm. We'd be lost without it."

machine. It'll always be a headache for us. No amount of money can replace the down time and the losses from not being able to harvest our silage when it was ready. No 'sorries' or apologies will help fill the silo. I wish I had never bought it."

Donis says his 1990 New Idea model 5409 9 ft. 2 in. disc mower is a "best buy". "It does a super job of cutting. It's very maneuverable, trouble-free, and is easy to service."

Doug and Ken McLaughlin, Southwold, Ontario: "Our 1991 Deere 8760 is our best Deere tractor yet. It works great and has plenty of power. The company has greatly improved the 619 cu. in. engine in terms of its lugging ability and durability. The 8760 requires much less maintenance than the old 50 series 4-WDs and is easier to work on. It also rides much better due to its longer wheelbase. The new 24-speed power shift transmission works great. It shifts smoother than the old 16-speed transmission and offers an infinite number of speeds for field work. The cab is easy to get in and out of and offers tremendous visibility.

"Our 1987 Deere 7720 Titan II combine is also a best buy. It's very dependable and trouble-free."

Otis Crisco, Oakboro, N.C.: Otis is the owner of a 1981 Steiger 270 4-WD tractor. "It rides and drives good. The cab stays cool in summer and warm in winter and is quiet, with plenty of room and a good seat. This tractor is built heavy enough to stand up to tough conditions. Ours has 4,400 hours on