

Best & Worst Buys

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powerful, rugged farm truck."

Harold Hutchinson, Lima, Ohio: Harold's "best buy" 1991 Deere 7240 no-till planter is equipped with 15-in. row splitter units. "After I got all the bugs out of it I used it to plant 600 acres, including over 300 acres of no-till. It produced excellent stands in bean stubble, wheat stubble, and corn stalks."

Duane Starkweather, Amboy, Minn.: "I've used it for grass and weed control in beans instead of herbicides for many years with good results," says Duane about his "best buy" Melroe spring tooth drag.

Gary Gerdes, Glenwood, Minn.: "My 1989 Deere 265 lawn mower has over 300 hours and is still going. I've never had any trouble with it."

Gary's 1989 Ford 700 series truck is a "worst buy". "It has only 20,000 miles on it, but has had lots of problems. At 3,000 miles the water pump went out. I had to wait about six months before a new one was installed. The carburetor and the exhaust system are bad and the radiator leaked. The air pump is also bad. I ordered a new one three months ago, but I still haven't got it."

Don Gilreath, Winnebago, Minn.: "It tears out weeds really well," says Don, pleased with his 1991 Farm King 50-ft. drag.

David Hemingway, Ellendale, Minn.: David nominates his Case-IH 1480 and 1680 combines as "best buys". "They're both easy to maintain. The 1480 has 4,000 hours on it with very few problems. They're good machines."

On the minus side, "My Case-IH 5400 minimum till drill is a worst buy. Wet soil sticks to the inside of the disc openers and causes them to plug up."

"The heater and air conditioning controls on my Case-IH 9100 tractor are inadequate. I either cook or freeze."

"My 1989 Chevrolet 2500 pickup has had constant problems with the brakes, engine, and transmission. It has 45,000 miles and it seems like I'm always fixing it. It's not tough enough."

John P. Hagerman, Jr., Aliceville, Ala.: John is the satisfied owner of a 1990 Deere 535 round baler. "It never fails to form a bale with a tight core. It runs relatively quiet and the adjustments stay where they're set. The bale monitor makes it simple to operate. I can't find where they cut any corners with this one. It should last many years."

Will Hathaway Jr., Turin, Iowa: Will's "best buy" is his Deere 185 hydrostatic

use it in hay and to clip pastures and mow fencelines. We're building a hitch to pull a rotary tedder behind the disc mower."

Thomas Stephens, Guymon, Okla.: A 1991 Deere 7300 Max-Emerge 12-row vacuum planter rates as Thomas's "worst buy". "I've been using it to plant milo. The problem is that it plants double and triple seeds. I might as well be using a wheat drill. The scrapers wore out completely after 400 acres of use. I got no quick help to solve the problem from my local dealer or the company representative. The bearings on the main drive are already wearing out."

Thomas is happy with his Walker riding lawn mower. "It runs smooth and turns on a dime. It's an excellent grass catcher and easy to handle. It's a real dream to mow with."

Mary Riemenapp, Dodgeville, Wis.: "We can depend on our 1977 Deere 4230 tractor to perform in the field or do any job. It very seldom needs major repairs. It's handy and tough."

Leo Leiding, Fairmont, Minn.: Leo nominates a used Demco field sprayer equipped with a 500-gal. tank as his "best buy". "The spring-loaded boom smooths out the bumps in rough fields to keep the boom from bouncing, and the electric controls work good."

Charles Gruener, Coldwater, Mich.: "It shifts hard and sometimes it takes two or three tries to get the gear I want," says Charles, who otherwise is pleased with his 1990 White 2-140 tractor. "It has excellent power, lugging ability, and fuel efficiency. My dealer and I discussed filling the 18.4 by 38 radial dual tires, but I agreed to try it first without filling them to pull my 7-bottom, 18-in. land plow. It handled alright so I never have filled the tires. It cost \$9,000 less than trading for a Deere and \$13,000 less than trading for a Case-IH. It has a good range of gears and there have been no oil leaks, fuel line leaks, or fuel gauge or light problems, etc. that have plagued me in the past. Even the air conditioner still works."

Jim Hermanski, Enid, Okla.: A Same tractor and mower heads Jim's "worst buy" list. "It's hard to change oil on the tractor without getting oil all over the side of the engine. The pto brake is a real hassle to operate and it's hard to hook up equipment."

"The mower's automatic wing locks are a pain, and there should be a way to get hold of the speed joint and unhook it without smashing your fingers. The hydraulic cylinders on the wings leak down."

Jim's happy with his 1985 Deere 4450 mfdw tractor. "It's dependable and has good visibility and ease of operation. Because of the mechanical front wheel drive I don't need to use wheel brakes in the field. The power shift works great for operating a baler."

"My Deere 1508 mower also is a best buy. The blades are easy to change and are tough."

Randall Mauler, Sargent, Neb.: Randall owns a 1988 Suzuki LT 250 4-WD 4-wheeler ATV. "It has 15 gears and with the 4-wheel independent suspension it rides great. It has good lighting and steers easy."

On the "worst buy" side, "My 1984 Orthman disc hiller has fragile bearings, and if a bearing goes out the whole disc assembly goes with it. Very expensive maintenance."

Robert Eastwood, Underwood, Minn.: Robert bought a Jonserud 2051 chain saw last winter. "It handles good and cuts fast."

He does custom work with his 1982 Vermeer Super F baler and says it's a "best buy". "After 15,000 bales it still works good. All I've replaced is one belt and bearings on the main drive. New rubber-mounted pickup teeth were put in 6,000 bales ago and still show no wear."

"My 1980 Vermeer twin rake is also a "best buy".

Charles Chandler, Greer, S.C.: "It's a joy to operate but the pits to keep running," says Charles, who describes his Deutz-Allis SM45CR disc mower conditioner as both a "best" and "worst" buy. "I've babied

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it from day one, but the skid plates last only 100 acres in grass land and cost \$400 a set to replace. An after market kit was made to help this problem but I had to buy the kit at my own expense. A drive bearing went out on the cutterbar that cost \$650 to replace. They've corrected this problem on newer machines with a better bearing. The breakaway brackets and cutterbar outer support broke. I wrote the company but got no parts or financial help. I feel like I've been robbed."

Arnold Webb, Harrold, S. Dak.: "My 1990 Ford 846 4-WD tractor has a clean, quiet cab with good visibility and plenty of power for my equipment."

"I also like my 1990 Remington 16-in. electric chain saw and Makita 4-in. grinder."

Linwood Thompson, Tenants Harbor, Maine: Linwood traded his 1984 Deere 1050 for a Deere 1070 and says it's a "best buy". "The 1050 was trouble-free for seven years, but last winter I had to spend \$1,067 for installation of a new gear. The 1070 has wet brakes, synchromesh transmission, a 4-cylinder engine, and is equipped with a quicker front-end loader. It also has two speeds in reverse which works good for mowing brush. The 1050 had only one useable speed. High range is too fast for my kind of work."

Ross McGehee, Natchez, Miss.: Ross has had problems with his Kuhn FC250 disc mower-conditioner. "I have no complaints on its performance, but Kuhn parts are costly and availability is a problem. Anytime I need a part other than blades, I can look forward to a three-week wait. Once the company had to get parts 'from France' and when they showed up, one of the parts had obviously been taken off another machine. The machine itself is a fine hay cutter in every way. I use it to cut more than 1,000 acres of hay per year in land that has lots of fire ant mounds."

Eugene Stifter, Stillwater, Minn.: Eugene purchased a CompuTemp Plus bedside thermometer (Rodco Products Co., Box 944, Columbus, Neb. 68601) after reading about it in FARM SHOW. It continuously displays outdoor and indoor temperature, giving both in degrees Fahrenheit or Celsius, and also continuously displays the time. You can set the alarm to go off at either a set time, like any other alarm clock, or when the temperature reaches a critical point. All numbers are displayed on a digital LED display. "I use it to measure outside air temperature, soil temperature and my house temperature. It's very accurate and by touch-

ing a button, I can call up the day's high and low temperature, and the time of occurrence. I especially like watching the soil temperature during spring warm-up."

Jerry Stoner, Downing, Wis.: Jerry's "worst buy" is his New Holland model 254 hay rake and tedder. "The grease zerks won't take grease and fall out of their plastic bushings. It works too rough when raking hay - all that's left is the stems."

"My Gehl 5-wheel rake doesn't pick up hay on uneven ground. It takes two hours to set it into the right raking position."

"My New Idea Discbine is a best buy. It cuts tangled hay, doesn't take a lot of power, and it's simple to grease. It lets me cut hay as fast as the tractor can go."

Robert Frey, Phillipsburg, N.J.: Robert purchased a "holemaker" for hay bales from F.B. Recker Co. (802 1st St. S.W., Dyersville, Iowa 52040) after reading about it in FARM SHOW and says it's a "best buy". "A metal prong bolts to the center of the baler plunger and leaves a 2-in. hole through the center of each bale. We baled some tough hay, but thanks to the ventilator there was no mold inside the bales," says Robert.

Wilfred B. Dittmer, Quincy, Ill.: "It places seed very accurately and produces good stands," says Wilfred about his 1989 Tye no-till drill and caddy. "It's built heavy enough for good soil penetration and sturdy enough to last a long time."

Daniel Glick, Willow Street, Penn.: Daniel bought his "best buy" New Holland model 311 baler in 1988. "After having the service man out two or three times to adjust the knotters, we had a good baler. The following spring we baled 4,400 bales before it missed a knot!"

Winston Lovett, Killarney, Manitoba: Winston's "best buy" is his 1990 Hesston 8100 self-propelled swather that can be equipped with an auger header or draper. "The 4-cyl. Fiat diesel engine is very fuel efficient and the auger header and draper header are easy to switch. Both headers really cut well and leave excellent windrows."

Clyde Steinman, Bristow, Okla.: A 1991 Deere 2555 tractor equipped with a cab, air conditioning, and a front-end loader heads Clyde's "best buy" list. "It has plenty of power for its size and the cab is super quiet and dust-free. No problems at all."

Frank Bird, Loganville, Ga.: Frank's disappointed with his Ford pickup equipped with an automatic transmission with overdrive and 7.3 liter diesel engine. "It had a 60,000 mile warranty, but the transmission went out at 61,000 miles. At 78,000 miles I had to spend \$2,300 more on transmission repairs, and at 89,000 miles another \$1,800."

John W. Bacon, Kingston, Tenn.: "I've mowed hay for 50 years and this machine is the best I've ever used," says John, pleased with his 1990 New Holland 411 discbine. "I've used it to mow about 150 acres and it hasn't choked yet."

Thomas Richter, Industry, Texas: "Thomas says his Krone model 181 round baler makes good bales under almost any condition and produces very little dust, but could use one improvement. "The tieing mechanism could be a little faster. It almost takes as long to tie a bale as to form it."

On the negative side, "My Black & Decker 1/2-in. drill quit running and started smoking after two months of light use. I was dumb enough to buy a second one and after six months it sounds terrible. Heat comes out of the motor and directly onto my trigger switch finger. I almost need a glove to operate it."

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drive lawn mower that's equipped with a 46-in. deck and 17 hp Kalasaki engine with oil filter. "No problems at all."

Dave Delabar, Wheelersburg, Ohio: "It mows cleaner at higher speeds than any mower or haybine I've ever used," reports Dave, satisfied with his 1989 New Holland 463 disc mower. "No broken sections or guards and no problems with plugging. We