

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

Mike Lefever, Longmont, Colo.: Mike is disappointed with his **Case-IH 365** field cultivator. "I can't work more than an hour at a time without losing a bearing on the roller baskets, and bolts constantly fall out. I've used it on about 150 acres and have broken 35 S-tines. I spend more time repairing it than using it. A thousand times over, I wish I'd never spent \$8,500 to buy it. At the very least, I wish I would've financed it so I could let the company repossess it. However, I doubt they'd ever want it back."

On the positive side, "My **New Holland 116** swather is a best buy. It cuts hay clean at 6 mph and makes a neat fluffy windrow."

John Suhar, Kinsman, Ohio: "John's unhappy with his **Deere 328** baler. "At first it wouldn't tie at all. The dealer worked on it several times, but it still misses a lot of ties. Deere changed the knoter on this baler for the worse. They should've left a good knoter alone. My old 336 baler worked much better."

Pete Hatfield, Rossville, Ill.: "It cuts fast and is the most convenient mower I've ever used," reports Pete, pleased with his 1990 **White** zero turn 52-in. mower powered by a 12 1/2 hp motor.

Brian Brownell, Hooper, Colo.: A 1990 **Deere 4955** tractor equipped with mechani-

sluck. It has the fuel economy and maneuverability of a small tractor but does the work of a larger tractor."

Tim Myers, Monroe, Iowa: "My best buy is my **International 800** series air planter which I bought to no-till corn into bean stubble. It works great. I also used it to plant corn into the previous year's hay ground with equally good results. It's an extremely reliable machine."

Charles Svetlik, Beaver Creek, Ore.: In May of 1990 Charles purchased two **Pro-Quality** hay baskets after reading about them in **FARM SHOW** magazine. "They work great," says Charles. "Each basket holds 110 to 120 bales and self-dumps its entire load by opening the back gate. I pull them behind my **New Holland 273** baler and 36 hp **Kubota** tractor. I no longer have to leave bales in the field where they can get rained on. When a sudden rainstorm does come up, I cover the baskets with a tarp. My customers are delighted that they don't have to drive around the field loading hay. I pull the baskets on the highway at 35 to 45 mph. We're thinking of using the baskets as feeders and we might also use them to haul wood. I'm now Oregon's first and only dealer of "Hay Baskets".

"My 1989 **Kubota 2850 DT** tractor equipped with a model 500 loader is a worst buy. The biggest problem is parts availability. If I send the tractor in for repairs under warranty it takes five to eight days to get it back."

Loren Jessen, Pine Bluffs, Wyo.: Loren's "best buy" is a swather conversion kit offered by **Bob Stewart (B & L Enterprises, 2422 Blaine Rd., Zillah, Wa. 98953)** that modifies a swather so it makes a tunnel down the center of the windrow. He first read about Stewart in **FARM SHOW**. "The tunneling system works exceptionally well and is the answer to my haying problems. Lets rained-on hay dry fast."

Bibb Mims, Uriah, Ala.: "My 1990 **Deere 4955** tractor has plenty of power, is fuel efficient, and handles well. It's a good all-around tractor."

David Billiar, Filer, Idaho: "It rides and handles very well and the 302 cu. in. V-8 engine gets 16 to 19 mpg," reports David, pleased owner of a 1989 **Ford F-150 Lariat** pickup.

Cecil Reimer, McKague, Canada: Cecil is disappointed with the **Goodyear** Wrangler tires on his 4-WD pickup. "After only 200 miles the tires started to fall apart. They're about as thick as recreational vehicle tires. I don't think much of the warranty because I have to pay the first \$20 plus the cost for having the tires changed and balanced. I replaced them with used tires."

Tim Boucher, Crookston, Minn.: Tim's the unhappy owner of a **Ford 946 4-WD** tractor. "The compensator valve stuck on the hydraulic system and ruined four hydraulic cylinders on my disk. Each cylinder cost \$290. The company says it won't pay for the cylinders because they're not part of the tractor, but the tractor caused the cylinders to fail."

Dennis Behler, Culesac, Idaho: "It performed beyond my expectations and is a real pleasure to operate," says Dennis about his 1989 **Deere 9500** Maximizer combine. "Does an excellent job of cleaning and saving grain and covers a lot of acres in a day."

Bill Short, Hamilton, Mo.: "My best buy is a **Ford New Holland 451** mower equipped with a 9-ft. sicklebar and ledger plate because there are fewer mower guards and they don't plug up as easily as conven-

cal front wheel drive heads Brian's "best buy" list. "It has lots of power on the ground where I need it. A ground speed radar and computer help me choose the best gear for any particular job."

"My two 1990 **GMC Sierra 4-WD** pickups are also best buys. They look good, are a pleasure to drive, and get good mileage. They're a big improvement over the 1987 **GMC** models they replaced."

Lavon Lampkin, Arkansas City, Ark.: "My 1989 **Chevrolet S-10** pickup was a real lemon. At times it idled too high at 2,500 rpms, and I couldn't get it to slow down. The throwout bearing and rear end made constant noise. I made countless trips to the dealer who told me there was nothing he could do. I traded it in on a 1990 **Dodge** pickup which works great. I think **GM** has lost pride in its products."

"My **Case-IH 1680** combine is a best buy. It cuts rice smooth and fast and does an excellent job of threshing and cleaning all crops. No problems at all."

Fred Dunlop, Stayner, Ontario: "It has more power and is easier on fuel than the 2550 model it replaced," says Fred about his **Deere 2555** tractor equipped with a cab and mechanical front wheel drive.

G.W. Lee, Jr., Vicksburg, Miss.: He's had good luck with his 1989 **Deere 870 25** hp tractor. "It's extremely well designed and has a very responsive engine and hydraulics. Runs quiet and cool and has an adjustable seat and open deck. The fully synchronized 9-speed transmission works