

## 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

**Darrel Liebl, Elbow Lake, Minn.:** Darrel's "worst buy" is a 1987 **Great Plains** 24-ft. folding drill. "I traded in a good Melroe drill on this piece of junk. The first thing to go wrong was a crack in the transport lift cylinder. The dealer installed a new cylinder, but that only solved part of the problem. It would settle so fast when I raised it for transport that I had to run from the tractor to set the locks. One side of the drill shut itself down which caused one of my soybean fields to look like a test strip. The company sent the dealer a new seed adjustment lever which I installed, but it didn't solve the problem. What I couldn't live with was the way the drill plugged up in trash. The only way to use this drill is to run a packer ahead of it. I traded it in for an **International** 620 which works great."

Darrel likes his 1978 **Dunbar-Kapple** 8-in. Vac-U-Vator which he bought used 1 1/2 years ago. "It moved 1,000 bu. of corn out of a 40 by 80-ft. flat storage building and through 100 ft. of pipe in less than an hour. Works great for cleaning out bins without stirring up dust."

**Lloyd C. Conrad, Greenfield, Wis.:** Lloyd isn't happy with his 1988 **Chevrolet** Cheyenne 1500 series 1/2-ton pickup that he bought used with 18,800 miles. "It was

to overhaul it this winter. If I wanted an overhauled combine I'd have kept my old one. At least it didn't use oil. I like the specialty rotor for harvesting soybeans. No roping in green beans."

His "best buy" is a 1990 **Orthman** 680 grain cart. "Runs smooth and has a scale that works great for checking yields."

**Thomas Reilley, Auburn, N.Y.:** Thomas's "best buy" is a 1986 **Ford F-150** pickup equipped with a 6-cylinder engine and overdrive.

**Thomas Wessman, Albert City, Iowa:** "My worst buy is a soil nitrogen test kit purchased from the **Hach Company**. What a joke. The directions were difficult to understand, and in order to use it I had to go to town for parts because it doesn't come with everything needed. I'll sell it for half price to anyone who wants it."

**Gale Skudlarick, Tekonsha, Mich.:** Gale's had good luck with his 1990 **Haybuster** H106 high lift rock picker. "It picks up rocks as big as a basketball with ease."

**Charles Angeroth, Council Bluffs, Iowa:** Charles is happy with his 1990 **Kuhn** Gyrorake. "It cleans in all conditions including oats hay and fine-stemmed material. I travel 8 to 9 mph and throttle back. It makes the fluffiest windrow I've ever baled."

**Bob Corbin, Finksburg, Md.:** Bob likes his 1987 35 hp **Case-IH** 385 tractor. "It's fuel efficient and heavy enough to carry big bales. Starts well in cold weather. No problems."

**Edd Corley, Hopkinsville, Ky.:** Edd's "best buy" is **Ansar** herbicide. "I used it to spot spray johnsongrass and found it far superior to Roundup herbicide. It sells for only \$15 per gallon compared to \$85 per gallon for Roundup and it works faster. Results show up in four days compared to three weeks for Roundup which lets me quickly respray if I miss a spot. Both herbicides require at least three respray applications for complete kill. Even then, johnsongrass regrowth is at least 25% with Roundup, but only about 5% with Ansar."

**Robert Loveday, Stone Creek, Ohio:** "It has excellent fuel economy and power and starts good in cold weather," says Robert, pleased owner of a 1988 **Ford** 5610 tractor.

**E.J. Flinchum, Christiansburg, Va.:** "My 1988 **Deere** AMT 600 5-wheeler is the handiest machine on my farm. I use it to haul almost anything, to drive in the cows, and to bring in baby calves. It's stable on hillsides and has good brakes and excellent pulling power. To keep the seat dry I pop-riveted a piece of water-repellant canvas behind the seat. I pull the canvas over the seat when I park the rig and move it back when I use it."

**Frank Zemla, Owosso, Mich.:** Frank says his 1990 **Karcher** 455 power washer heads his "worst buy" list. "It quit working after a few months of use. When I returned it I was told it would take several weeks to repair. I was given a replacement washer, but it didn't work at all."

"My best buy 1990 **Brillion** 25-ft. cross-fold cultipacker is built heavy and does a superb job of breaking up lumps."

**Larry Roeder, Delmar, Iowa:** "It's a piece of junk," says Larry, disappointed with his **International** 1486 combine. "It shifts hard and the cab is too small and leaks dust. Makes an **M Farnall** seem like a **Lincoln Continental**."

**Paul Witmer, Deer Lodge, Tenn.:** Paul says his 1989 **Silawrap** 7550 round bale wrapper saves leaves and improves feed value, but has nevertheless had some prob-

almost in show room condition when I bought it, but I foolishly purchased the transfer warranty from General Motors which in my opinion is worthless. At 20,000 miles the steering wheel had so much play that I could move it three inches from side to side without any response. The dealer service manager admitted the factory failed to install three lock nuts on the lower end of the steering column. As a result, the dealer had to remove the entire steering column and charged us \$128 even though we had the warranty. I then made three phone calls to the company using the phone number listed in the owner's manual, all to no avail. Finally the Milwaukee Better Business Bureau got involved. After six months I got my \$128 back, but only after the company tried to settle for \$64. I mentioned I had contacted my attorney about the matter and the check arrived within two days.

"This pickup must have been built on a Friday afternoon or Monday morning as there were also problems with a door lock. The locksmith who repaired it told me he'd never try to repair another Chevrolet model like this because of the door and lock construction method. There were also two electrical problems. It all points to poor construction. However, I'm well satisfied with the pickup's mileage, engine, and running gear."

**Larry Dosland, Calamus, Iowa:** "I used 16 quarts of oil during the first 100 hours of use," says Larry about his 1990 **Case-IH** 1660 combine. "The dealer said he'd have