

Best & Worst Buys

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"I pull my best buy Flexi Coil model 95 40-ft. harrow packer behind a field cultivator. It makes an excellent seedbed and conserves soil moisture.

"My 1988 GMC 1/2-ton pickup equipped with a 305 cu. in. V-8 engine and automatic transmission starts good in cold weather and averages 14 mpg on short drives. Even with 4-WD it rides smooth. It has almost 40,000 miles and the only cost so far has been for new alternator bearings."

On the "worst buy" side are Dane markers mounted on a 40-ft. Case-IH grain drill. "The markers are built too light which causes them to bend and break. I rebuilt them using larger square tubing which seemed to solve the problem.

"My Black & Decker 3/8-in. variable speed reversing drill never has worked well. It has good power but a very poor switch. It finally quit working altogether."

Frank Roubush, Xenia, Ohio: Frank's "worst buy" is his New Holland 352 grinder-mixer. "A bearing wears out in the hammer mill every year. The dealer says it shouldn't do that and then walks away from me. I've had three different dealers in this area over the years and it's always the same story."

Frank likes his 1989 Deutz-Allis 7085 tractor. "It started easy last winter in temperatures of 10 degrees above zero and is easy on fuel."

Clifford Mertz, Palmyra, N.Y.: A 1989 Landa GS 1,000-lb. hot water washer is Clifford's "best buy". "After washing equipment with hot water, I'd never go back to cold water again. It works especially well for cleaning manure off stock trailers."

David Martin, Hamlin, N.Y.: "It does a good job of pulverizing lumpy soil so we can transplant our vegetable crops," reports David, pleased with his Dyna-Drive 15-ft. 3-pt. ground-driven rotavator.

"My 1989 Deutz 7145 tractor is a pleasure to operate. It'll pull a 5-bottom plow 10 to 12 inches deep. The creeper transmission works great for fall harvest of vegetables."

Everett Marsh, Cranberry, Penn.: "My 1989 New Holland 144 hay windrow-inverter is a best buy. It does a nice job of turning windrows upside down, dropping them off to the side on dry ground. It's a real life saver for windrows that get rained on or are damp from laying overnight or that were raked before they were completely dry."

William Braymen, Coin, Iowa: "It was a low hour and nice looking machine when I bought it, and now I know why. I haven't been able to finish one field of hay without making return trips to the shop," says William, unhappy with a used Massey Ferguson 655 mower. "Someone must have been out to lunch when the cutting table was built. When I tried to get parts for it, the warehouse told me a 14-ft. auger table wasn't available for that model. I guess I have the only one.

"Another worst buy is my Mira-Fount cattle waterer. The four holes are too small for our bulls. They have to roll the balls and lick them to get a drink. I've talked to the dealer but he hasn't done anything to help yet. I do like the company's hog waterers.

"I like my 1982 Ford 6700 tractor. It's been back to the dealer only once to repair a leak in a rear wheel seal.

"My new Makita 14-in. cutoff saw is a best buy. My old model worked for 12 years without any trouble.

"My 1986 Buick Lesabre is another best buy. It's a joy to drive and gets 26 mpg on short trips and 30 mpg on longer trips."

Myrwin Larson, Grove City, Minn.: Merwyn is the satisfied owner of a 1990 Lawn Boy FT2G garden tiller equipped with a 2 hp Briggs & Stratton engine. "It has smaller, sharper, and faster-turning tines than the old model and does a beautiful job."

Robert Wright, Mansfield, Ill.: Robert's "best buy" is his 1988 Plymouth Grand Voyager L.E. minivan equipped with a V-6 engine. "This is our second Voyager and both have been trouble-free. The 1986 model went 80,000 miles with no repairs."

On the "worst buy" side, "My 1988 Deere 260 disc mower, made for Deere in France by Kuhn, has thrown rocks through cab windows three times and at the operator's arm twice even with all guards in place. Our dealer can't solve the problem. The quality of this machine isn't up to Deere standards. I don't expect a long life for the operator or the mower."

Lloyd Gran, Erskine, Minn.: Lloyd's "best buy" is his 1989 Woods 52-in. lawn mower equipped with an 18 hp engine and a front-mounted mower deck. "It has a zero turning radius which works great for trimming around trees and cuts mowing time in

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half with no cleanup trimming. There's no need for a bagger attachment because it spreads clippings over a 15-ft. wide area even in long grass."

Loren Pierce, Tomah, Wis.: Loren's happy with his 1990 Deere 4455 4-WD tractor. "It drives nice and I like the power-shift transmission."

Howard Stemen, La Moure, N. Dak.: Howard likes the Opi-One grain temperature monitors mounted in his bins. "They monitor temperatures at several levels inside each bin and allow me to straight combine barley and wheat at a higher moisture content and put it directly into the bin with natural air."

Clair Snyder, Breda, Iowa: "It takes all the stress out of cultivating and is easy to set up and adjust. Anyone who can drive a tractor and count rows can cultivate with it," says Clair, pleased with his 1990 Buffalo Scout automatic guidance system.

Norman Frank, Oakville, Iowa: "My best buy is a 1990 Ford F-150 XLT Lariat 4-WD pickup. It drives and rides as good as a car. I like the automatic lockout hubs and all the extras that come with the Lariat package. However, the fuel economy isn't as good as on my 1981 Ford pickup."

William Duriavich, West Chicago, Ill.: William's "worst buy" is a Midwest grain

and livestock body and Venco hoist. "I took a 125 bu. load of corn to the elevator and had to unload 3/4 of it by hand before the hoist would lift. The company worked on the problem, but the same thing happened again. They told me to bring it in again with some grain in it. After working on it they told me it would leak a little oil when I let the box down. It left a puddle of oil at the elevator."

Robert Peterson, Maple Plain, Minn.: A 1990 New Holland 853 round baler rates as Robert's "best buy". "Works great and makes good solid bales."

Ray Thooft, Lynd, Minn.: "I really like my 1990 White 5100 Seed Boss planter. It offers very good seed placement and accurate spacing. The folding wings make it easy to transport."

Gary Osborn, Fairmount, N. Dak.: "My 1990 Case-IH 8600 30-ft. air drill is a best buy. Its accuracy, depth control, and ease of pulling and transport makes all other drills obsolete. It almost has the capacity of a grain bin. I can do as much or more in a day than I could do before with a 40-ft. drill."

A 1990 rock fork purchased from Ray's Welding, Napoleon, N. Dak., "is built tough and works great."

Gary's "worst buy" is his 1988 Case-IH 4900 45-ft. field cultivator. "The first year the wings cracked in welded seams, the shanks bent, and the shank spring holders broke. The second year the shank spring holders ripped out and the axle shaft broke. The company and dealer have stood behind the cultivator, replacing wings and broken shank holders."

Omer Laleman, Minnetonka, Minn.: "My Case-IH 7120 front wheel assist tractor has real lugging power and shifts smooth without clutching. I do wish the cab had two doors to save walking."

Donald Maciej, Bowlus, Minn.: His Stihl 038 chain saw "starts easy, cuts fast, and is lightweight for easy handling."

"My Deere 2950 tractor has poor hydraulic pressure at low engine rpm's which causes loss of power steering and other hydraulic functions. It also shifts hard, but the dealer said there's nothing wrong even after I broke off the shift lever. Otherwise the tractor is everything I expected when I purchased it."

Garry Reid, Souris, Manitoba: Garry's pleased with his 1988 Belarus 425 front wheel assist tractor. "I've had very little trouble with it and the price difference is incredible. Local dealer support is excellent and it's economical to operate."

John McCarter, Shelby, Mont.: "It has an excellent air conditioner and shifts especially well," reports John, pleased with his 1990 Case-IH 7190 tractor.

James Dilts, Menomonie, Wis.: James says his 1989 Dodge Dakota midsize pickup is a "best buy". "Even with a topper it still gets 26 mpg which I think is good considering it has a 6-cylinder engine."

"My Polaris 250 ATV 4-wheeler costs only pennies to operate. The running board is great for placing my feet while driving."

Paul Graham, Waterloo, Iowa: Paul's disappointed with Pro Farmer advisory service, Cedar Falls, Iowa. "Their advice is very often wrong and confusing. Glad I didn't use it."

Michael Boucher, Brooks, Minn.: "It's easy on fuel and easy to service," says Michael about his "best buy" 1989 Case-IH 885 tractor equipped with front wheel drive and a Dual 200 quick attach loader. "It has over 500 hours with no problems at all. The loader can be mounted or removed in less than five minutes."

Harold Flynn, Plainview, Minn.: "My 1990 Deutz 7110 is the best starting tractor I've ever seen. It has good lugging power and outstanding fuel economy. The cab is quiet and comfortable and offers an excellent view. Shifts smooth."

On the "worst buy" side, "My McCulloch chain saw is clumsy and uses gas like a truck. It has to be kept in a warm room in order to start. I've got the biggest model the company makes."

Jim Heider, McCanna, N. Dak.: Jim's disappointed with his 1989 Great Plains 36-ft. solid stand folding grain drill. "The main frame cracked in the field and had to be welded on the spot just to get it out of the field. After lots of deliberation the company finally agreed to take it back."

Jim says his 1990 Deere 777 air seeder is a "best buy". "Best stand emergence in all

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soil types I've ever had.

"My 1990 82-ft. Pleasure Products sprayer offers excellent coverage at 20 to 250 lbs. pressure and folds easy."

Otto Kaschube, Brockton, Mont.: "The engine on my Deere 65 riding mower doesn't have enough power."

On the positive side, "My Melroe 506 toolbar pulls straight and does a good job. I like its flexibility."

Norman Price, Hopkinton, Iowa: "My 1990 Kinze II pull-type planter is a best buy. It works equally well in no-till or conventional tillage. Sprockets mounted at the end of the planter make it easy to change plant populations."

Alan Sloan, New Boston, Ill.: "It has good trash clearance and levels the ground at 6 mph," says Alan, owner of a 1989 Case-IH 496 22-ft. disk.

"My worst buy is a 1989 White 5100 6-row, 30-in. air planter. I raise commercial sweet corn and seed corn so I have to make sure the planter is cleaned out each time I change crops. Unfortunately this planter is hard to clean out. The boxes don't drain out right so I have to remove and clean each plastic plate separately. After owning a Deere Max Emerge planter this one is a big disappointment."

Harlan Huedepohl, Williamsburg, Iowa: "Anyone intending to buy a new Ford tractor, be advised you may have trouble attaching implements to the drawbar. Ford has changed the spacing of the drawbar holes so anyone using a clevis-type hitch is out of luck. I purchased a TW25 and found that I can't pull my New Holland 114 mower-conditioner or Hesston 10 Stakhand. I have no problem using these implements with my Deere or Deutz tractors."

Neil Wirkler, Luana, Iowa: Neil says his New Idea 3622 manure spreader is a "worst buy". "It's built heavy, but the engineering department needs to work with the machine at 20 degrees below zero. The hydraulic hoses are much too small for cold weather, the metal strips on the edges of the non-stick floor build up with manure and the constant velocity pto shaft is hard to hook up and can be easily bent by the 3-pt. hitch arms when turning."