

BUYING TIPS YOU CAN USE

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

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John Jay Dahm, Belleville, Ill.: John says the White model 274 disk he bought in 1989 turned out to be "the worst buy I ever made. This disk wouldn't leave a level seedbed and wouldn't cut out weeds. I received a reply from White's representative in which he states 'The model 274 disk isn't designed to leave a level ground suitable for planting. If level ground is desired the operator can either pull another tool behind the model 274 or he can make another pass with a different tool. Since the model 274 is designed primarily to break the ground, it follows that it isn't designed to cut weeds.'

"Who needs a disk that isn't designed to leave a level seedbed or to cut weeds? After some lengthy correspondence with White representatives, I solved my problem by buying a Sunflower model 1232 disk from a different local White dealer. It does a beautiful job, leaving a level seedbed and cuts weeds - which probably explains why this White dealer sells Sunflower disks."

Don Rusling, Waterford, Ontario: "My 1977 Chevrolet 30 series Dually pickup is a best buy. It has 90,000 miles and is always loaded heavily during harvest season, yet it has needed no repairs beyond routine maintenance. Last winter I drove it to Florida, putting on 4,300 miles in 17 days, and it

heavy duty pickup equipped with a 350 cu. in. engine and 4-WD. "This truck is everything that General Motors says it is and more. It pulls my stock trailer effortlessly. I really like the 4-WD and independent front suspension."

Jim Johnson, Cologne, Minn.: A 1988 Century 160 amp MIG wirefeed welder is Jim's "best buy". "I've used it to weld steel from 18 ga. to 1/2 in. with excellent results. It produces good beads in all positions with a minimum of spatter."

Jim says another "best buy" is his Magnum fireplace (Magnum Mfg., Hutchinson, Minn.). "I installed it in my 2,000 sq. ft. home and it does such a good job that the furnace won't kick in when the fireplace is in use, even if it's below 0° outside. It burns outside air so it doesn't dry out the inside air. It easily delivers over 100,000 btu's convectively without any fans required."

Gary Harrison, Albion, Mich.: "It's a much better all around pickup than the 1982 Chevrolet I owned previously," says Gary, pleased with his 1989 Chevrolet 3/4 ton pickup. "The engine has a lot more get-up-and-go, the doors close much better, and the transmission doesn't clang when I put it in reverse."

Gary bought a new Case IH 900 planter to replace his old IH 400. "I use it mostly to plant no-till. It works great and doesn't require a lot of maintenance."

Gary says he also purchased a Bish head changer for his Gleaner combine after reading about the head changer in FARM SHOW. "It's costly, but works real good along with my Deere corn head."

He adds that his Simplicity mower "outcuts all other mowers."

On the negative side, "I replaced my 10-ft. Woods rotary mower with a Bush-Hog model. That was a big mistake as I could have bought the Woods cheaper, but thought I'd like the new type of chatter-free pto. I do like the pto but that's about all. It doesn't cut as nice and smooth as the Woods did."

W.H. Swanner, Jr., Athens, Ala.: He says his 1989 Chevrolet 1/2-ton pickup equipped with a 350 cu. in. engine and 4-WD is "the best pickup I've ever owned. It has 25,000 miles and has never been back to the shop. It gets 15 to 16 mpg in town and 22 mpg on the road and doesn't use any oil."

Mike Krajacic, Avella, Penn.: "It always starts and gets fairly good mileage, but it could use a little more power," reports Mike, owner of a 1986 Ford F-250 diesel pickup.

Mike's "best buy" is his 1986 Deere 4450 tractor equipped with mechanical front wheel drive. "It has good power and the 15-speed transmission is great. The front wheel drive provides a lot more traction when we plow down liquid manure."

His "worst buy" is his 1985 International 5100 grain drill. "The hay seed settings are very inaccurate, and the seed tubes kept plugging up so I had to install larger ones. If I leave fertilizer in it for more than 48 hours it'll freeze up."

Clark Griffith, South Carver, Mass.: A 1989 Dodge Dakota pickup is Clark's "best buy". "It's just the right size, comfortable, smooth and handy. The 6-cylinder engine has plenty of pep."

William Grindey, Apple River, Ill.: "My 1987 General Motors 1/2-ton 4-WD pickup was a piece of junk from the day I bought it. The 305 cu. in. fuel injected engine never did start or run well. It went through two starters, the ring gear and head gasket had to be replaced, and the paint job was terrible. Neither the company nor the

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used only two liters of oil.

"My 1981 International 886 tractor which I bought used last year is another best buy. The cab is still very tight and the engine has all the power I need."

Orville Mishler, Scotts, Mich.: Orville bought a used 1981 Deere 2940 tractor equipped with mechanical front wheel drive and says it "does everything an 80 hp tractor should do. It's fuel efficient and a pleasure to drive."

"My 1988 Oldsmobile is another best buy. It rides and handles well and gets good mileage."

Jake Schauer, Dupree, S. Dak.: Jake says he's had very little trouble with his Deere 1610 chisel plow.

His "worst buy" is his 1988 Chevrolet Monte Carlo. "The engine leaked into the crankcase and the dealer didn't fix it properly. It developed similar problems twice after that. If they wouldn't have tried to fix it as cheaply as possible each time, the problems wouldn't have reoccurred."

Randy Ulmer, Lodge, S.C.: "It has poor fuel economy," says Randy, who otherwise likes his 1982 Deere 4840 tractor."

Eldon Mitchell, E. Leroy, Mich.: Eldon isn't happy with his Morton pole building which developed roof leaks. "I stopped at the office in Three Rivers, Mich., and told them about the problem. I was told someone would contact me, but I never heard from anyone."

Wayne Keeran, Lake City, Minn.: Wayne likes his 1989 Chevrolet K2500