

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

Robert Delong, Walden, N.Y.: "At 700 miles the clutch burned out," says Robert about his 1988 Chevrolet K30 "Chore Boy" dump truck. "The dealer claimed that I must have abused the truck because there was mud underneath it. He charged \$792 to install a heavy duty clutch and said it wasn't covered by the warranty. I wrote to the factory which replied with a form letter stating that due to the mileage and time elapsed, they couldn't help me. Why wasn't a heavy duty clutch installed in the first place? I understand that clutch failure is a common problem with this truck which costs over \$19,000."

Robert Anderson, Ballinafad, Ontario: "It's got about 200,000 miles with no major repairs," says Robert, pleased owner of a 1985 Nissan King Cab 2-WD pickup. "It's the best vehicle I've ever driven in the winter and has never failed to start. I wouldn't consider replacing it. It has carried everything from hogs to feed to firewood and the bigger the load, the better it does. The engine still gets 30 to 35 mpg and doesn't use oil. When the engine does finally go, I intend to have it rebuilt."

Nelson Howell, Jerseyville, Ont.: "It steers too slow and the powershift jerks at high engine rpms," says Nelson about his

Adrian's had good luck with his Makita 1/2-in. 2-speed hammer drill, model HP 1310. "It's lightweight but powerful enough to drill holes in concrete, and has handy switches for changing speeds and for switching between forward and reverse."

John Warren, Ames, Iowa: John says his Deere 525 front-mount, 3-wheel lawn mower cuts mowing time in half. "Its steering wheel is easier to use than the joysticks found on other mowers."

Ronald Welch, Lee, Fla.: "It lets me mow my 5-acre yard in record time," says Ronald, pleased with his 1987 Deere 185 lawn tractor.

Frank Richardson, Wauchula, Fla.: Frank's "best buy" is his 1988 New Holland 411 discbine mower-conditioner. "It cuts anything, including over-mature star grass that has 10-ft. runners. It's also built tough. I hit a stump in a field that stood the machine on its nose, but except for some broken blades no damage was done."

Calvin Voigt, Forest City, Iowa: "My 'best buy' 1989 Ford 4-WD XLT Lariat pickup is a pleasure to drive. Starts easy in cold weather, handles well, runs quiet, and uses virtually no oil. My only complaint is the location of the electric door locks. It's too easy to accidentally lock yourself out of the pickup."

Gary Schoonover, Greensboro, Md.: "One of my worst buys ever is my Therma electric tankless water heater, model HP 7024S. I bought 3 units and within 6 months 2 of them began leaking. The company offered to replace them, but I told them I wanted my money back. After I argued with them for several months, they finally refunded part of my money."

A New Idea 4100 hydraulic hay rake rates as "best buy". "It does a terrific job of raking and tedding hay and allows me to bale one day after mowing."

Keith Brown, Port, Crane, N.Y.: "I'm pleased with the machine in general," says Keith, who's 1988 Deere 330 round baler but he has one complaint. "It rolls bales so tight that I have to use an axe to cut them apart so I can feed them in my barn. I tried using a chain saw, a hand saw, and a one-man manual saw, but none of them worked."

Kim Kercewich, East Alstead, N.H.: Kim says his 1989 Massey Ferguson 390 4-WD tractor heads his "best buy" list. "It works great for cleaning out my pole barn because with 4-WD the rear wheels never spin so there are no ruts."

Doug Gorackowski, Swea City, Iowa: His 1988 Ag Chem 502 sprayer heads his "best buy" list. "The electric shutoff on the boom works great and there are no leaks or drips."

Loran Stephenson, Rocky Ridge, Md.: "My Woods Cadet 6-ft. rotary mower, model M721-1, is a best buy. It goes right over rocks and large objects without damage. One of its best features is that it's got a side panel you can remove to mow hay."

Louis Matzner, Stickney, S. Dak.: Louis is happy with his Case-IH 900 Early Riser 8-row planter equipped with a Kelderman front-fold kit (Kelderman Mfg., Box 776, Oskaloosa, Iowa 52577). "This planter does an excellent job of seed placement and the front fold kit works great. It converts the planter to a 4-row transport width in about 2 min. which is handy because we have a lot of small fields and narrow gates."

A Krause 4600 row crop cultivator equipped with high trash K-tines is another "best buy". "The K-tines vibrate like a regular Danish tine, but have the point load of a Vibra Shank with no bushings to wear out.

Case-IH 2294 tractor equipped with mechanical front wheel drive.

Nelson likes his Gehl fingerwheel rake. "It makes windrows the exact width of our round baler."

Earl Benedict, Saranac, Mich.: Earl's "best buy" is a 1989 Yetter conversion kit mounted on his International 400 Cyclo planter. "It allows me to place seed at the perfect depth so it germinates 3 to 5 days earlier."

Raymond Daughtry, Ruckersville, Va.: "It's large enough to pull a hay rake yet small enough for yard work," says Raymond, whose International 244D 4-WD tractor has nevertheless had some problems. "It's poorly geared for loader work and the clutch is too slow."

Case Van Wyk, Pinetown, N.C.: Case is happy with his 1985 Dixon ZTR 425 lawn mower. "It turns on a dime for fast mowing. My kids love to use it."

Ray Johnson, Merville, Iowa: "This tractor has plenty of power and I really like how it shifts," says Ray, pleased owner of a 1989 Case-IH 7130 Magnum. "It offers easy maintenance, handy controls, convenient electronic 3-pt. control, and the cab is easy to enter and exit."

Ray's "worst buy" is his 1989 Oldsmobile 98 Brougham Regency. "The chrome moldings don't line up right, the seat pleats are sewn unevenly, the windows don't close tight, and the license plate holder had missing and loose bolts."

Adrian Legge, Dobbinton, Ontario: