

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

Randy Hoff, Carbon, Alberta: Randy's "worst buy" is his 1987 Deere 4850 MFWD tractor equipped with a 15-speed power shift transmission. "At 120 hours the output shaft bearing seized up so we took the tractor to the shop for repairs. Ever since then the tractor has shifted very rough and has been in the shop numerous times. Recently they completely disassembled it, but they still can't find anything wrong. Now Deere says it's acceptable to them. Not to me."

Robert Arneson, Tallulah, La.: Robert has had lots of trouble with Case tractors. "We own three Case 2870 4-WDs and one Case 2670 4-WD. None of these tractors has more than 3,200 hours, but we've overhauled practically every nut and bolt on them. They have weak front and rear ends, jerky powershift transmissions, and leaky planetary gear drives. Fuel injectors on the 2870's can't be overhauled because the valve material is too soft. One of the 2870s has more hours in the shop than in the field. It was shipped from the factory with the wrong plumbing so that unfiltered oil went directly to the transmission. Another tractor came from the factory with 45° valves and 30° valve seats which caused the valve heads to pop off and of course they dropped

James Bost, Pine Bluff, Ark.: James says his "best buy" is his 1985 Ford F150 XL pickup. "Absolutely no problems in 120,000 miles of farm use."

"My worst buy is my 1988 Chevrolet 4 by 4 pickup. "It has only 32,000 miles but already it needs a new transmission. The front wheel drive went out twice, a heater leak has never been fixed, and one of the seat belts doesn't work."

Roger Antoniuk, Bonnyville, Alberta: Roger's "worst buy" is his 1987 Case-IH 39-ft. chisel plow. "It doesn't pull straight or level and plugs up too easy. They should make it with five rows of shanks instead of 3 1/2 rows."

Jack Grosnick, Moose Jaw, Sask.: "My 1987 Versatile 256 tractor is truly versatile, trouble-free, and economical to operate. The controls and seat are reversible so you can mount equipment on both ends and operate it with ease. It works beautifully on mowers and balers."

Wesley Sparling, Meaford, Ontario: A 1988 Deere 2555 tractor heads Wesley's "best buy" list. "It has lots of power and the 4-WD provides excellent traction. It's an excellent loader tractor because it turns really short."

C.A. Montague, Duffee, Miss.: "My 1988 Deere 2755 tractor is easy to operate and has plenty of power."

On the negative side, "My 1987 Ford F250 diesel pickup has caused me a world of trouble. It gets poor fuel mileage and the cruise control went out."

David Schwendiman, Newdale, Idaho: "It's got about 10,000 miles but we still haven't done any work on the engine," reports David, pleased with his 1986 Yamaha 225 4-wheeler ATV. "We've had 3-wheelers in the past with many breakdowns and three major accidents. We gave the last two 3-wheelers away because we couldn't afford the claims on our insurance."

Bentley Walls, Huntsville, Ala.: "It's the most dependable tractor I've ever owned. I couldn't be more satisfied with it," says Bentley, pleased with his 1981 Deere 4440 tractor. "It's got 5,500 hours with no breakdowns. In eight years the only repairs we've made have been to replace the radiator core, alternator, and air conditioning compressor."

Thomas Bueter, Ansonia, Ohio: Thomas likes his 1987 Case-IH 1680 combine. "We purchased it with a special rotor that lets us combine soybeans in tough conditions so we can start earlier on dewey mornings and run later in the evenings. We've now installed the rotor in our IH 1480. Keep up the good work, Case-IH."

John Cianca, Jr., Bentleyville, Penn.: John says his "best buy" is his 1987 Deere 111 lawn tractor. "I use it 365 days a year, 6 to 8 times a day to pull a livestock feed cart. It's never failed to start and has never broken down."

Warren Ziolkowski, Yorkton, Sask.: Warren nominates his 1985 Versatile 2000 trans axial pull-type combine as a "best buy". "It has tremendous capacity, is very dependable and does a clean threshing job. I can use my 4-WD tractor more instead of watching a 250 hp engine and chassis from a self-propelled combine rust and deteriorate 11 months of the year. It's comfortable to operate and very forgiving on bumps."

Leo Lutz, Taber, Alberta: Leo is impressed with his 1989 Mazda B2200 pickup. "This is my fourth Mazda and I've been more than satisfied with all of them. All I do is put fuel in it and drive. It always starts,

directly on top of the piston. We bought Case tractors because our dad was a Case dealer. Never again. Our next tractor will be a Versatile 975 tractor equipped with a standard transmission. Never again will I purchase a tractor with a powershift transmission unless it's an Allison powershift. Farmers in this country are getting sick and tired of making the parts departments rich."

P. Peloquin, Spencer, Mass.: "My 1987 4-WD Kubota L2850 tractor equipped with front-end loader is a best buy. This 34 hp tractor works like a big machine. I use it to chop two rows of corn, pull a 2-bottom plow, harrow, make hay, and move snow and rocks. It's built rugged and doesn't use much fuel. Maintenance is simple and inexpensive."

Ernie Thiessen, Langham, Sask.: Ernie is the satisfied owner of a 1988 Versatile 276 bidirectional tractor. "This is a versatile tractor in the true sense of the word. It does excellent front-end loader work and also works great for spraying, swathing, and harrowing. I use it to pull my 70-ft. flexi-coil harrow-packer drawbar during seeding."

Gary Myers, Martintown, Ontario: Gary is pleased with his 1987 Vicon LS 1410 field sprayer. "It has a self-leveling boom, electronic in-cab controls, and a filter for each boom line. The pressure gauge line comes directly from the boom. All these features make it much more enjoyable to use than my old sprayer."