

BUYING TIPS YOU CAN USE

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

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Bill Garber, Delavan, Wis.: "This 'floating head' should be enlisted for submarine duty," says Bill about his 1988 Deere 915 cutter head. "We made numerous adjustments, but it still insists upon picking up soil and stones. My wife and I are trying to decide whether it's better suited to pick peanuts or potatoes. Regardless of manufacturer's reports, the plastic fingers on the reel do snap in weedy conditions."

On the positive side, Bill is pleased with his 1987 Case-IH 2096 tractor. "It's the most economical tractor I've owned and the front-wheel assist is great. I'm a polio victim, but I have no difficulty getting in and out of the cab. The controls are conveniently located, the visibility is excellent, and the hydraulic seat is comfortable."

Wayne Beuter, Walker, Iowa: Wayne nominates his 1982 Gleaner N-6 combine as a "best buy". "It's simple to service and repair, and dealer service has been outstanding."

Russell Rosenboom, Clifton, Ill.: He says he's generally satisfied with his 1978 Deere 4640 and 8630 tractors but nonetheless has had problems. "We had to replace the 8630's radiator after the engine overheated. It was a typical problem in our area, but the company did nothing to help."

Louis Ulizio, Wallingford, Conn.: Louis

keeps good with no waste at all. It's a lot cheaper than buying a metal building."

Joe Newcomer, Brinklow, Md.: Joe has had good luck with his Case-IH quick attach adapter which converts the front-end loader bucket on his International 2250 tractor to a fork lift or snowblade "in minutes."

However, he has had problems with his Buffalo metal-cutting band saw. "The blade wasn't matched properly in the roller guides so it wouldn't cut a straight line. Finally the roller guide fell apart. The company wouldn't make any adjustment nor would they take the unit back. It's a \$189 piece of junk."

R.I. McKay, Dugald, Manitoba: "Handles nice, packs plenty of power and sports a comfortable cab," says R.I. about his 1978 White 2-105 diesel tractor. "Nevertheless, it uses too much oil and they should remove the fan from overhead and place it near the floor."

Clarence Leazenby, Paradise, Mich.: His "worst buy" is a 1987 Pioneer P-39 chain saw with a 20-in. blade. "The drive sprocket is too small, making it virtually impossible to replace a chain when you're in the woods. The problem is that the sprocket slides back and forth on the drive shaft, causing the chain to jump off the sprocket when the cover is in place. Also, when I cut larger trees it blows chips and sawdust all over me. I used it less than 10 hours, ruined two chains, got chips and sawdust in my eyes, down my neck, in my shirt, and in my pockets. I ran out of cuss words and finally sold it at a big loss."

On the positive side, Clarence is pleased with his 10-year-old Stihl 031 AV 16-in. chain saw. "Not one minute of trouble - starts easily and runs perfectly. I'm now on my sixth cutter bar. I'll buy the same model again."

Gurney Snyder, Marion, Ohio: Gurney's 1976 Ford F-250 4 by 4 pickup heads his "best buy" list. "This pickup has over 103,000 miles on it so it doesn't owe me one thing. I've used it to pull a lot of wagon loads of corn and beans out of the field. The only repairs I've made were to grind the valves, realign the brakes and replace knuckles on the front drive wheel. The transmission hasn't been touched."

Gurney is also pleased with his 1986 Ford Taurus. "It has 40,000 trouble-free miles and is a pleasure to drive."

Joseph Hastings, Seville, Ohio: "My International 656 gas tractor is a gem. I've owned it for 12 years and it always starts. It handles smoothly and works well in muddy ground."

Keith Leamon, Clarks Hill, Ind.: Keith is pleased with his Herschel Tiger-Jaw sickle. "I was skeptical when the dealer told me the sickle would pay for itself in one season, but now I'm a believer. It reduces shatter loss and allows faster ground speed. Also, the sections are easy to change."

Randy Lacy, McHenry, Md.: Randy's had trouble with his 1986 Polaris Trail Boss 250 4-wheeler ATV. "After two years of hard every-day use, the drive chain jumped the front drive sprocket, breaking off three teeth and jamming into an idler roller. The dealer said he'd have to order the sprocket and asked me if I had an account with Polaris. When I said 'no', he said I'd have to pay for the part in advance before he'd order it and that the part would take a week to arrive. The 4-wheeler is still sitting."

On the "best buy" side, Randy nominates his Agrimetall 530 motorized feed cart. "It's reasonably priced and simple to oper-

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is pleased with his International 274 tractor. "Runs flawlessly and has enough gears for delicate crop work. The seat is comfortable and there's plenty of room on the operator's platform."

Paul Klingenberg, Parkersburg, Iowa: "My Deere Titan II combine does a super job of harvesting oats, beans and corn."

However, Paul is unhappy with Dual corn herbicide which he compared side by side with Eradicane. "Eradicane outperformed Dual, whose performance was virtually worthless. The company re-sprayed with Atrazine but it didn't do a good job either. They used the age-old excuse that the weather was too dry. I'll never use Dual again, not after seeing Eradicane work."

John Voigt, Avon, S.Dak.: "It cuts well and digs evenly," reports John, pleased with his Krause 18-ft. tandem disk purchased used in 1987. "A nut on both ends of the shaft makes it easy to change blades and bearings."

June Maxey, Flemingsburg, Ky.: June says their Deere 330 round baler "is the best baler we've seen. We've put up 2,000 bales of hay and corn stalks with no problems. It also makes great silage bales."

June is also pleased with their Bale Wrap made by the Bale-Bonnet Co. (Box A, Bloomsdale, Mo. 63627 ph 800 231-4242 or 314 483-2552) and previously featured in FARM SHOW. The machine wraps any size bale in the field with four tight wraps of 3-ply plastic to make bale silage. "The hay