

BUYING TIPS YOU CAN USE

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

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Duane Metheral, Glen Huron, Ontario: "Our Versatile 160 tractor is a lemon. Every time I start it I'm afraid I'll lose money," says Duane. "First the brakes failed after the tractor jumped out of gear, causing a rollover that cost \$18,000 in repairs. After 800 hours we had to totally rebuild the engine for \$8,900. We've had trouble with fuel injectors, universals, the drive shaft, three pto clutches and windows falling out. Also, the company's 10-ft. hay header takes three hours to install and remove, and works only 50% of the time."

Duane likes his **Vermeer 604 J Auto Weave Baler**. "It's as maintenance-free as all the other Vermeer balers I've owned during the last 10 years, and produces solid bales."

Kenneth Morgan, Stouffville, Ontario: Heading Kenneth's "best buy" list is a 1987 **GMC Safari 8-passenger 6-cylinder van**. "It rides higher than a car, drives better and offers a better view. This fall I used it to tow a 22-ft. trailer which it handled well."

P.H. Bourgeois, Barrhead, Alberta: His "worst buy" is an older **Krause tandem disk**. "After 200 or 300 acres with it I have to replace bearings."

Another "worst buy" is a set of **Dayton 14-in. tires** that were bald at 21,000 kilometers. "I was allowed only \$54 warranty."

nominates his 1986 **Oldsmobile Firenza** as "worst buy". "The air conditioner fell off every 5,000 miles and the front end struts caused trouble. The dealer couldn't help so we traded it off and lost more money. The Oldsmobile representative wasn't at all helpful."

Lloyd gives "best buy" honors to his 1984 **Toyota pickup**. "We haven't had an ounce of trouble with it. Good power and handles well."

Raymond Bungo, Zelienople, Penn.: "My worst buy is my self-propelled **Jacobsen 22-in. lawn mower**. It clogs up easily if the grass is a little damp. The self-propelled mechanism has given us no end of trouble. I took it to a lawn mower repairman who said he wouldn't repair a Jacobsen because he had just repaired three models. I then took it to a Jacobsen dealer who tuned it up, charged too much and didn't even fix the self propelled problem."

On the plus side, Raymond likes his 1949 **Minneapolis L** and 1950 **8N Ford**. "They still get the job done."

Steve Brautigam, Quincy, Ohio: "I won't buy beans from Asgrow again," says Steve, explaining that he "ordered and paid for beans in February but they didn't have the beans come spring. There are enough good reliable companies out there whose beans are as good or better than this company's."

Ridomil granules rank as Steve's "best buy". "An untreated two-acre test plot yielded only 12 bu. per acre, while the treated plot yielded 38 bu. per acre."

Donald Larsen, Harwood, N. Dak.: "The Cummins 10-liter 611 c.i.d. engine is quiet and economical," says Donald, who's had good luck with his **Versatile model 876**.

Cleveland Fogleman, Carrboro, N.C.: Cleveland's happy with his **Troybuilt Super Tommy Hawk chipper shredder**. "It does everything the company says it does. The 8 hp Briggs & Stratton engine starts easy and packs plenty of power."

Orville Ladage, Virden, Ill.: "It's easy to operate and adjust and does a fine job," says Orville, happy with his 1986 **Allis Chalmers F3 combine** with a 4-row corn head and 15-ft. flex head.

On the "worst buy" side, he nominates 1982 and 1985 **Chevrolet 1/2 ton diesel pickups** with automatic overdrive transmissions. "The transmission on the 1982 model had continuous problems and had to be rebuilt. Then I ordered the 1985 pickup. Its transmission is a little better but it still constantly shifts up and down. You'd think General Motors, being noted for quality products, would not manufacture and sell such a trouble-plagued transmission."

Forrest Jackson, Norcatur, Kan.: "My 1986 **Deere 4650 tractor** works real good.

"My worst buy is a 1986 **Sears airless paint sprayer**. It never has worked right. The paint feeds out in big slabs or not at all."

Joyce Miller, Independence, Kan.: "My **Soil Mover RF 50 5-yard scraper**, which I pull with a **Deere 5010 tractor**, stands up in heavy soils. I've used it more than 200 hours."

Manly Stinson, Frankfort, Ohio: Manly says his **Deere 336 baler** is a "best buy". "After lots of use, no major problems."

His "worst buy" is a 1985 **Deutz KH500 tractor**. "We've used it twice and each time a major part broke."

Kevin Roesch, Potosi, Wis.: A 1988 **GMC 3500 truck** heads his "best buy" list. "It rides and drives like a car, but it works like a truck. It has a 454 engine with a 4:10

Farmers Nominate Best, Worst Buys

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On the positive side, he's pleased with his **Vermeer Bale Buster round bale feeder** which can also be used to spread straw for bedding. "It'll lay down an even layer of straw up to 35 ft. wide, reducing the amount of straw needed for bedding by 50%. When used to feed out hay bales it reduces waste by at least one third compared to feeding free-standing bales."

Gary Minaker, Rosser, Manitoba: Gary's happy with his 1988 **Flexicoil model 300A 28-ft. chisel plow**. "It's built heavy and pulls level, even in hard, dry soil. I really like the single cylinder and chain lift. It's easy to adjust - all you need are a pliers and hammer."

D. Lansdell, Turner Valley, Alberta: "The tractor was a good buy to start with and we're impressed even more as time goes by with the design and durability," says Lansdell, owner of a 1986 **White 2-135 Series 3 tractor**.

Paul Fowler, Oshkosh, Wis.: Paul isn't pleased with his 1981 **IH 9864-WD tractor**. "Nothing but continuous breakdowns and \$10,000 in repair bills."

Aubrey Foster, Ft. St. John, British Columbia: Aubrey's "best buy" is a **Honda 200M 3-wheeler**. "It's economical, dependable, and saves us a lot of time checking fields and checking cows during calving. Runs for pennies."

Aubrey also likes his **Deere 4020 and 3020 tractors**.

Lloyd Drees, Fontanelle, Iowa: Lloyd