

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 Fasig, Lakeville, Ohio: "We had to buy a used 1980 Chevrolet pickup so we would have something to drive while our 1987 Ford F-250 4-WD sits at the dealership," says Robert. "Its 460 cu. in. engine averages only 4 to 5 mpg, possibly getting 8 mpg running empty on the interstate. It doesn't even have enough power to go up small hills. If you keep the rpm's over 3,200, it runs great. The trouble is, at 55 mph in fourth gear, the tachometer shows 2,000."

Robert ranks his 50 by 100 ft. Universal steel quonset, erected a year ago, as a "best buy". "It was cheaper to construct than a pole building and much cheaper to insure. The two 15 1/2 by 24-ft. door openings allow easy access for machinery, and the birds can't find a rafter to set on in the summer."

Dennis Pruehsner, Okawville, Ill.: "They should send these combines back to the drawing board," says Dennis about his 1981 New Holland TR 85 combine. "We couldn't get any material through it. The dealer was slow to help and then couldn't find anything wrong. Neither could a company rep. After replacing seven rotor drive belts, we took out the concaves and found two cylinder bars were in backwards. By this time the rotors were twisted and out of

this one beats them all. Yet this pickup drives like a car. With the trailer towing package I can pull a load anywhere, although it does ride a little rough. Now if it will just last."

Jim Missler, Bellevue, Ohio: A 4-WD 1987 Ford F350 1-ton pickup, equipped with a 351 V-8 engine and 4-barrel carburetor, is Jim's "best buy". "It rides well, pulls good in low range, has a quiet cab and a comfortable seat. I like the full size bed and dual fuel tank option. The spring bumper I installed, with movable hitch for easy hookup, is a really worthwhile addition." (P & H Mfg. Co., 604 S. Lodge, Shelbyville, Ill. 62565 (ph 217 774-2123).

Harold Jamieson, Beatrice, Neb.: He likes his 1986 Ford 4610 diesel tractor. "It's an excellent loader tractor that handles big round bales very well. I also use it for cultivating. No problems at all."

Otto Kaschmitter, Paynesville, Minn.: "We've baled about 12,000 bales without a miss," says Otto, pleased with his Case-IH 5420 baler equipped with a bale thrower. "The baler has good capacity and the thrower, which features hydraulic controls with self-contained electric switches, is easy to control."

Otto also likes his 1980 International 1460 Axial Flow combine. "It just keeps on running. Never any down time."

John Tomson, Mercer, Penn.: "The bed of this pickup looked like a roller coaster after I hauled the first cow in it," says John, who's generally satisfied with his 4-WD Ford F150 pickup with a 6-cylinder 300 engine, but offers some suggestions for improvement. "For hauling anything heavier than carpet, the bed floor and tailgate are built far too light and the pollution control system has caused continuous problems. It makes the engine balk and jerk to the point it can't be used. By replacing some emissions parts, you can make it run okay. Also, the clutch dragged from day one and the dealer couldn't fix it. I had a Ford manual linkage installed at my expense (over \$100) but it didn't help."

Davie Beachy, Arthur, Ill.: He likes his 1987 Ford F250 4-WD diesel pickup. "It easily pulls a 20-ft. by 7-ft. stock trailer and starts right up in winter weather. We've had few problems and good dealer service."

Albert Kohlmeyer, Chatfield, Minn.: His best buy of all time is a 1966 Allis-Chalmers 190D tractor. "For years, it was our main tractor and all we did to the engine was install two new injectors. It still doesn't use oil."

Albert is disappointed with his New Holland 519 spreader. "In the first three years, I spent more on it than I spent for my three previous spreaders which each lasted about eight years. All the warranty covered was a wheel bearing. Even the shield over the gearbox rusted away. They advertise and guarantee the sides of the box, but the rest of the spreader is junk."

Oliver Oswald, Eureka, S.Dak.: "It's the best swather I've ever used," says Oliver, happy with his new 6000 Case-IH 21-ft. grain swather equipped with a double swath mechanism. "We've put on 300 hours with few problems. However, the swath shifting mechanism should shift faster. A bigger hydraulic cylinder would alleviate the problem."

He also likes his Vermeer 605J Auto Weave baler. "If we had to replace it, we'd buy the same model again. It's a well built machine, as is our Case-IH 1460 combine which has needed little maintenance."

Harold Waibel, Remington, Ind.: "Our

balance. They replaced the rotors but the combine never ran smooth again. The header is driven by one 50-link chain and it breaks continuously. The hopper auger is driven by one belt. You can't stop unloading in the middle of the hopper or it won't start up again."

Daryl Rice, Perkasio, Penn.: "My best buy is a Deere 8250 grain drill with dry fertilizer attachments. Its double disc openers and depth bands do a good job controlling seed depth, and the fertilizer box bottoms snap out easily for complete cleanout. All adjustments on the drill are easily made."

Dennis Gilbertson, Spring Green, Wis.: Dennis' "worst buy" is a 1982 Hesston L-1200 Rounder skid steer loader. "This rig has never worked very well. It won't start at any temperature below zero, and all the components seem to be handmade."

On the positive side, Dennis nominates his 1985 Hesston 5580 round baler. "It starts bales under any kind of conditions, and makes good bales that shed water and don't deteriorate."

Robert Randall, Holcomb, N.Y.: "It's reliable, maintenance free, comfortable to drive, and fuel economy is good," says Randall, pleased with his "best buy" 1982 Deere 4440 tractor.

Myles Elsberry, Wausa, Neb.: "It's got a 351-fuel injected engine that really gets out and goes," says Myles about his 1988 Ford F150 4-WD XLT Lariat pickup. "I've had 390, 400 and 351 engines before, but