

Best and Worst Buys

(Continued from previous page)

and 311 baler. "The haybine has been trouble-free. You just have to keep it greased and it takes care of everything else. The baler is the best I've ever owned. It has been trouble-free and it never misses a bale, even in tough or dry hay."

George A. Mack, Jolley, Iowa: George nominates his 1986 Deutz-Allis 8070 front-wheel assist tractor as "best buy". "I like the easy of handling and the large roomy, quiet cab which also has a good heater and air conditioner. The Power Shift transmission works smoothly and the tractor has plenty of power. For a big tractor, it turns short."

Syl Goeller, Hartford, Wis.: "This Deutz 6260 4-WD loader tractor is great. I'd never go back to a 2-WD loader tractor again. We like the smooth handling and the efficient fuel use."

Pete Williams, Decatur, Ill.: "I thought Deere & Co. made the best combines until many of my neighbors switched to IH Axial Flow machines," says Pete, well-pleased with the used 1979 IH 1460 Axial Flow combine he bought. "It's got more power, less noise, less dust in cab, it's simpler in design, is made much heavier, and is much easier to service than Deere combines I've owned. There is virtually no split grain in the hopper. Even though the combine had 1,700 hrs. on it when we bought it, we've harvested 600 acres with it with no breakdowns. With the help of a Bish header adapter (Harvey Bish, Giltner, Neb. 68841), I equipped the combine with a Deere cornhead and row crop head. They make an excellent combination."

On the negative side, "One of the worst buys I've made is a new 1985 Case/IH 800 6-row planter. The dealer delivered it with a broken seed nose, a broken seed manifold, misaligned seed release wheels, a defective seed hopper level sensor, a defective seed drum sensor, two seed closing disks that would not turn, a torn seed drum seal that was leaking corn, and a bad monitor. The dealer offered no help and after I worked on it and lost 4 days, I called another dealer who worked on it for 1 1/2 days. At least Case/IH stood behind their warranty and it didn't cost me any money."

Dwight Holt, Rio, Ill.: "It has the quality and performance that I want," says Dwight, pleased with his "best buy" 1987 Troy-Bilt 8-hp. garden tiller.

Ray Bulthuis, La Mesa, Calif.: "Our new 30-hp. Massey Ferguson 1040 4-WD tractor is our best buy. We're very happy with it. Excellent traction and a short turning radius."

Ted Rohrer, Greentown, Ohio: "After two seasons use we're happy with our Sukup Ridge Guider planter attachment used to keep our planter on the row. It has worked well in ridge till, no till, and conventional tillage. It's easy to adjust requires little maintenance. We've had no problems."

Merle Tate, Cannon Falls, Minn.: "My worst buy is a Pontiac Phoenix car. It crawls on the level and slowly gains speed. The dealer can not seem to make it idle slower and, going down a gradual slope, it gains speed so fast it's hard on the brakes. The foot and gas pedals are too close together. Windows crank the wrong way."

Gary T. Meyer, Freeport, Minn.: He's pleased with his 1988 Chevrolet 3/4-ton

Silverado pickup. "Gas mileage with this truck's fuel-injected engine is excellent and it has the extra power needed to tow trailers. It rides like a car and has large windows that give you a good view of the road."

Randy Huntington, Darlington, Wis.: Randy's "best buy" is a 1987 Ford F-250 4-WD pickup. "It's a pleasure to drive thanks to the 460 cu. in. engine and 5-speed transmission. It has no problem pulling a loaded cattle trailer. I like the heavy tailgate."

Eugene Crummy, Argyle, Minn.: "We're pleased with our 1980 Deere 4440 tractor. It has been trouble-free in 8 years of use. It'll do any of the jobs necessary on my 580 acre grain and sugar beet farm."

Steve Preusser, Jackson, Mo.: Heading his "best buy" list is a 1979 Ford 7700 2-WD tractor. "It's nearly maintenance-free and is easy to operate for both myself and inexperienced help. The cab is quiet with good visibility. Ford parts and service are excellent."

On the "worst buy" side, Steve's disappointed with his 1983 GMC diesel pickup. "The automatic overdrive transmission in this pickup is junk. I finally had to replace it with a regular auto transmission. The truck is low in power and lugging ability and the injector pump went bad at only 70,000 miles. Glow plugs keep burning out."

Joseph Ondracek, Fremont, Neb.: "Our 1986 4510 Gehl skid steer loader with a 65-in. bucket is a best buy. It's very stable compared to several others I've tried, one of which tipped over. I like the ease of handling with the hand controls. Our dealer has also been a big plus."

"Our worst buy is a Black & Decker 9020 3/8-in. cordless drill. It doesn't have enough power and it won't hold a charge."

John T. Ankenbrand, Mt. Carmel, Ill.: He's happy with his "best buy" 1987 Hardy

"It uses very little wood to heat our home and hot water."

outside wood furnace (Hardy Mfg., Rt. 4, Box 156, Philadelphia, Miss. 39350). "It works great and uses very little wood to heat both my home and hot water. One of the nice things about it is that we no longer need to use a humidifier because it doesn't dry out the air."

Midland 2-way radios and CB's rank as John's "worst buys". "They work good but it takes about 3 mos. to get repairs. I would never buy another Midland product."

Cornie Harthoorn, Doon, Iowa: "The first week we installed Ritchie hog waterers, the hogs started knocking the lids off which caused the water to freeze. The lids are held on with self-tapping screws which makes them easy to assemble in the factory but also gives hogs the satisfaction of destroying something."

He's happy with his 1985 Case 1835 Diesel skidloader. "It's been trouble-free, and has excellent power and maneuverabil-

ity along with a good live hydraulic system."

James M. Braun, Wheaton, Minn.: He nominates his 1987 Caterpillar 65 Challenger tractor as "best buy". "It's worked real well since I bought it last October but I don't have many hours on it yet. We've used it with a 12-yard scraper and it's got excellent traction. It pulls as much as our 310 hp. 4-WD tractor."

Robert G. Wright, Mansfield, Ill.: "Our 1986 Plymouth mini van is beautifully built and engineered. At 46,000 miles we have had no problems and it's still like new."

On the minus side, "Our Sukup grain fans and stirrators, which we bought 6 to 8 years ago, have been terrible. They've never worked right. They may be building their equipment better now."

Lawrence Heffner, Muscoda, Wis.: "My worst buy is a 1986 11-ton tandem axle wagon made by United Farm Tools Co. This running gear has the poorest welding and misalignment of parts I've ever seen. All the spindles are welded in the frame crooked. The extendable tongue has a very poor latch and won't stay hooked. It is very dangerous. The tongue bolt is too small and the steering poor. The first time I used it, two wheel bearings went out and burned up the hubs because there was no grease in them. I also found out later that the grease seals will not stay in the hubs. I have looked at a number of these new United Farm Tools running gears and found them to be like mine."

On the "best buy" side, he's happy with his 1987 Farni skidding winch (Northeast Implement Co., Box 402, Spencer, N.Y. 14883). "It mounts on a 3-pt. and will pull 11,000 lbs. with a 50-hp. tractor. Comes complete with 165 ft. of 1/2-in. cable. Getting out tree tops and dead trees for firewood was made a lot easier with this winch. I have also done other chores with it."

Gordon Knutson, McKenzie, N. Dak.: "I bought my 1970 Ford 8000 tractor from my Dad, who bought it new. It has approximately 7,000 hrs. on it. About all we've done to it, other than regular maintenance, was to replace a head gasket at about 2,500 hrs. The tractor gets good fuel economy and starts well in cold weather."

Douglas R. Yoder, Kalona, Iowa: He was disappointed with Rampage rat bait. "The rats went through a bucket of it like it was candy and were as healthy as ever. After I switched to Vigortone rat and mouse bait, the only rats I saw were dead ones."

On the positive side, Douglas is pleased with his 1987 Apple IIGS computer. "Record keeping is now much easier and it makes information easy to organize and compare with other records. Word processing is a snap and my income tax figuring took just half the normal time this year. It's so user friendly our 5-year-old enjoys working on it and I like the fact that it's the same brand the kids use in school."

William C. Irvine, Evo, Ontario: "My best buy is a Massey Ferguson 50 tractor that I bought in 1960. It still works great and is the easiest machine to start on our farm when temperatures drop to 30° below zero."

Patrick Sharp, Grass Valley, Oregon: "My best buy is a 1987 Suzuki 4-WD ATV. It gives an excellent ride and has 45 gear combinations, along with 2-WD and differential lock, so you can gear it slow for climbing or fast for the road. Wheels have independent suspension. It starts easily and

shifts easy. It's also a lot more stable than a 3-wheeler. Best of all, it's priced right."

Lyle Oye, Pipestone, Minn.: "The worst buy we ever made was a 1979 Deere 8640 4-WD. At 2,000 hrs., Deere 'updated' it with new sleeves and pistons. That repair

"We put in three new heads at a cost of \$8,000."

held up until 3,000 hrs. After that point, we put in three new heads at a cost of \$6,000. We also put in a new rear end, which Deere & Co. told us was being installed in new machines. We also installed a double hydraulic pump because when it shifted it lost oil. The tractor was put together very poorly. For example, to take the oil pan off you have to take off the front differential. I would never buy another Deere 4-WD.

"We've been happy with our 1983 Melroe Bobcat 743 diesel. We used it for 3,200 hrs. without a breakdown. At that point we had to put in a new hydrostatic motor on one side."

James Skelton, Edinboro, Penn.: "Our 7030 Allis Chalmers tractor used oil by the gallon and had no working gears except 4th. It used up three clutches in two years and would never start if temperatures dropped below 50°. I traded it for a Deere 4430 and have been well-satisfied."

E.L. Boykin, Woodville, Texas: "My best buy 1987 Priefert portable corral and squeeze chute can be dismantled and loaded on a trailer in 15 min. by two men to go to another pasture where you can set it up again in the same amount of time. It's large enough to hold 30 head at once."

Clarence Schuurman, Tillsonburg, Ont.: He's pleased with the "best buy" Mirafount energy-free livestock fountain. "We installed it last November and we had no freezing problems whatsoever all winter. After a night of 26° below zero, all it required was a slight tap to loosen each ball float. The best thing of all is the savings in electricity compared to our old waterer."

Charles White, Duffield, Alberta: "Our 4450 Deere 4450 tractor is very maneuverable, comfortable to operate, and it has good lighting for night work. It's got enough power for all our jobs."

Geary Whiteman, Schenevus, N.Y.: "Our 1987 Martin Scavenger 1257 manure spreader is our best buy. There are no apron chains to break and it spreads all kinds of manure evenly. It doesn't leak liquids on the road and does a fine job of top-dressing meadows."

Louis Krueger, Rothsay, Minn.: He lists his 1988 Deere 4250 tractor as "best buy". "We had a broken hydraulic hose in front of the radiator on the second day that made a mess. Otherwise, it's been an excellent tractor in the first 480 hrs. The Power Shift transmission is a pleasure to use."

Jack R. Kiser, Fremont, Ohio: "FARM SHOW is my best buy. I read in your last issue about the farmer who saved money by buying a replacement fan at a NAPA auto parts store rather than at his farm equipment dealership. I needed a double-shaft 12-V fan motor for my tractor cab. The cab's manufacturer, Year-A-Round, wanted \$100 for the fan. My Case/IH dealer quoted a price of \$112. Then I tried NAPA. They sold me the same fan for \$53. FARM SHOW saved me a lot of money and prevented this parts rip-off."