

BUYING TIPS YOU CAN USE

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

by Harold Johnson
Editorial Director

Mark Newhall
Editor

E. Robert Olson, Moorhead, Minn.: "Our worst buy is our 1987 Deere 260 rotary mower because of the lack of safety shields and notices. While it mows well, we broke two side windows on the tractor before we built and installed a metal shield. We were unable to get our second replacement window from Deere for three weeks due to the large number of windows on back order. All had been broken by the same model rotary mower. We've contacted both our dealer and factory rep but so far no changes from Deere."

On the plus side, Robert's happy with his 1983 Butler 212 AgMaster building. "This building gets a lot of use as a farm shop. It still looks good and doesn't leak or shift in the wind. Heats easily with a solar collector and rock storage under the floor."

Oliver Larsen, Weyauwega, Wis.: "One of our best buys ever is our 1987 Aqua-Therm outside wood-burning furnace (Aqua-Therm, Box 281, Brooten, Minn. 56316). It's everything I'd hoped for in a wood-burning hot water boiler and more. It's easy to fire up and does everything the company said it would do."

David Wierenga, Nunica, Mich.: He's had trouble with the steering on his 1985 Ford F-250. "It's always a battle to keep it

between 20 to 25%. This gives us about one day less drying time, a lot more leaves in the hay, and a higher protein content."

On the negative side, "We're upset with the way Deutz-Allis recently terminated our local dealer, who had been in business for over 20 years. Despite the fact that the dealership had the highest sales of any of the four area Deutz-Allis dealers in 1986 and 1987, and had the highest sales in North America of hay equipment, the company gave no reason for the termination. This seems like a very high-handed way to do business. Fortunately, our dealer is going to continue to sell parts and service Deutz-Allis tractors and hay equipment on his own."

Roger Larsen, Dalbo, Minn.: He nominates his 1976 Massey Ferguson 200 forage harvester as "best buy". "In 12 years of hard use I've had less than 1 hour of down time with this chopper and I've spent less than \$400 on knives and bearings. Even though it was the lowest-priced chopper on the market when I bought it, it has served me very well."

Gary Morrison, Mooretown, Ontario: "Our 1987 Case-International 685 row crop tractor is the ideal size for general purpose jobs. Operator controls are all easily accessible and out of the way for driver comfort. It's powerful enough when planting and row crop cultivating to operate in a higher gear at much lower rpm's. It demonstrates very positive steering and turns on a dime without using the brakes."

Charles Harrington, DeWitt, Iowa: "Our 1988 Chevrolet 1/2-ton 4-WD pickup with a 305 V-8 engine has plenty of power and gives a comfortable ride. It's got a nice cab with good visibility and controls. I like the one big gas tank."

Gail Sanders, Duanesburg, N.Y.: "As a backyard sugar maker I found that the purchase of King sap bags from Leader Evaporator Co., St. Albans, Vermont 05478, to be one of my best buys. The bags are made from heavy duty 14 ga. plastic with an outer flap that keeps bark, bugs and dirt out of the sap. A hookless spout is used for attaching the bag to the tree so it's not necessary to remove the bag from the tree when dumping the sap. This is a fine product for the part-time sugar maker."

Doug White, Unity, Sask.: Doug's happy with his "best buy" 1984 Kubota 8200 hydrostatic tractor with front-end loader. "This little 19 hp. 4-WD has more than paid for itself in many ways. It saved me the replacement of my big loader tractor because it does much of the work I used to do with the bigger tractor. I use the Kubota to clear snow, power my pto grain auger, clean the barn, clean under low-lying corral roofs where the big tractor can't go, and for many other jobs. I've put about 350 hrs. on it and have no complaints. This tractor is a fine tribute to Japanese design."

Sam McConnell, Bogata, Tex.: He's had trouble with his Vermeer 504F round baler. "I bought this baler new and have always had trouble with hay going to the top of both outside belts and hanging on the top belt guides. Vermeer has been no help except to suggest that we remove one 4-in. belt, which didn't help. Have any FARM SHOW readers solved this problem?"

Sam's happy with his 5-year-old Farmhand 235 front-end loader. "It does every job the way it's supposed to. I can put it on or take it off in 5 min."

Garfield Gillis, Point Prim, Prince Edward Island: "Our Deere 2755 4-WD tractor has lots of power and front-wheel tilt

Farmers Nominate Best, Worst Buys

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on the road. The dealer has worked on the front-end many times and replaced several parts but it still doesn't handle well. I also had trouble with the starter at 30,000 miles."

David's pleased with his 1986 Kubota 8200 tractor. "It's an excellent barn tractor because of its small size and good loader. I haven't had any trouble with the tractor even though we use it for work meant for a much larger tractor."

Paul H. Hartig, Listowel, Ontario: "Our 1987 Tandy Color Computer 3 is our best buy. It's extremely easy to use, provides very fast data processing. The system provides enormous flexibility and was very inexpensive."

Mervyn Plummer, Clarksbury, Ontario: "I baled more than 1,000 bales with my new 1987 Deere 430 round baler last year and never had a breakdown. Because the bales are tight and well-formed, they keep well outside with little spoilage. Our dealer gives top service."

"I'm also happy with our new International 485 4-WD tractor. We like the way it works and we've had no trouble with it."

Cecil Ward, Minesing, Ontario: Cecil's pleased with an acid applicator for his hay baler made by American Farm Products, Ypsilanti, Michigan. "This attachment mounts on the baler and applies Hay Pro acid which lets us bale hay at up to 30% moisture, although we try to keep it