

# Best And Worst Buys

(Continued from preceding page)

that works good (made by Roblin Welding, Roblin, Manitoba)."

**Richard Macdonald, N. Manchester, Ind.:** Heading Richard's list of "best buys" is his **International 730** adjustable width 5-bottom automatic reset plow. "It has to be one of the finest moldboard plows on the market today. It's designed for light draft, high-speed plowing with exceptional trash clearance. The automatic reset beam and spring coulters are a must in rocky ground. Cutting width is easy to set.

"Another good buy is our 1987 **Bison** livestock trailer. It's well-built. The company uses heavier metal in the trailer than other trailer manufacturers. I like the calve slider doors at the center rear. We use the trailer to haul our skid steer loader, too.

"We're also pleased with our **International 18 1/2-ft.** 4500 vibra shank field cultivator with a **Remlinger Buster Bar**. It shatters clods and does a good job leveling fields for planting. Also does a good job incorporating chemicals."

On the negative side, Richard's not happy with his four **Homelite** chainsaws. "You have to take four saws to the woods to keep two of them running. After cutting wood for 10 min. or so you have to stop to tighten the cutter chain. And even though these are all medium to large saws, they don't seem to have enough power to handle large trees. The carburetor air filter screen constantly plugs up and the gas tanks and chain bar oiler tank capacity aren't big enough."

**John Ruchter, Pleasant Hill, Md.:** He owns a 1979 **International 1460** combine. "It's the most efficient and trouble-free machine I've ever owned. We've spent very little on repairs in nearly 2,000 hrs. Accessibility for repairs and ease of operation is great."

**Eugene Lewis, Corfu, N.Y.:** His "worst buy" is a **Case 1490** tractor with FWD. "I had many hours of downtime due to poor servicing and bad design. A dead battery at 20 hrs., clutch out of adjustment at 50 hrs., FWD wouldn't engage at 75 hrs., gear shift is extremely hard to shift, broke a roll pin in the linkage and other parts, like the gear shift lever, broke. All problems were fixed at my own expense. I just paid another \$300 to have the gear shift worked on and it's still hard to shift."

**Howard Buehler, Berthoud, Colo.:** "Our 1986 **New Holland TR96** has a 30-ft.

**"Our combine has a 30-ft. head with lateral float that works great."**

header with lateral flotation which works great. I also like the new quiet cab and controls. Does a great job in malt barley, wheat and corn. I've had few problems in 650 hrs."

**Kevin Rosenbohm, Graham, Mo.:** "The worst buy I've made recently is a 1985 **Ford F250** with a 460 engine I bought two years ago. As a whole the pickup is fair but it's the little problems that drive you nuts. The pollution control never worked so I finally cut the drive belt. The power steering pressure line leaks even after replacing the

line twice. The air conditioning did not work when it arrived from the factory. The muffler cracked apart at 20,000 miles, the windshield leaked above the steering wheel from day one, the antifreeze recovery tank leaked, the right wheel will not self adjust, and the tin work is too thin. I send it to a local body shop every 6 mos. for normal body work. The best thing about this truck is the 460 engine and our local dealer, who has done a great job of service on these problems."

On the plus side, Kevin's pleased with his 1985 **Honda 250 3-wheeler**. "This is the third one I've owned. All have performed perfectly. The reverse on this machine is handy and it has excellent power with well-balanced weight. The handiest machine on our farm."

**Eldor Henning, Fall Creek, Wis.:** "My best buy is the **Acme Red Rooster LP** injection kit for diesel tractors I first read about in **FARM SHOW** eight years ago (Acme Carburetion, Box 2168, Mankato, Minn. 56001). I installed it on a **Deere 4030D** rated at 85 hp. With the booster, horsepower increased to 97, so I got a 14% increase in horsepower for \$200. The best thing about the Red Rooster is that it has an electric switch that lets you turn it off when not needed. After 4,000 hrs. of use we opened the engine to find no extra wear despite the added power."

**Frank Ziegwied, Deer Park, Wash.:** He names his 21-ft. dia. **Stormor** grain bin as "best buy". "Poorly designed roof hatch and manhole. The manhole is too small. There's white rust on the roof sections and the holes were not punched out all the way on the roof panels and body sheets. The dealer did the best he could but the product needs design improvements."

Frank's happy with his 1987 **Deere 582** riding mower. "It starts easily and is easy to handle. Cuts great. No problems whatsoever."

**Louis Price, Lakota, Iowa:** "Our **New Holland TR96** combine has tremendous capacity, the cab is quiet, and the controls real handy. I especially like the horizontal float feature which is important in soybean fields. Saves more grain than any combine I've ever owned. It's the Cadillac of combines today."

**Darle Baker, Ohio City, Ohio:** "We're satisfied with our 1981 **Allis Chalmers Gleaner M2** combine. I like the cab location, it handles easily, engine noise and heat is behind the grain tank, clean grain can be easily seen from the seat as well as the tailings volume or lack of it. The grain loss monitor and reel speed control allows the combine to be operated at maximum capacity. On the negative side, all gauges should be located vertically on front cab posts and all levers and knobs should be on the right and placed to minimize arm movement. I would like to have a 'joy stick' for the left hand to control both ground speed and steering. It could be incorporated into the left arm rest. I would eliminate the steering wheel and column. The opening at the ends of the chaffer sieve is too small which causes the returns to plug here if there is a lot of green-damp material. Also, there is a downdraft at the front of the chaffer which puts chaff between the chaffer and sieve. The cornhead is easy to work on but needs a

lot of work because of open drives and chains. The sheet metal should have 'ear pockets' and the snouts should have a higher profile so the metal ear savers could be eliminated. However, the cornhead has excellent capacity and the long lugs on the gathering chains pick up very well. I made an electric header reverser that's 'safety wired' with the clutch. The knife drive on the flexhead was redesigned with a 'reversed' Deere wobble box. The double cut knife works well in standing crops but is a disaster in down crops. The skid shoe was narrowed from 11 1/2 in. to 5 3/4 in. I prefer the standard cylinder bars to the factory wide space bar for hard-to-thresh wheat and soybeans."

**E.L. Smith, Columbia, Virg.:** "I haven't bought anything new recently since I'm 75 years old and out of farming but my **Mercedes Benz** diesel car, which I bought in 1967, is still running as good as when I bought it. Gets 36 mpg."

**Ken Rose, Dawson Creek, British Columbia:** "My worst buy is a 1985 riding lawn mower I bought out of a Sears catalog.

**"It was built too small so I raised the seat and extended the steering."**

When it first came I could see it was built too small for an adult so I raised the seat and moved it back, and extended the steering wheel. The muffler blew exhaust at your left foot so I had to change that, too. On the plus side, it does a good job cutting grass."

Ken says his "best buy" is a 1986 **Dodge Aries K** car. "It's the best car I've ever owned. At about 30,000 miles I've had no trouble, not even a flat tire. It gets 42 mpg and performs like it just won't quit."

**Duane Nieman, Earlville, Iowa:** "Last March I bought a used **Deutz 10006** tractor with only 1,450 hrs. on it at a farm sale. We've put over 400 hrs. on it with little maintenance. It's never burned more than 1 1/2 gal. of fuel per hour."

On the negative side, "Our worst buy is a **Bush Hog** loader with a 7-ft. bucket. The bucket is sturdy and the quick tach is nice but the lift arms break and crack, and the seals in the cylinders leak even after we've replaced them several times. We put it on a 70 hp. tractor after being told by the dealer it would be good for up to a 130 hp. tractor."

**Jim Hlebechuk, Fairfield, N. Dak.:** He lists a 1986 **Honda 10-hp. G400** engine as "worst buy". "This Japanese engine is used on a 7-in. dia., 36-ft. grain auger. It doesn't have the horsepower of similar size U.S. engines. Secondly, oil leaks excessively around the head gaskets and the carburetor is very temperamental. I now wish I would have bought an American-made engine."

**Vergil, Patrick, Cisco, Tex.:** "My best buy is **Farm Show Magazine**. It's the best gift you can give to anyone involved in agriculture. Great reading."

**Tom Doolittle, Antioch, Ill.:** "Our 1984 **Allis Chalmers L3** combine handles extremely well. The view from the cab is excellent, and all controls are within easy reach. We're very satisfied with our cornhead. It's easy to service and never gives trouble. The grainhead is another story. It's the new-style 300 Series flexible cutterbar. It does a good job in normal to tall crops but will not feed properly in short crops. When the short material is cut, it lays

on the header floor unable to reach the auger. When it builds up enough for the reel to hit, the whole wad goes in at once, sometimes plugging up the feeder beater. This head definitely needs to be improved for short crops."

**John Lang, Independence, Ore.:** "Our 1972 **Case 1070** tractor is our best buy ever. It has lots of power, is economical to operate, and it's quiet and comfortable with well-placed controls. A real pleasure to operate."

**Wayne J. Schellenberger, New Albany, Ind.:** "Our **Troy-Bilt** roto-tiller is every bit as easy to use and as dependable as advertised. Can be operated with one hand in any soil or even sod."

**Douglas E. Purser, Monroe, N.C.:** He likes his 1987 **Deere 2155** tractor. "It has given excellent service. Rides and handles like a dream and dealer service has been excellent."

**Harold Harris, Huntington, Ind.:** "My 1987 **Bush Hog 14-ft. rotary cutter** is one of my best buys. Works great. Another best buy is my **International 1460** combine. It does a good job and has been trouble-free."

**Linus Holthaus, Ossian, Iowa:** "Our 1986 **Deere 1219** mower conditioner is equipped with non-clog cutterbar so wet, down and tangled hay, and gopher mounds, don't cause trouble. There's no gouging or scalping because of the center gauge shoe."

**Merritt McDonald, Baton Rouge, La.:** "My worst buy is an **International 56** planter with a fertilizer hopper. The fertilizer system always gets plugged up. I've checked with several IH dealers and they don't know how to make it work."

**Ben L. King, Gordonville, Penn.:** "Our best buy is not a new product. It's a 60-hp. **Peerless 60 hp.** steam engine built in 1910. We bought it in 1984 and restored it in 1986. It has 140 new castings on it, of which most were made if our farm workshop and foundry. It's a pleasure to listen to while it grinds dairy feed, threshes wheat or fills silo. It's a real showpiece."

**A.L. Fries, Livingston, Mont.:** "I've driven **Dodge** pickups for years but my 1986 **Dodge 4-WD** is the best ever. One of the best things about owning it is the service we get from our dealer. He readily fixes anything that goes wrong."

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