

## 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

Mark Jacobs  
Associate Editor

# Farmers Nominate Best, Worst Buys

## OPINION

**Ronald Bradt, Aylmer, Ont.:** He's unhappy with **Farmer's Surplus** of Minot, N. Dak. "I needed a heavy-duty over/under Hydraul Shift 3-speed transmission as used in White/Oliver tractors of 180-hp and greater, and more recently on some of lesser horsepower. Having determined by several phone calls that the required unit was available at a reasonable price from Farmer's Surplus, I mail-ordered the item with emphatic expression that a heavy-duty unit was required. The requested money order was enclosed, along with a detailed explanation of the obvious method by which a heavy-duty unit can be identified. After nearly a month, I was notified that the shipment had arrived at customs. Shipping charges that Farmer's Surplus said they would 'take care of' were due to the tune of over \$175. I cleared customs, and prior to payment of the shipping charges, requested to see the goods. The unit supplied was not the heavy-duty transmission requested. I'm now out the price of the unit, which is the wrong one and won't do the job, plus the price of shipping."

**Arnold D. Ross, Webber, Kan.:** "Fuel economy is outstanding on my 1983 6080

didn't even get me the 11 miles to my home. The second truck made it home, but after contacting the dealer several times about the performance of the truck while in 4-WD and his assurance that I'd have to get used to the way a 4-wheeler works, he consented to test drive it. It turns out that I have a truck with two different gear ratios—a 354 in the front and a 410 in the rear. In two months there hasn't been any satisfaction from the dealership or from the Ford Customer Assistance Office. Ford claims they assembled the truck correctly and that it isn't their fault that the rear axle was tagged wrong.

"My best buy is the **K & M Mfg.** combine cylinder adjusting kit. I haven't used it in the field yet, but installation was easy and adjusting the cylinder will be simplified."

**Howard Miller, Kenesaw, Neb.:** "I'm 80 years old and still live on the same farm that I was born on. I take four farm magazines and **FARM SHOW** is the best of them all."

**Don Bowerman, Miller, Mo.:** "I use my 1986 **Chevrolet Silverado** 1/2-ton pickup with automatic transmission to deliver the U.S. mail on a rural route. Has a very comfortable ride and is easy on gas. Body is in good shape and there aren't any rattles."

**Earl Freudenburg, Madison, Neb.:** "I'd recommend my 1982 **International** 1420 combine to anyone. It has been one of the most trouble-free machines I've ever used. Excellent performance, good capacity, and produces a very good grain sample."

He's not as happy with a 4 1/2-in. angle grinder from **La Grange Co.** "I'd used this tool for about 18 months when it knocked out. An electric motor repairman tested it and said the armature and field were burned out."

**John Spreng, Loudonville, Ohio:** He likes his 1985 **Ford** Ranger pickup and **Deere** 950 tractor. "This is my second Ranger and both have given very good service. Gets about 27 mpg. The tractor has lots of power and works great for small jobs."

**Kenneth Keeny, Stewartstown, Penn.:** "Our **Hardy** outside wood furnace is easy to use. Just fill it and forget it. Produces plenty of domestic hot water, and it's easy to start a fire. You don't need any kindling, just some newspaper. Furnace is so well-insulated that the sides don't even get warm."

He's not as happy with "Block Buster," a degreaser from **Elite Enterprises**. It was money totally wasted. I wanted to try one gal. because it was expensive, but the salesman said they didn't even package it in that small of a container. When it came, it was in 1-gal. jugs in a box. The jugs don't say "Block Buster" and the directions on the jugs say to use it at a much less diluted rate than the salesman said. Even at the stronger rate, it had no visible effects on grease."

**James Van Giesen, White Hall, Ill.:** "I planted 400 acres with my 1987 **Great Plains** 21 by 7 1/2 end wheel drill without any problems. It's a well-made machine. It's easy to change from one seed to another and I like the 'knob adjust' depth adjustment."

**Willis G. Carpenter, Durham, N.C.:** "I've been driving **Chevrolets** since 1925 but this is the best one yet," says Willis, pleased with his 1978 C-20 Cheyenne. "It has 60,000 miles on it and has never been

Allis Chalmers tractor and loader bought in January, 1986. Has plenty of power to do the job. I've put 800 hrs. on it in the past 16 months with no let-down at all."

**Don Ward, Chula, Mo.:** "My 1986 **Ford** F-250, 4-WD pickup, with 300 c.i., 6-cyl. engine has been one of the best buys I've made. In 15 months, I've put on 30,000 miles with no troubles. It gets 18.5 mpg.

"Another best buy is a 1978 **Deere** 4040 tractor. No troubles and excellent dealer service."

**Ronald Hoots, Winchester, Ill.:** He nominates his **Homelite** 340 chain saw as "worst buy". "I had a 360 that was trouble-free. I bought the 340 new, and in the first year the piston seized up. My dealer says the company won't make it good.

"My best buys are a **Deere** 4450 tractor bought new in 1984 and a 500-gal. tandem axle sprayer with a 42-ft. boom from **Sprayer Specialties**. The tractor has lots of power and is trouble-free. The sprayer covers lots of acres fast and the tandem axle provides a smooth ride."

**George Boudreau, Martinton, Ill.:** He's unhappy with a 1987 F-250 **Ford** 4-WD pickup. "Actually, two F-250's have been my worst buys. On the way home from the dealership with the first truck, I was intently watching the gas gauge that was almost on empty. The truck threw all the antifreeze out and needless to say, it