

Best And Worst Buys

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Sealstore high moisture corn silo equipped with a Laidig unloader as "best buy". "After shoveling crib corn for several years, through all kinds of weather, this silo does the job effortlessly and smoothly with no problems. As an added bonus our dairy herd's test has risen 2 to 3%.

"Our worst buy is a new 1987 Arctic Cat Panther snowmobile. We've owned Arctic Cat machines for 15 years and have never had one that steered so lousy and rode so rough. It was a very expensive machine. It gets about 7 mpg and weighs more than a 1/4-ton. I had a 1978 Panther before which steered easier, was lighter, got good gas mileage and was virtually maintenance-free."

Kaari Hesje, Crooked River, Saskatchewan: "At 700 miles the motor blew apart," says Kaari, upset with his 1986 4-WD 350 Ford one-ton pickup with a 6.9 liter diesel engine. "The company wouldn't give me warranty work as they said it had been over-revved. Finally, they paid for the parts, but it cost me \$666 for labor and I was without the truck for 2 months at planting time. I'll never buy another Ford."

"His 'best buy' is a 1986 250 Honda four-wheeler. It's very handy around the farm. Starts good and has given me very good service with no problems."

Louis H. Ulizio Jr., Wallingford, Connecticut: A Ford 755 backhoe/loader combination is his "best buy". "Has plenty of power when the bucket is loaded. Controls on the backhoe feather well, thus preventing the boom from bouncing. The hoe and loader cylinders are larger than competitive models and it had the best balance of all machines we tested."

Walter C. Futral Jr., Griffin, Georgia: "Our Gallagher/Snell temporary power fencing system with E-12 12-V battery fence charger, poly posts and poly wire and reel is best buy. It's an expensive system but well worth it for temporary fencing. The high voltage shock put out by the energizer turns cattle where conventional chargers won't. The poly wire is highly visible, quick to put up and easy to roll up in the portable reel. The poly posts are also easy to install and remove."

William Anderson Sr., Superior, Nebraska: "My 1987 Dodge Dakota pickup runs well, service is good and it gets 20 to 23 mpg."

D. Weisenborn, Dayton, Ohio: "Besides FARM SHOW my best buy is a 68 Gravely 210 mower with 50-in. deck. Needs normal repairs but is still the best mower on the market. Mows 2 acres every week. The shuttle clutch and positive gear drive are life-or-death necessities on my sidehills."

James L. Jefcoat, Soso, Mississippi: International equipment is at the top of his best and worst buy list. "It costs more than \$5,000 a year to repair my 1979 IH 1586 tractor. It's the roughest riding tractor I've ever had. All four cab mounts have broken twice, it's had a broken axle, and the transmission has been out three times in less than a year. Now, metal flakes are stopping up the hydraulic filter which means more transmission and rear-end failure."

"My 1979 IH 1086 tractor is easy to operate, has a smooth ride and uses little fuel. The 1979 1440 IH combine is highly productive, with little downtime. However, it could use more horsepower."

Edwin E. Pope, Pueblo, Colorado: He nominates his Golden Grain 24 by 60-ft. building as "best buy". "This is a do-it-yourself building that's high enough to permit dumping wagon-loads of baled hay. It's also weather-proof and wind-proof."

John Nye, Washington Depot, Connecticut: "Our Deere 4250 and 2350 tractors with MFWD are best buys. The 4250 has a powershift transmission which is simple to operate. The 2350 has a 245 loader which works nice, but has cost the company a lot of money to fix."

"We also like our New Holland 890-EN2 corn snapper head. It works well snapping ear corn and grinding it up but it's too bad New Holland hasn't made some improvements. With some simple modifications, it could be made to do a cleaner job with less trash."

"Our 1985 Dodge D-250 truck with 318 V-8 engine and automatic transmission drives nice, but gets 8 mpg and can't pull a cattle trailer nearly as well as our 1977 Dodge D-150 with a 318 engine."

As "worst buy" he names Delaval 08 Super Liner milking machine inflations. "We started using them 1 year ago. They stayed on better than the old 01's did. However, it took us a long time to figure out what was causing a 2,500 lb. herd average drop, mastitis problems, and hard milking cows. We did extensive testing for stray voltage, feed analyses, worms, feet problems, milking system checks, etc. When we went back to the 01 liners we got a 5 lb./cow milk increase immediately and milking speed and mastitis are improving rapidly."

John Adair, Loysville, Pennsylvania: "We use our Honda 4-wheel ATV to spread nitrogen on wheat in early spring with a 12 bu. spreader. Also works well for driving through pastures and wet ground."

Joe Kelich, Elwood, Indiana: "We'd like to nominate our International equipment as best buy. Our IH line includes a 706 with loader, 766, 1466, 1566 and 5088 tractors, two 715 combines, a 1600 truck, a 200 pickup, a 150 Travelall and tillage equipment."

Ed Moore, Marlinton, West Virginia: "A 2110 Ford 4-WD tractor is the best buy I've ever made. It'll go anywhere. I use it to feed cattle, haul big round bales, and rake and haul hay. Has a good hydraulic system."

Ed names his Allis Chalmers 6060 as "worst buy". "The hydraulic system is helpless. I've had it back to the dealer three times. Every time I get it back it's worse. The control valve opens too fast or not at all. I'm afraid to use it since it comes up all at once. It's bent lift arms and once threw a disk up on the back of the tractor."

G. Gillis, Point Prim, Prince Edward Island: "Our best buy is a New Holland 975 combine bought in 1969. It cuts an average of 400 acres per year and is still going strong."

J. Boring, Ada, Oklahoma: "I had a 1975 Dodge pickup that I drove

217,000 miles. However, my new 1986 Dodge with 318 engine seems to be better than the old one. It's smoother, quieter, tighter and has plenty of power."

Luther Gerdes, Gales Creek, Oregon: Luther nominates his New Holland 472 Haybine as "best buy". "It cuts through subclover, heavy hay, thick grass, gopher mounds and just about anything else without clogging up. Does a good job of conditioning."

Willie Merfeld, Bernard, Iowa: "My Deere 7000 Max Emerge planter has to be one of the best buys I've ever made. I bought it about 10 years ago and it's been almost trouble free. All I've done is replace a few roller chains and a few bearings on the fertilizer disk openers. If everything I owned worked like this planter, it'd be a pleasure to farm."

"My worst buy is a Ford TW 10 tractor—not because of the tractor but because of the company behind it. Even when it was new, it was impossible to get the lugs to hold tight on the rear wheel rims. After much frustration and lost time, I bought power rib type rims off a burned up tractor. They hold up fine and work the way they should. Ford admitted they had problems with that type of system but would do nothing to reimburse me for my expense."

Ken Boles, Center, Texas: "My 1986 Chevrolet 1-ton with 454 engine and 4-speed transmission is powerful, quiet and drives great. Has excellent braking power and, when driven properly, gets good mileage considering the size of the engine. I also have a 1978 Chevy 1-ton with 117,000 miles that's never been in the shop."

He's not as happy with a 4-speed, 1985 Ford 1-ton with diesel engine and 4:10 differential. "Poor power and the brakes were very inadequate, especially when it rained. I never got over 12 mpg. Clutch went out at 13,000 miles and both expensive batteries went out at 12,000 miles. Also had trouble with the front end. Paid \$2,300 extra for the diesel package, then had to discount \$3,000

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Rufus Breeding Jr., Blaine, Tennessee: "Starts easy in cold weather and has been trouble-free. The only problem is that the paint job is lousy," says Rufus about his "best buy" 1985 Deere 2150 tractor.

He likes his Bushhog 6-ft. mower now that he's corrected a couple problems. "There were two things wrong with it. First the plug in the gear box is made of rubber and it leaks. After I purchased a metal plug it stopped leaking. Secondly, the sides and back-end metal won't stand up to rocks and stumps on our hillsides. I took it to a welder and had him put 1/2-in. steel around it and now everything is fine."

Lloyd R. Cook, Rycroft, Alberta: His 1986 2950 Deere tractor ranks as "best buy". "My wife is pleased with everything about the tractor, especially the quiet cab equipped with stereo and TV. There was a problem with the hydraulics but the dealer repaired it immediately."

D. Jackson, Coudersport, Pennsylvania: "Our Deutz-Fahr KH 300 hay tedder and rake does a good job of tedding but breaks easily. The extra reduction gear for raking was a waste of money. The second time the tedder was used the aluminum housing on the spinner broke. Dealer replaced it with a cast iron model. Later in the season I hit a woodchuck hole and broke off a wheel."

"Our best buy is a Farmtronix dairy computer. We use it to feed high moisture corn and supplement. No down time so far."

David Oestreich, Candanaigua, New York: "We put the International offset covering disc package on our IH 800 planter. Last year we planted 650 acres and never stopped once to remove a stone. The old discs plugged up to 20 times a day."

He's not as happy with his New Holland #8 Crop Carrier forage wagon. "After a two week delivery delay, it finally arrived with a hole poked through the side. When we used it the first time the beater drive gears made so much noise you could hear them over the tractor and blower."

Dean Wakefield, Newark Valley, New York: "My 1986 Ford F-250 with 6.9 liter diesel engine used 1 qt. of oil every 400 miles and lacked the power to pull our cattle trailer. The dealer changed the air cleaner housing which reduced oil consumption to 1 qt. per 800 miles. I recently added a Hypermax turbo charger kit to the engine. Now it has more power than we need, fuel economy is much better and oil consumption is no longer a problem."

"I'm also happy with my Farmi 400 log skidding winch. It's easy and fast to use. Saves a lot of wear and tear on the tractor."

"The most versatile piece of equipment on our farm is a 632 Melroe Bobcat. We've had no problems and good service. We use it every day for chores like cleaning pens, feeding, plowing snow, packing silage and changing tires."

Rulon Brown, Wells, Nevada: "I've put up 8,000 bales with my New Holland 852 round baler and I don't think I've had \$50 in repairs. My Hay Buster round bale feeder is also a good tool. I did 'beef' it up, but it's the best feeder I've seen."

"I also like our Freeman 330 square baler and Deere 4230 and 4320 tractors. The baler is the best piece of farm equipment I've seen. It's built to last. I've probably baled 300,000 bales with it in the last 10 years. It just keeps on going and does a marvelous job. The tractors have also been very good machines."

"The equipment that gave me the most problems was Hesston. I had a 1-ton baler that the dealer had no idea how to service or repair. I traded it in for a Hesston round baler but no one at the dealer had ever seen one of them or knew how to service it. Every piece of Hesston equipment I've ever had or seen was well engineered but poorly built."

Ernest Lokken, Weyburn, Saskatchewan: He likes his 1986 Makita 125 mm disk grinder. "It's light to handle and has plenty of power. It works well for sharpening the guards on my combine. With the knife removed, I sharpened a 24-ft. header in 30 minutes."