

# Best And Worst Buys

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\$6,000 price of the hitch. Too bad they discontinued making this hitch."

**James F. Slater, Jeromesville, Ohio:** He's happy with his 385 **International** tractor. "It works great. Does the job just the way it should."

**Larry Shifflett, Fort Defiance, Virg.:** He had trouble with his "worst buy" 1981 **Artsway** 500 Mix Mill. "It's basically a good piece of equipment but the hydraulic turn for the discharge auger was too light and had to be upgraded, along with some of the other sprockets. The hydraulic drive to unload the tank was a joke and had to be converted to mechanical drive. But the worst thing is that it takes two weeks to get parts for it because Artsway is so slow shipping them. I've tried two dealers with the same results."

Larry likes his 1984 **New Holland** 499 Haybine. "It does a good job of cutting with little need for repair. Hydraulic drive eliminates drive shaft maintenance and we get excellent parts service from the dealer, even though he's an hour and a half away."

**Charles M. Vacek, Stewart, Minn.:** "Within two days they cut 10 min. off my milking time. Fall-off on my Delaval pipeline is down to nothing," says Charles, pleased with "best buy" **Conewango** Milker Inflatons from **Conewango Products Corp.**, **Randolf, N.Y.**

He's disappointed with a **Universal** milk tester bought in 1985. "I used the first one once and it was 37% off. The dealer replaced it and it was still 30% off. After numerous attempts to get something that would work, the service rep finally picked it up and said he would find out something. Three months later he discovered he'd forgotten it in his trunk. I still don't have a tester."

**John Ottens Jr., Morefield, Ontario:** "I like our **Deere** 780 Hydro Push manure spreader because there's no apron chain to break and you can feather the manure over the field with a twist of a knob in the tractor cab."

**Jack L. Matthews, Cornersville, Tenn.:** "I've been superbly satisfied with my 1977 **Ford** F-100 6-cyl. pickup which is pushing 130,000 miles. The engine was overhauled at 90,000 miles but most everything else is original equipment. This pickup has never let me down."

"My 801 **Ford** diesel tractor has also been dependable. Its wide wheels and low center of gravity work great in Tennessee hill country. As long as I keep the fuel filters clean, it runs fine and does everything a multi-purpose tractor should do."

**Edward Chase, Massena, N.Y.:** "Our 1985 **Knight** 912 manure spreader works exceptionally well with soft stable manure. Unloads fast and uses a lot less power than a tank flail spreader. Well-built and easy to service."

**Luther Weisman, Otwell, Ind.:**

"We're pleased with Transaction Plus accounting software from **FBS Systems**, **Aledo, Ill.** It has a really complete manual and a way to list anything you can think of. Also, the company is especially helpful if you have a problem. The people who write the program are farmers and understand what we need. Rather expensive but worth it."

**Leo Tucker, Prescott, Iowa:** "I like the way it handles but it's built like a piece of junk," says Leo about his "worst buy" 1984 **Kawasaki** 250 KLT 3-wheeler. "During the first 6 months of warranty it ground up 3 sets of rocker arms and camshafts. The warranty paid for the work but I had to make an 80-mile trip every time it needed repairs. Sometimes I had to leave it and go back later. Now that

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the warranty has run out the dealer is out of business. It needed the same repairs again this year and in between all this it had to have new rings and pistons."

**Harold Bley, Eden, N.Y.:** He had trouble with a "**Husky** liquid manure pump bought in 1984. It's supposed to be able to agitate our manure lagoon but it doesn't. We get three days use before we have to replace the bearings on the impeller shaft, which cost \$83. The pump is presently back at the plant to be remanufactured."

**Bradley Mills, Haviland, Ohio:** "It rides well, has plenty of power and it's got a short turning radius that makes trimming easy," says Bradley, pleased with his "best buy" **Deere** 165 Hydro lawnmower.

**Phillip D. Prickett, Mt. Holly, N.J.:** "Our 1986 **New Holland** 326 baler has good capacity especially since they changed the flow action back to the old chain style. Makes it much more reliable. Teamed up with a 1037 balewagon, and good weather, you can really get hay into the barn."

**Gary Charter, Ida, Mich.:** Gary nominates his 1986 **Case-International** 800 Early Riser planter as both best and worst buy. "Because of the late spring I needed to plant my corn and beans mostly minimum till. My old **International** 58 planter wouldn't plant in adverse conditions but the Early Riser did a beautiful job. Unfortunately, I couldn't get it to space plants evenly no matter what plate I used. Also, it was equipped with a fancy monitor that only worked on one setting. I couldn't get the dealer to come out and fix it at any time during the planting season."

**Duane Pearson, Ogilvie, Minn.:** "We've had an incredible amount of

downtime with our **Dixon** ZTR 11-hp. mower with a 42-in. deck. Chain tightening, replacement and adjustment are a never-ending process on this machine. We also experienced breakage of weak components.

"One of our best buys over the years has been a 1978 **Deutz** D10006 tractor. We've never had any problems with this unit except for a clutch replacement which was a result of our own carelessness. Very economical to operate.

"A pair of **J & M** 350 bu. gravity boxes and running gears bought in 1986 are also on my best buy list. These boxes are rugged and unload well. The running gear trails perfectly at 50 mph and more. We also like our **Hot-Shot** rechargeable stock shocker. It's been much more dependable than the battery type we had before and requires no outlay for batteries."

**Vern Martens, Ashton, Iowa:** "Our **Massey Ferguson** 530 spinner drum mower bought in 1984, and manufactured by **Vermeer Co.**, is worst buy. Two of the drums were not made correctly. The cutting knives on one drum would hit the knife and other drum opposite. **Massey** checked it out and made replacements through **Vermeer**. This mower will cut anything but it is costly to keep running. I've gone through 7 sets of knives on the drums in three seasons of use. I thought I'd get more for the money."

**Joe Cobourn, Cardington, Ohio:** "Our best buy is our **Black & Decker** cordless drill. I can carry it in the pickup for repair jobs in the field where electricity is not available."

**F.J. McCarty, Gadsden, Ala.:** He's happy with his 1986 **Chevrolet** pickup with V-8 engine. "I bought it in Dec. 1985 and I haven't been able to find one thing wrong with it to take back to the dealer. I ran it 5,000 miles before the first oil change and it used only about 1 pint of oil. Handles very well. Best truck I ever owned."

**R.L. Imboden, Rutland, Ohio:** "My **Stihl** 010 AV chainsaw had starting problems that the dealer couldn't repair when I bought it. The saw was sent back to the factory and returned to me in perfect condition for no charge. I'd buy from this company again."

He nominates his 1980 **Chevrolet** C-10 pickup with 250 6-cyl. engine as "worst buy". "It had numerous problems from day one. After removing the head and finding it cracked I was told by my dealer, and several other parts representatives, that this is a common problem with this engine and that a repair is useless because this type of cylinder head lacks enough metal to hold up under tough conditions. So I have to replace the engine with a new V-8."

**Adolph Zapf, Rock Falls, Ill.:** "It has 276,000 miles on the original transmission and engine. It's probably the best running truck in our area," reports Adolph about his "best buy" 1950 **L-170 International** 2-ton grain truck.

He also likes **Cornelius** seed corn. "It's the lowest-priced seed corn I've

found and the best yielding corn on my farm."

**Lee Hostetter, Cottage Grove, Tenn.:** "We like the smaller-size bales it makes. We can roll them down the feed alley by hand. The baler's also compact and requires a minimum of repairs," reports Lee, happy with his **New Idea** 484 round baler.

He's not as happy with a 24T **Deere** baler with a kicker-thrower. "Once while baling downhill it kicked out a bale that came down in front of the baler instead of in the wagon. Other times it'd keep kicking 3 to 4 times after it ejected a bale."

**John Gaulding, Winnie, Texas:** His 1985 **Ford** Bronco heads his "best buy" list. "I'm well-satisfied with it. It has a smooth ride, plenty of pick up and feels solid. It should have better rust proofing at the factory, however. It's 15 months old and already shows signs of rust. Also, the cables that hold the tailgate are too small."

**David Shira, Cortland, Ohio:** David's well-pleased with his 1986 **Ford** F-250 pickup. "Nothing's gone wrong so far and it rides good. It could get a little better gas mileage, though."

**Mike D. Miller, Spencer, Neb.:** "My worst buy is **Farmway** farm-coat sealer used to form a moisture-proof seal on concrete, wood, metal and brick. It's made in **Farmingdale, N.Y.** The salesman promised a hard finish, approximately 1/8-in. thick and similar to glass board, with just one coat of the sealer. After receiving a written guarantee I agreed to purchase 10 gal. at \$49.95 a gal. The wood surface absorbed the sealer, even after 3 coatings. I tried to return 9 gallons and get a refund of my money, but they refused to take or return my phone calls. Only after the Better Business Bureau took action would they talk to me. I still don't have my money back."

Mike's "best buy" is a **Westendorf** WL-45 tractor loader. "The quick-tach design makes it a cinch to put on or take off and the mountings on the bucket and bale spear are easier yet. It can also take a beating. I'm also well-satisfied with my new 32-ft. roughage feeder from **Apache Mfg.** It'll feed 50 head at a time."

**Lowell Crabb, Kingsley, Iowa:** Lowell's two **Brock** 30 by 21-ft. grain bins are his "best" and "worst buys". "They're well-built and easy to use with smooth drying floors and roller-mounted traps. The doors are especially nice because you don't need tools to get in. I also like the fill port because it's large and has a built-in support ring to hang accessories on. One problem with the bin, though, is that it had spots of rust on it. The company agreed to either replace the sheets or build a new one at a discount. Needing more storage I chose the latter option and built an identical bin, only to discover it has spots too. The company has been slow to remedy this last problem."

**F.J. Boehmer, Balgonie, Sask.:** "We equipped our **Deere** 7700 combine with a special-built concave and airfoil chaffer from **B & D Equipment**, **Box 222, Craik, Sask., Canada.** It made a big difference in the cleanliness of the thresh. Works great."