

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

Keith Anderson, Clinton, Minn.: "Last fall, I ordered a building from **Miracle Span Steel Structures** on Sept. 13 to be erected by Oct. 10. I was given the run-around all fall about when the erection crew would have the building ready for corn storage until bad weather set in at the end of November and the building was not erected at all. Much of my bumper corn crop remained in the field due to lack of storage. The company has made no attempt to set things right with me and I finally filed suit against them last June. They countered by filing a suit of an amount in excess of \$100,000 for defamation of character."

Gary Wilcox, Correctionville, Iowa: Fertilizer openers for his 7000 Deere planter top Gary's "best" and "worst" buy list. "Deere openers won't go in the ground consistently unless the ground is worked first. The discs are too small and run nose to nose. I like my **Kinze** openers however. They work in no-till and are spring-loaded with one disc ahead of the other."

Norman Foellmi, Sparta, Wis.: "I bought a Suzuki 125 4-wheeler just before Christmas and told my wife it

"Another good purchase is my **Kobashi** M60 60-in. rototiller. It's really a heavy-duty machine and very hard to plug."

Al Best, Columbus Grove, Ohio: "Row guard cultivator shields from **Buckeye Tractor Co.** are my best buy. I installed them behind the rolling shields on my "S" tine cultivator. They keep the second shovel from throwing dirt into the row so I can drive faster."

Bruce Olson, Morris, Ill.: "Our 8-row **Deere** 7000 planter 'skipped' all across my corn fields. The planter's 6 to 7 years old. I'd understand if it had a bad chain but we'd just replaced it. The planter worked fine before. We just couldn't seem to solve the problem."

Marlin Enquist, Strandburg, S. Dak.: "We sowed only 7-lbs. per acre but got an outstanding stand under less than ideal field conditions," reports, Marlin, who nominates **Seed Tec** Max 85 alfalfa as "best buy".

Billy Tracer, Rector, Ark.: "We bought a used 6600 **Deere** combine in 1975. It had a gas engine which wore out 2 years ago. We put in a 329 diesel and it now works like a new combine. We've had no trouble from it at all. I don't know if you can wear it out."

Allen Gantzert, Dwight, Ill.: Allen's well-pleased with **Acra Plant** Trash Whippers mounted on his International 800 planter. "They allow me to plant in unworked soybean stubble and get excellent plant emergence. Trash Whippers are unit-mounted to give accurate depth control."

Paul E. Conkright, Jones, Mich.: "With the original sickle-guard set up, I used to break guards and sections nearly every day harvesting soybeans off our gravelly hillsides. But with our **Herschel** Tiger Jaws cutterbar system I've only replaced 15-20 sections in the past 3 years. With the system's double-cut stroke, you drive faster, cut cleaner and have less maintenance."

Willard Sonnek, Easton, Minn.: "We now have 6,000 hrs. on our 1977 **International** 766 diesel tractor and we've had very few problems. We use it every day. Another best buy is our **International** 990 mower-conditioner. Does a good job at high speeds."

Bruce Stauffer, Eudora, Ark.: "In 1½ years I've put 1100 hrs. on it doing all types of work and it hasn't broke down. Has good power and is easy on fuel," says Bruce about his "best buy" 1981 **Case** 2390 tractor.

Robert Patterson, Danville, Penn.: "My worst buy is an **International** 684 tractor bought new in 1985. When new, torque seals leaked, clutch slipped, transmission oil cooler didn't work, shifting lever stuck, engine oil pushed out through the breather on steep inclines and hydraulics didn't work properly. At 390 hrs. the tractor's now working fine," Robert reports.

His best buy is a **Woods** 208-2 rotary cutter. "Does a very nice job of mowing in regular or extra heavy grass. My 1957 Model 80 Woods

was her Christmas present. She wasn't too happy with it at first but I added a tray on the front and she now uses it to go to the garden, run errands and to check cattle. I use it to fix fence and shut gates," says Norman.

His "worst buy" is a **Craftsman** battery charger on wheels. "It seemed like what I needed to boost-start and charge my tractors and truck. I'd put it on high charge and it would charge at ¼ the advertised rate and then drop down to 10 amps within 5 minutes. I returned it and bought a used solar battery charger that puts out as rated."

Don Bahr, Morris, Minn.: Don nominates his 1984 **Steiger** Cougar with an 855 Cummins engine as "best buy". "We pull a 45-ft. digger, mulcher and 10 by 18 plow on about 11 gal. of fuel per hr. which saves us about 1/3 the fuel that we used working with two 2-WD tractors."

Dallas F. Boge, Gales Creek, Ore.: "How did I ever get along without a loader? This 4-WD machine really gets the work done," says Dallas about his "best buy" **Deere** 1050 tractor with loader. He also likes his **Deere** 650. "It's a great little tractor for mowing, spraying and splitting wood.