

## BUYING TIPS YOU CAN USE

Randomly selected farmers "tell it like it is" in nominating their "best" and "worst" buys.

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**John Klum, Viroqua, Wis.:** He's disappointed with his 7020 **Allis Chalmers** tractor. "I bought it on a lease contract. After 450 hrs. it blew up because of a broken cam bolt. The Allis Chalmers dealer we bought from was out of business and other dealers wouldn't stand behind it. It took 6 months to get it fixed. After we got it back, it broke down again after just 43 hours. The dealer who fixed it before had gone bankrupt by then and nobody wanted it."

**Gene Endicott, Mcleansboro, Ill.:** Gene's **Case** tractors are his "worst buys". "I have the dubious honor of owning 3 **Case** tractors. Since the merger with **International**, all **Case** dealers in my area have merged with **International** dealers. These **IH** dealers won't stock **Case** parts. We have to order them, which takes a minimum of two days and can take as long as 5 days. Looks like my next tractor will be green."

On the "best buy" side, Gene's happy with his 1900 series **Krause** disc harrow. "After two season of use we've had no problems. Very well-made. It cuts level and yet is heavy enough for good penetration."

into gear at highway speeds, creating a real chatter. Before I replaced them I had them cleaned and greased three times in 6 mos. but it didn't help. I have also replaced the intake manifold twice as well as the rear transmission seal, all within 45,000 miles."

**Kevin Brunner, Nisland, S. Dak.:** "The bale monitor in the cab really helps make uniform bales and the automatic twine tie cuts down on time spent looking back. Makes good tight bales," says Kevin about his "best buy" 1984 **Deere** 530 round baler.

**John M. Karhnak, Woodbridge, Virg.:** I like my **Black & Decker** cordless drill. It works well when I need to put in a few holes or screws. I don't need to drag out extension cords. When I'm doing a bigger job, I put a screwdriver bit in it and a drill bit in my regular drill so there's no need to keep changing."

**John Thorn, Bigfork, Mont.:** "My worst buy is a **Holley** fuel miser carburetor which I bought a year ago and have tried on two Ford engines. The pickup went down to 10 mpg from 12 and the car to 13 mpg from 18.5. Writing to the company only got me excuses and now I have a \$195 carburetor that is useless. I've been a mechanic all my life and I tried setting it up several different ways but it's no use. Wish I'd given the **Fish** carburetor a try since we had good luck with the original carburetor made back in the early 60's."

**Arthur Bange, Annada, Mo.:** "My best buy is a 1985 **Cons-Til** 6500 **International** chisel plow. It has enough weight to do a real good job in the heaviest cornstalks and works real well in bean ground, too. Saves lots of time as compared to moldboard plowing," says Art.

**Gordon Koch, Hudson, Iowa:** Gordon lists **Ritchie** paddle-type hog fountains as "worst buy". "We bought 10 of these and installed them in a pig nursery. The paddle pivots on a roll pin. After a few weeks, the pin wears enough to fall out and the paddle disappears. New paddles and pins don't help because the pin holders also wear. We tried cotter-pins of various sizes for awhile but finally tore everything out and replaced them with another brand."

On the positive side, Gordon's happy with his 1983 **Ford** F-250 diesel 4-WD. "It's gone 60,000 miles and has required no repair except for one head gasket. Some of that mileage was spent pulling a 6 x 20-ft. gooseneck livestock trailer."

**William L. Swan, Tampico, Ill.:** He likes his new **White** 5100 Seed Boss planter. "Depth control is excellent and there are very few moving parts in the seed metering system. You just change the seed disc for beans. Be sure to get the service bulletin of Jan. 20, 1984 because it tells that at least one seed corn company has the wrong pressure setting on their tags."

William had problems with his 1984 **Chevrolet** C20 4-WD pickup. "I traded a 1976 **Chevrolet** 4-WD pickup for it with the same equipment. The 1984 model has less power, less traction, and is built cheaper throughout. The seat covers wore

# Farmers Nominate Best, Worst Buys

## OPINION

**Harold Jackson, Auburn, Ky.:** "I've been farming for 40 years and this is the best piece of equipment I've ever bought," says Harold about his "best buy" 1986 **Soil Mover** 425 tractor-pulled 4¼-yard earthmover. "I don't have a single adverse word to say about it. We've done some real nice work with it."

**Lester Heinrich, Armstrong, Iowa:** Lester says the polyethylene skids he put on the bottom of his **Deere** flex grain platform are his "best buys". "I covered all metal that makes contact with the ground. I can set the platform down in the bean field and never stop. No matter how wet or sticky the ground is, it never pushes dirt."

On the negative side, he's had bad luck with his 1981 ¾-ton **Chevrolet** 4-WD pickup with 350 engine. "I bought the pickup new in the fall of 1980. At 30,000 miles I had to completely overhaul it because antifreeze had got into the oil. The mechanic that tore it down said the head bolts were not even tight. Also, the camshaft was worn out. General Motors paid half the cost. At 40,000 miles I replaced the automatic locking hubs with manual ones because they would attempt to throw