

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

Don Hermes, Oxford, Neb.: "So much for the new Chrysler Corp." says Don, upset with his 1984 Dodge D-150 pickup. "Gear shift lever had to be bent to get it in reverse and the transmission had a scraping noise and too much backlash. No vent in rear axle housing caused leaks and pinched wires caused electrical trouble in cold weather. The 318 engine takes more gas and has less power than 1972 model."

Jerome Welters, Sarcoxie, Mo.: "My Miller model 12 front end loader is a best buy. This quick-tach loader holds up well under all the strain and pressure that my 1850 Oliver 4-WD can produce. It's heavy built and you can take it off and on in less than 5 minutes. Mounts to the tractor in 3 locations, yet has only one disconnect point."

Dorothea Paul, Morton, Minn.: "I bought a slightly used International 5488. The fuel consumption is really good even in the toughest plowing. For the 195 hp., the tractor is easy to handle, even for row crop cultivation. The cab couldn't be more comfortable. All around, I like the components better than the 5088 I'd owned before."

mate tire sealant, then aired it up. That tire's still good. The second flat tire got Rubbermate the first time it went flat. It's still good, too."

Robert D. Sperstad, Stoughton, Wis.: "My 1985 Chevrolet El Camino started easy all winter and handles real well. Gets terrific mileage with its V-6 automatic overdrive."

Keith Davidson, Chickasha, Okl.: "My 1985 Ford 7710 with front wheel assist had several problems that the dealer took care of but a new tractor shouldn't have this many things go wrong. The engine had oversize valves in standard guides, the load monitor had to be replaced and both rear wheel seals and one front seal leaked."

As "best buy" Keith nominates his **New Holland 855 round baler.** "There's never any problem starting a bale. Makes a good, solid bale."

Bernhard Neuman, Athens, Ill.: "This device, made by **B.E. Myers Inc.**, is equipped to drive pests (mice, etc.) away. I have mice in the house so I put it in the pantry. It has no effect on pests," says Bernhard, unhappy with his "sonic and ultra-sonic electronic pest repeller."

John Duncan, Leask, Sask.: "It makes a hard starting diesel engine work even in the coldest weather," says John, happy with his "Hot Box" gas fired engine heater that circulates hot water through the engine and warms the oil pan with exhaust. "Even a 350 Cummins engine starts in -30°C after turning the switch on for 30 to 40 minutes. Saves costly repair bills on the starter and saves batteries and time."

B. Kraemer, Sheldon, Mo.: "I almost had to give it back to the dealer to get rid of it," says Kraemer unhappy with his "worst buy" **Murray tiller.** "It was no good. The tines were out of time and couldn't be changed unless you cut them apart and re-welded them on. The gear box leaked grease and the motor took a fill of oil for each tank of gas."

He's had better luck with his **Roto-Hoe rear tine tiller.** "It's a good machine so it will till by itself. All you need to do is guide it a little bit."

Marvin Kurt, Cascade, Iowa: "This was our first and last Chrysler product," says Marvin, upset with his 1984 E Class car. "E.P. rating was 22/35. We drive 60 highway miles a day and the best mileage we get is 22."

As "best buy" he cites his 1978 **Deere 4400 combine.** "Easy on fuel and very reliable."

Gene Dittmer, W. Milton, Ohio: "It's A-number-one," says Gene, happy with his "best buy" 1981 **Datsun long bed diesel pickup.** "Gets 41 mpg and we didn't have any repairs until 80,000 miles when we put on new front brakes. I sure would buy another one but they don't make them anymore."

Arnold Lloyd, Seeley's Bay, Ont.: "I purchased a **Stihl 032 chain saw** in 1983 and used it for two years. It was an excellent saw. Very reliable and would run for days with little or no carburetor adjustment. When I wanted to trade it in, the dealer talked me into buying a model 034 Stihl. It's one of the worst saws I've ever had.

Paul A. Davidson, Moose Lake, Minn.: "This heavy duty industrial tradesman tool is unbeatable for use in the shop and around the farm. Never overheats and will drill 2-in. holes in wood all day," reports Paul, pleased with his **Milwaukee ¾-in. Hole Hawg model drill.**

John Wildermuth, Geneseo, Ill.: "There aren't many places you can't go with this tractor when it's muddy," reports John about his "best buy" 2550 **Deere tractor** equipped with a loader. "It has an exceptional amount of power for its size. To put it in front wheel drive you just push a button."

As "worst buy" he nominates his **Majestic add-on furnace.** "We spent a lot of money to add it to our gas furnace and we never could really get any heat out of it. I didn't get one bit of help from the company on how to make it work. Finally, we had the expense of taking it off our gas furnace. We could have paid a lot of gas bills with all the money we wasted on it."

John Weber, Fowler, Kan.: "I had a flat tire two different times on my 116 **Deere lawn tractor.** First, I just aired it up and kept mowing. It went flat again, so I pumped in some **Rubber-**