

Best And Worst Buys

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Ray E. Schmidt, Elgin, N. Dak.:

"My most disappointing buy has been an 8-row **International** Cyclo planter. The 4 and 6-row models seem to work okay but air simply doesn't do the job on an 8-row.

"My best buy definitely is my 1460 **International** combine. It's been a dependable machine for 8 years covering 1,600 to 2,000 acres per year with very little downtime and expense. Another dependable machine is our **Steiger** Cougar tractor. Purchased in 1975, it's had little downtime."

George A. Knepel, Mequon, Wis.: He's happy with his **Dickey John** grain moisture tester. "Very simple to use. There's no weighing or temperatures to take. With a good sample, it always registers to within 1/2 point of the elevator's moisture testers."

Dennis Schroeder, Woonsocket, S. Dak.: "With mechanical MFWD you don't need to add so much weight to the tractor and you don't need duals. It turns as short as a 2-WD and you seldom need to use the brakes. It sure is nice in wet spots and the MFWD helps a lot, even in good going," says Dennis about his "best buy" 4450 **Deere** tractor.

James V. Osterberg, Salem, S. Dak.: "We were heading home with a load of corn in a **Parker** 2600 gravity box when the rear left wheel fell off due to poor welding. We think 75% of the welding on the wagon gear was bad."

As "best buy", he cites his 1985 **Honda** 250 ATV. "Has electric start, shaft drive, and reverse. More than enough power to get in and out of tight spots with ease."

Allen Broster, West Salem, Ill.: He cites his **Deere** 520 soybean drill with 10-in. spacing and True-Vee attachments as "best buy". "Does an excellent job placing soybean seed. The True-Vee add-ons on the disk openers make it far superior to other drills for seed placement.

"Another best buy is our **Kuker** pickup sprayer. The 42-ft. booms have shock absorbers to take the punishment of rough field conditions."

Leon Horstman, Lester Prairie, Minn.: "I've harvested 1,600 acres of corn, soybeans, and grain with this machine. It's given me excellent service, does a nice clean job, is fuel efficient and has many excellent features. Handles an eight 30-in. row cornhead with ease in heavy crop," reports Leon, happy with his **Deere** 7720 combine.

He also likes his 1980 **Volkswagen** Dasher diesel auto. "After 93,000 miles, it still runs and drives like new. It's an excellent road car and a pleasure to drive. Has only required routine service and starts in sub-zero temperatures. Never gets less than 40 mpg on short trips and gets up to 53 mpg on the highway."

Norbert Hogbin, Joice, Iowa: "I call my 2-85 **White** tractor the 'gutless wonder'. Has less power and uses more fuel than the 1750 **Oliver** I

traded in. The first year I owned it the clutch pressure plate flew apart, throwing pieces of metal into the starter. It caused \$250 damage to the starter and required nearly a \$1,000 clutch overhaul. In cold weather, I always know I'll have to use a heater on it for at least half an hour to get it started."

Bruce Schrank, Danbury, Iowa: "My worst buy was Dual herbicide from **Ciba-Geigy**. I used the herbicide on first year corn following beans. After the corn was 6 in. tall, a third of the plants died. The company representative agreed to pay us for the damage. After seven months, we still haven't received any payment."

Alen Gleisner, Atwater, Minn.: He cites his **Dixon ZTR** lawn mower and his 1984 **GMC** S-15 diesel pickup as "best buys." "The mower is economical, well-built and does the job twice as fast as our other mower. The truck gets great mileage and hasn't had a problem in 18,000 miles. Always starts even during our cold Minnesota winters."

Darrell Nordhagen, Opheim, Mont.: "My nomination for both best and worst buy is an **International** 1440 combine with a 24-ft. 810 header. It's a shame that when IH developed this outstanding threshing machine they didn't update their header. I'm well satisfied with the 1440 but the header has cost me more than the purchase price in lost grain while harvesting the short crops we've had in this area the past two years. The 810 header has a large diameter auger so it's impossible to get the reel close enough to the cutter bar. I can understand why there are some red combines with green headers."

Roy L. Smith, Plattsmouth, Neb.: "It saved me about \$20,000," says Roy about **Pounce** chemical made by **FMC** to control cutworms in corn. "Cutworms can be a big problem in this area. We've always used granular insecticides, but they only work marginally. I tried **Pounce** in 1985

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and, while neighbors' fields had up to 90% damage by cutworms, I had none except for a few spots where I ran out of **Pounce**.

"My worst buy is the **Thunder Gun** pressure washer made by **Briar Mfg.** It was advertised as a low-cost alternative to high pressure washers. Actually it's just a means of mixing water and compressed air. Results are very disappointing. I have a policy of never buying anything over the phone or through the mail. I won't forget that again."

R. Jay Paul, Rugby, N. Dak.: He's happy with his 316 **Deere** lawn and

garden tractor with **Deere** hydraulic tiller. "It runs smooth and economical. Hydrostatic drive is the only way to go and I like the hydrostatic rototiller, which is quiet and has plenty of power. I wouldn't switch back to mechanical."

Herman Kristein, Raymore, Sask.: "FARM SHOW is number one. We really enjoy it. Another best buy is our **Deere** 4440 tractor. Very dependable and gives no trouble. It's easy starting even at -20° and starts right off in the winter. We also like our **Honda** ATC 90. We've put hundreds of miles on it and it still runs great. It'll beat any horse for checking cattle and fixing fence."

Dean Gerot, Ainsworth, Iowa: "My **Duetz** 4006 has worked 6500 hrs. and never had a wrench laid to it except for regular maintenance. Starts every day in winter and runs inexpensively."

David Dewald, Bowdle, S. Dak.: David's well-pleased with his 1984 **Suzuki** 185 4-wheeler. "Works great to move cattle from pasture to pasture."

Norman Bredthauer, Arcadia, Neb.: "Our best buy is a 1978 **Deere** 4640 with quad range transmission. Has plenty of power and is real economical on fuel. Another best buy is a 454 **Deere** row crop head. Works great on soybeans and milo with very little maintenance."

William Fischer, Fremont, Wis.: "The tools are mostly junk. They're very poor quality and are mostly imported. Some of them broke the first time I used them. I'll never buy tools from them again," says William, disappointed with a fully-equipped tool chest bought from **Fingerhut**.

As "best buy" he nominates his 4-WD **TW 5 Ford**. "Handles easy, has a very comfortable seat, good radio and good air conditioning. Worked great last year during a wet fall."

Jerry Blindert, Salem, S. Dak.: "My 1979 **Owatonna** 260 windrower is probably my worst buy. Breaks down easily and parts are not easily available.

"I'm happy with my 1983 **Ford** F-250 diesel pickup. It has lots of power and good fuel economy. Service is great and it pulls my 6 by 20-ft. stock trailer with ease."

Sandy Poppenga, Lennox, S. Dak.: "Probably the Cadillac of cultivators. It's easy adjusting and does an excellent job. The flat-fold design makes it easy to store in cramped quarters," says Sandy, pleased with his **International** 183 8-row cultivator."

Stan Ryan, Blue Mound, Ill.: "I put over 400 hrs. on this machine in the fall of 1985 with no downtime," reports Stan, happy with his 7720 **Deere** combine.

Glen W. Stenzel, Hamburg, Iowa: "We're very happy with our **Morton** insulated shop building. It's easy to heat and stays cool in the summer. We also like our **Mud Hog** 4-WD attachment for our combine."

Ed Keichinger, Streamstown, Alta.: "I'd like to nominate my **Blonde d' Aquitaine** cow, born in 1973, as my best buy. She's still producing and both her males and

females have gone on to produce breed champions. Both the male and female **Grand Champions** at the 1985 **Regina** **Agrition** go back to this cow. **Blonde d' Aquitaine** cattle are the up and coming beef breed of the future. They're easy calving, have gentle dispositions and, in government bull tests in Alberta, they had the best feed conversion rates and highest rates of gain."

Edward E. Schultz, Enid, Okla.: "I'm disappointed with most later model tillage equipment. I think the manufacturers have gone overboard on clearance. Some chisels and field conditioners have frames so deep they gouge every hump in the field. Some plows, for example, are 25 to 30 ft. long. They're hard to control."

Edward's pleased with his 855 **Versatile** and his 1983 **Ford** **TW20** **FWD** tractors. "Both have been dependable and I've experienced only minor problems. The cab on the **Ford** is still not perfect but it's a 75% improvement from what they had."

Mike Beggs, Rivercourse, Alta.: "Our **Deere** 220 tandem disk is a worst buy. The standards keep working loose, breaking and twisting. The gang shaft is too tight and bends easily. This disk should never have been produced."

Howard Iverson, Langdon, N. Dak.: "I've always used **Deere & Co.** equipment in 48 years of farming and I've only had downtime once. That was with a 1964 **Deere** 4020 tractor to which a turbo charger had been added to increase horsepower. The push rods bent so I had them decrease the horsepower and that ended the problem."

Harlan Rice, Rockwell, Iowa: "Takes the guesswork out of aeration. It automatically matches humidity and temperature to aerate at exactly the moisture content the owner desires," reports Harlan about his "best buy" **Sentry Pac** programmed aeration controller from **Sentry Technologies**.

Neil Kramme, Owensville, Mo.: "I bought a 250 **Suzuki** 4-wheeler to replace my 125 **Suzuki** 3-wheeler. The 125 was the toughest bike I've ever seen but wasn't big enough. I'd had no trouble with it after 1,800 miles. After owning the 250 for a week, I found that it wasn't geared low enough to handle our 3 by 6-ft. trailer. Luckily, it's chain-driven so I geared it as slow as it would go and it now performs satisfactorily.

"My father recently bought a 225 **Yamaha** 4-wheeler. It has a high/low transmission with five speeds in each range. You can shift from high to low range, or low to high, on the go. The low gear is so slow you can spin your wheels no matter what load you've got on."

Charles Randall, Osseo, Mich.: "A real lemon. Had 3 complete engine overhauls with associated problems before the engine was replaced. We finally traded it off," says Charles, unhappy with his 8C **Hydra-Mac** skid steer loader with **Onan** engine.