

## BUYING TIPS YOU CAN USE

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

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**Ronald White, Scotts, Mich.:** "We were told it would increase milk production, improve herd health and improve breeding. It did just the opposite! We lost production, breeding problems became terrible, and herd health in general was poor. We tried very hard for almost a year to make this machine work. When we finally decided to go back to our old way of feeding, production came right back up. We thought it might be a coincidence, so we went back to the computer feeder and production went back down. After a while longer we gave up and went back to our old way of feeding. I'd like to hear from people with similar problems," reports Ronald about his "worst buy" **De Laval** Ration Master computer grain feeder.

**Terry Simpson, Portage la Prairie, Man.:** "We use it 365 days of the year. It's great for feedlot use in muddy fields, and most of all when moving around in heavy snow. Also moves round bales with ease when stacking bales or feeding cattle," says Terry, about his "best buy" 3140 **MFW** **Deere** tractor equipped with a 260 loader.

**Keith Senska, Woonsocket, S. Dak.:** "Other winters I needed chains

"My best buy is my **Jeep** Cherokee. It goes and goes through snow, no matter how deep or difficult."

**Mike S. Waldner, Rosholt, S. Dak.:** "Our 1985 **New Holland** hydrazing 114 Haybine is our best buy. We've never before been able to put hay up so fast and so well. Works great."

**E.C. Modlin, Purdy, Mo.:** "My worst buy is my 1983 **Ford** 250 diesel 4-WD. At 35,000 miles, the starter and flywheel were replaced while the truck was still under warranty. At 52,000 miles, another starter and flywheel were needed, but the truck was out of warranty. At 55,000 miles, a front wheel fell off. A new hub and spindle were needed to fix it. While the truck was in the garage they found that the diesel pump leaked. It was taken off and took 22 days to fix. Before the truck pump was worked on I got 14.7 mpg but now I get 10.5. I've already filled out two requests to meet with **Ford** representatives but no luck yet."

**Lawrence Dool, Thorsby, Alta.:** "Everytime I used it, it cost me at least \$400. Even when it did run right it never cut properly," says Lawrence about his "worst buy" 1976 **Deere** 800 SP swather.

He likes his **Ford** 5000 tractor, though. "It's a 67-hp. tractor. I pull a 4-16 plow in hayland with no problems or slippage, even though the soil here is a very hard, clay-type soil. My uncle came with his **Deere** 3140 to show how good his tractor was but he barely made one round. He had the power, but he slipped all the way and the tractor began to heat up on him. This tractor has 5000 hrs. on it now and I've never had to spend a cent on it other than for routine maintenance."

**John Hest, Hawley, Minn.:** "I'm an adult vo-ag teacher and I've received all issues of **FARM SHOW** since its inception. I'm well-pleased with the service you provide by furnishing an unbiased place for farmers to speak out about the products they buy. Subscribing to **FARM SHOW** has to be one of the best buys I've made in 36 years of teaching."

**Rick Loganbill, Versailles, Mo.:** "I bought my **New Holland** TR 85 combine new in 1980 and have put 4,200 hrs. on it. I'm extremely impressed and satisfied. Until July of 1985, with 3800 hrs. on it, it had never been down for more than 24 hrs."

**Thomas E. Ray, West Baden, Ind.:** "My worst buy is a **Homelite** Super EZ 16-in. chain saw. Performance isn't the best, and the engine vapor locks when it runs long enough to get heated up. Dealer response was negative and the manufacturer gave no help at all after a written complaint.

"My best buy is a 14-in. **Jonsered** 14-in. chainsaw I purchased to use when the **Homelite** wouldn't start. This saw's performance is outstanding. Not only does it start easy and handle superbly but the saw is of such good quality it requires less attention. I sawed 25 ricks of wood with it this past fall and am very happy with it."

Thomas also likes his 2418 **Power**

for traction on my 4040 **Deere** with front-end loader. This year, with packed snow and ice, I've had no problems at all," reports Keith about his "best buy" **Goodyear** Dyna-Torque radial tires.

**Norman Gagnon, St. Alphonse, Man.:** "Right from day one there was a problem in the rear end. The transmission went out 4 times in 1100 hrs. That was enough to get it traded," says Norman, upset with his **Versatile** 555 tractor with 4-WD.

He traded it off for what he says is "the Cadillac of tractors, a **Deere** 8450 with 4-WD. It has over 1,800 hrs. and has never given a minute's trouble."

**Leonard Dicke, Sheridan, Ill.:** "My worst buy is a **Deere** round baler. It was trouble, trouble and more trouble. It's supposed to have an auto twine wrap but the twine arm cycled part of the way sometimes and other times it didn't cycle at all. The bale track monitor is often not right. The dealer had never sold one of these balers before and did not know how to make it work right so I called **Deere** headquarters in Illinois but got no help.

# Farmers Nominate Best, Worst Buys

OPINION