

Best And Worst Buys

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transceiver. "I purchased 2 radios and installed both in places where I'd been using radios for 18 months using the same antennas and power supply, but neither of the new radios worked. After getting them checked out, the dealer found nothing wrong and they still wouldn't work. They finally work now but they're not nearly as clear as my other radios."

Eugene Cysewski, Courtenay, N. Dak.: "Our Deere 8650 tractor performs, rides and handles well. Fuel consumption is comparable to our previous Case tractor under similar load conditions."

"Another best buy is our **Load King** grain and fertilizer drill-fill hopper tank. Works good, is easy to clean out and eliminates the need to hoist the truck box in soft fields, which can be dangerous."

Lester Warburton, Chinook, Mont.: "In 40 years of farming, I've never had anything like it. I can't call it a lemon, it's more a pile of junk. I purchased a model 57 **Rock-O-Matic** rock picker in December, 1981. This year is the first year that I used it a full day without a repair. Something is always broken, fallen off or worn out. It hasn't been abused and never had to pick up rocks any larger than a basketball."

Jim Ifft, Fairbury, Ill.: Jim's not happy with his **Ritchie** stainless steel nipple waterers. "They work okay until they need maintenance. They're almost impossible to work on. Hoses break, heaters and thermostats corrode, and insulation falls off. The stainless steel case will probably last forever, but all the inside parts are worn out after 3 years."

"I have 2 best buys. My 1984 **Mercury** Lynx diesel car gets exceptional mileage and is trouble-free, even in cold weather. Also, **Trimpe** reworked cylinder bars (Rt. 7, Box 145 Seymour, Ind. 47274) are best buy. They turn your combine into a new and improved machine. We get exceptional grain quality and improved capacity."

Dennis Rottinghaus, LaPorte City, Iowa: "Everything works perfect on this sprayer and the monitor is accurate to 1/10th of an acre per 100 acres sprayed," says Dennis, pleased with his "best buy" 1983 **Walsh** trailer-type sprayer with Tri II monitor and 50-ft. boom.

"Our best buy of all time was a 1963 model 806 **International** tractor that we bought new. In over 18,000 hrs. it has required very little maintenance."

Dudley Johnson, Kanawha, Iowa: "I purchased on **American Automated** automatic batch grain dryer in 1975. It's been one of the most trouble-free pieces of equipment I've ever owned. It just runs and runs. I was custom-drying for a neighbor this fall on a farm that had no drying bin. He said if he was younger, he'd buy a dryer of his own like mine and

eliminate his drying bins with their sweaty sidewalls, spoiled grain and troublesome stirrators."

Dudley also likes his **Herschel** Tiger Jaws sickle mounted on his 218 Deere beanhead. "It increased ground speed and performed as promised."

Charles E. Beutler, Drake, N. Dak.: "This building is a poor excuse for a wind break, let alone a farm shop. The roof leaks and the sliding doors take 2 men and a boy to open on a good day. My dad put the building up 10 years ago and dealer service amounted to getting paid and 'see you'. We called several times with no response, even when under warranty," reports Charles about his **Butler** Farmstead building.

Albin Murawski, Port Austin, Mich.: Albin lists his **Steiger** 325 Panther tractor, his **Great Plains** 30-ft. drill, and a **Kinze** 600 grain cart as "best buys". "The tractor has good power and a quiet cab. The grain drill is easy to fold and covers many acres per day and Kinze's grain cart is a real time saver."

Marion Salley, North, S.C.: "My 1983 **Poulan** model 306 A chain saw has plenty of power, is easy to start, well-balanced, and is safe to operate."

Wilfred Rouse, Mildred, Saska.: "My best buys are a **New Holland** 1981 TR 85 combine and two **Versatile** 4-WD 700 and 825 series tractors. I've used **New Holland** combines since 1975 and have had excellent performance as well as good dealer service. The same applies to my **Versatile** tractors. I've had **Versatile** since 1969 and upkeep has been practically nil. Both companies get a number one rating from me."

Ed Hawley, Stockton, Ill.: He nominates his **Sukup** grain cleaner with inner rotating screen as "worst buy". "It takes out fines and large cobs but practically no stalks. Lots of little bits of cobs come right out with the corn. For the price, it should do a lot better job. Four bearings went out the first season which the dealer did furnish."

He's pleased with his **Deere** 2950 tractor. "Starts quick on cold mornings. Everyone enjoys driving it. The synchromesh transmission is great for shifting. Very handy to put front wheels in gear on the go by flipping a switch on the dash."

Robert Gotzman, Ellsworth, Wis.: "It's my best buy ever. It starts easy, runs well, does an excellent job of sawing. So far, it has no bad features," says Robert, happy with his **Echo** 660 EVL chain saw.

He's not so happy with his 1985 **Ford** Escort. "After more than 10,000 miles, it doesn't run properly and doesn't get good gas mileage. My 1982 Escort performed well and got good gas mileage so naturally I'm disappointed."

Garth Doan, Balmoral, Man.: He nominates his **Keho** 15000 aeration

fan as best buy. "As a 2-hp. high flow centrifugal fan, the air flow is terrific. Hooked to a **Keho** cross duct system, a 4,000-bushel bin of hard red spring wheat stored at 17 to 18% moisture will easily be cooled over winter and dried by spring."

Larry Ackles, Burwell, Neb.: He likes his 1982 **Dodge** 4-WD Club Cab 1-ton pickup with 360 motor and 4-speed transmission. "I've put on 70,000 miles in 4 yrs. It's been very reliable. I pull a big trailer with it."

As "worst buy" he cites his **Montgomery Ward** 10-amp right angle grinder. "It isn't strong enough. Gears and armature tore up several times."

Robert P. Milligan Jr., Round Hill, Virg.: "When the machine was delivered the solid rubber tires were split wide open. It was also assembled poorly. First one tire and wheel fell off, then the whole axle assembly came off. When the machine dropped down and dug into the ground, the pto shaft bent. At this point, it had not been in use more than 15 hrs. The company said they'd take it back and go over it completely. When it was returned, they'd replaced the bent arm and pto shaft but all the teeth and retaining pins were installed wrong," says Robert, unhappy with his "worst buy" **Lely Gemini** Hay Saver pto-driven rake tedder.

He traded the tedder in on his "best buy" **New Holland** 258 hay rake. "Just one nut worked loose the entire season."

Dale Hull, Ames, Iowa: "Our best buy is a series of five publications from **Deere & Company** covering a **Deere** 3300 combine which we purchased used and found was in need of maintenance. Anyone who owns **Deere** equipment, should write to: **John Deere Publications Service Center**, 1400 Second Ave., Moline, Ill. 61265, and request a copy of "Service Publications Catalog For Customers" CPC 1703 Agricultural Equipment Publications.

"The publication has 3 sections, the first covering machines and trac-

"Anyone who owns Deere equipment should write for these publications."

tors built after 1970, the second covering machines and tractors built before 1970, and the third section listing the publications available covering the fundamentals of service and machine operation.

"We ordered a full set of manuals for our 1975 **Deere** 3300 combine which cost us about \$50. We've found we can more than save this amount in time saved when installing new parts or in making adjustments."

Mrs. Leland Eng, St. James, Minn.: "The worst new product I've been saddled with is an **Olivetti** Praxix 35 typewriter purchased for \$740.41 from a local dealer. A month later, the same typewriter was advertised in a

Montgomery Ward catalog for \$319. The print wheels don't print accurately. I've returned the typewriter twice to a plant in Dallas. Each time it has been in worse condition when it was returned than when I sent it in for repair. I will not be satisfied until my purchase price of \$740.41 is returned."

Maurice Hinman, Carter, S. Dak.: His "best buy" is a 7 by 16-ft. **Kiefer** Stockmaster stock trailer. "It's a high quality product and about 750 to 1,000 lbs. heavier than other similar-sized trailers. It does cost more but you get a lot better trailer. It's equipped with larger tires and axles."

He nominates his **Gould** 1/2-hp electric outdoor motor as "worst buy." "It'd only run a 4-in. by 16-ft. auger for about 5 min. and then would get hot and quit. I took it back and got another identical motor. It did exactly the same thing, so I took it back and got a refund. Then I bought a **Dayton** 1/2-hp Farm Duty motor. It's worked real well on the same auger."

David A. Ford, Park River, N. Dak.: "I've put 45,000 miles on this pickup since Oct., 1983. I average 26 mpg and have had less repair expense with it than any pickup I've owned," says David, happy with his 1983 **Ford** Ranger pickup with a 4-cyl. engine.

Hugh Stueck, Abernethy, Saska.: "On June 27, 1985 we bought a 1482 combine from our **Case/ IH** dealer. Purchase was made before July 1st to qualify for a cash rebate. We were told the refund would take 4 weeks to process. On August 21st, we received a letter saying the rebate would arrive in two to three weeks. On Nov. 15 we were still waiting. On another occasion, I was told the company couldn't supply a part because they were taking stock in that department."

Al Dettling, Fairview, Alb.: He likes his 3-unit **Deere** 9350 hoe press drill. "I use it to band fertilizer. It holds about 5,000 lbs. and with its fast and slow speed settings, I can put on any amount I like. I can also use it to deep band fertilizer, or use it as a packer. Have used it to apply about 200 acres of fertilizer with not a minute of trouble."

Dennis Hjelle, Newfolden, Minn.: "I like my used **International** Vibra Chisel. It does an excellent job on conservation tillage."

He's not as happy with **Northrup King** SO512 soybean seed. "The company said the beans would out-yield public seed and have the same maturity. They were 2 weeks later and froze. Didn't even pay to combine them. They were all green and wet."

Lloyd Atchison, Pipestone, Man.: He likes his **International** hydrostatic drive tractor. "It's the most practical tractor transmission for use in our ranching/custom-combining operation. For loader and pto work, there's no clutch or gear grinding problems. It's a lot smoother and more reliable than a power shift transmission."

Lloyd's had bad luck with his **Delco** Freedom II battery. "These batteries are supplied new in G.M. vehicles. During winter cold snaps they won't accept a charge, after starting our 6.2 diesel two or three times, it was dead."