

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

Calvin Schuk, Tatla Lake, B.C.: "They say this tractor is easy on fuel and I agree. It's in the shop so often it doesn't need much fuel," says Calvin, disappointed with his "worst buy" 1979 **Belarus 820**. "The failure list includes the starter, hydraulic pump, manifold heater, wiring, flywheel clutch, and the front brakes. The oil, fuel and coolant systems leak. Controls are poorly located."

On the plus side, "My best buy ever is my 1962 **Massey Ferguson 35** tractor with a Perkins diesel engine. In 23 years this tractor has scraped pens, planted, harvested, fed livestock, and so on. All we've ever done is replace the tires, seat cushions, filters, a starter switch, and a head gasket. It's never let us down in over 15,000 hrs. of use."

Glenn Brandjord, Souris, N. Dak.: "Our 1979 **Case 2390** tractor is a best buy. We've never had any downtime. The power shift transmission is very smooth, the tractor has lots of power, and the cab is extremely quiet and clean. One drawback is that the ride is a little rough."

"Another best buy is our 1975 **800 Versatile** tractor. With over 4,500 hrs. of use, we have had virtually no downtime. It pulls as much now as

they take off with no setback at all.

"Unfortunately, my worst buy relates to this barn and ventilation system. The problem is that company service and after sale followup is pathetic and virtually non-existent. Several times I have ordered minor components still under warranty with delivery promised in a few days. Months later, I'm still waiting."

David Voges, Terre Haute, Ind.: "The dealer made a good attempt to get the baler running correctly but it would seldom bale 60 to 70% good bales in alfalfa. A real lemon, even with new parts installed," says David, disappointed with his **430 International** baler.

He also had bad luck with his **360 Homelite** chain saw. "Cuts good when running but costs \$30 to \$40 per year for maintenance beyond normal replacement of the chain and bar."

David's pleased with his **Deutz 100-06** tractor and 4 pieces of **New Holland** hay equipment. "The tractor's economical to operate and trouble-free. Good dealer service. We've also had good service from our **New Holland 851** round baler, **320 sq. baler, 1032** bale wagon, and **890 2-row** forage chopper. Any new equipment we buy will be **Deutz** or **New Holland**."

Stephen Harlow, Gainesville, Tex.: He lists his **New Holland 855** round baler and model **80** round bale mover as "best buys". "The **855** makes real good bales. When the bale indicator shows nearly full, I weave back and forth across the windrow and always get a real good level top bale. The auto tie and chain oiler work great, too. I like the way the **80** bale mover easily gets under bales."

Robert Kapper, Illiopolis, Ill.: "My worst buy is a **Goodyear** tire. It had developed a knot in the sidewall so I returned it to the dealer. He told me that a nail hole that had been plugged in the middle of the tread exactly 180° opposite caused the sidewall to bubble. Although the tread was still good, I received no adjustment."

On the plus side, Robert's happy with **Red Waddle** hogs. "They're good lean hogs that do well both in confinement and outside. They make excellent mothers and seem to have a heartiness not found in most confinement hogs. Waddle boars are extra aggressive when it comes to breeding."

Richard Rubel, Dallas, S. Dak.: "This small 4-WD tractor can handle as much as a 2-WD with 40 more horsepower," says Richard, pleased with his **1983 Deere 2950**. "It's very economical to operate and has a short turning radius."

Dale Boyd, Mercer, Penn.: "Our **Green Machine** model **4500** bought in 1980 for cleaning up around the farm has been a best buy. I use it to clear brush, cut trees up to 4 in. in dia., and trim weeds around buildings and fence rows. Has never been in the shop."

Brian McCormick, Macomb, Ill.: Brian nominates his **Deere 4450** tractor with MFWD as "best buy". "The 15-speed power shift transmission is quite an improvement over

it did when it was new. The **855 cu. in. Cummins** engine is second to none."

Sam Wilson, Sentinel Butte, N. Dak.: "Our worst buy is a **214 Deere** garden tractor. The motor vibrated so badly the coil kept breaking off and burning out. We bought it new but it was broken down most of the time. We traded it off for a **750 Deere** tractor made in Japan and equipped with a tiller, backhoe, and a bucket. It's cheap, requires little maintenance, and the 3-cyl. diesel engine runs well. No problems."

Russell E. Adams, Carthage, Mo.: Says Russell of his **Kuhn 300** disc mower/conditioner: "This machine is far superior to conventional mowers. When finishing up a field or cutting out corners, you can drive at full speed and not plug up. It mows right through your windrows. In transport position, it can be used to clip pastures at about 10 in. high."

Pete Kolkman, Mitchell, Ont.: "The **Faromar** natural ventilation system we installed in our hog finishing barn, built in 1984, makes this building a pleasure to work in even on really hot, humid days. Pigs stay exceptionally clean. I put pigs into this building at 35 to 40 lbs. and