

Best And Worst Buys

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and puts other manufacturers' cabs, including Deere's, to shame. The tractor easily pulls even the most difficult loads and I have only to stop to refuel every 11 hrs., which means it uses about 6½ gal. per hour. Starts easy on cold days, too.

"My 10-year-old **Allis Chalmers** field cultivator has proven to be a good buy. The only maintenance it has ever needed is new shovel tips. I put 3,500 to 4,000 acres on it each year.

"My worst buy is a 1480 **International** 1982 model combine. The combine is good and the dealer provides good service but the factory didn't have the parts we needed when it broke down during harvest. It sat idle for a full week before the dealer could get me going again."

Joseph Marak, Swisher, Iowa: "Our two 5088 **International** tractors are very good buys. Gear selection is excellent and shifting easy. We think the engines are the best in the industry. They combine good fuel economy with high torque.

"Another best buy is our **International** 1460 Axial Flow combine. It has large capacity in heavy crops and gives a clean sample of grain without cracking kernels."

Wade Michaelis, Ness City, Kan.: Wade nominates his 1979 **Buffalo** 6-row planter with slot shoe openers as "best buy". "It places seed accurately and firmly in contact with the soil. Cover discs behind the press wheels cover seed with loose soil. Have never had to replant since using this planter. Coulters on gauge wheels slice through nearly anything, although heavy matted damp wheat straw does cause some choking problems.

"Probably my best 'buy' ever is the **Kansas Cooperative Extension Service**. The wealth of research data, information and resources available through the Extension Service has done more to make my farm efficient than any machinery I could ever buy.

"Another good buy is my 1977 **Case** 1070 tractor which I bought after carefully studying a tractor test data sheet published by the Extension Service. The tractor is reliable, requires little maintenance and is economical to operate. The cab is quiet and comfortable on even the hottest days. I've had to replace the air conditioner compressor once and install a heavy-duty compressor clutch and belt idler pulley. I expect many more years of service from this tractor."

Ray Beasley, Tifton, Ga.: Ray pulls a 1985 6-ft. **Noble** mulcher behind his Massey Ferguson 4-bottom rollover plow. "We had been having trouble with clods on our peanut land that made planting and chemical incorporation difficult. Thanks to this Noble mulcher we had no clods last year big enough to cause a problem."

Mike Virgintino, New York, N.Y.:

Mike's pleased with his 1984 **Toyota** "double clean" kerosene heater from **Toyotomi America Inc.**, P.O. Box 176, Brookfield, Conn. 06804. "It significantly reduces carbon monoxide and nitrogen dioxide emissions by burning fuel in a dual chamber system. It can be used safely in the house and work areas."

Herbert Halstead, Monroe, Ore.: "Our 1985 **Chevrolet** Sprint car with a 3-cyl. engine built by Suzuki gets 52 mph and has good acceleration. It has 12,000 trouble-free miles on it. My son liked it so well he bought one, too."

Iren Peterson, Hanley Falls, Minn.: "My 1978 **Chevrolet** C-10 pickup is very dependable and has required no repairs. Could get better mileage, however, and needs better front fenders. I also have a 720 **International** 5-bottom plow that is the best I've ever owned."

Iren dislikes his **Homelite** Super 2 chain saw. "It's hard to start and runs rough."

Dr. L.E. Haryett, Thamesford, Ontario: He names his 1984 **Honda** 3-wheel ATV as "best buy". "It's as

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good as an extra man. Always starts and saves many walks to check livestock and fences. Quiet around animals so they don't spook. No trouble at all."

Herman Simrose, Parkbeg, Sask.: "My worst buy is a floating cutterbar with a pickup reel mounted on my **White** 8700 Harvest Boss combine that I bought several years ago. The pickup reel had steel fingers and, because the cutting bar floated, it got up into the steel teeth and was wrecked. If the pickup reel fingers had been plastic no damage would have occurred. Otherwise, I like the combine."

Chris Williams, Comox, B.C.: "My worst buy is a 1981 **Dodge** Ram 250 pickup. Within days of purchase the 6-cyl. engine acted up so that it barely had enough power to pull itself along level ground. This condition changed from day to day depending on air temperature and humidity. Other problems were weak motor mounts and a hard-shifting 4-speed transmission. The dealer and company could not fix the truck so I sold it with only 15,000 miles on it. When I traded it I found that Dodge trucks were discounted by at least \$1,000 even by Chrysler dealers."

Brian N. Lowe, Hoosier, Sask.: Brian nominates his 1600 series **Deere** 31-ft. cultivator made in 1972 as "best buy". "It's very sturdy and does a great job. It transports easily, doesn't pull heavily and has simple

working components. Even after the shovels wear down, I still get a good kill on weeds.

"My worst buy is a 1975 2670 **Case** 4-WD tractor. After only 300 hrs. the engine started taking on water and antifreeze as a result of cavitation of the cylinder liners. After rebuilding the engine, I had put no additional hours on it before I found out that it had a cracked head which the dealer should have checked when he had the engine torn down."

Don Nichols, Sykeston, N.Dak.: "We like our **Westgo** grain auger but it's almost impossible to get parts for it," says Don.

John M. Andries, Mediapolis, Iowa: "Our 1982 10-in. by 62-ft. **Mayrath** auger handles grain as fast as you can feed it. We're generally satisfied with the performance although it could use a lower intake for dumping wagons or they could add a receiving hopper."

Dale Kimball, Spirit Lake, Iowa: "I have subscribed to **FARM SHOW** since its beginning and I read it from start to finish as soon as it arrives. Really enjoy it.

"I've owned my **Dixon** ZTR lawnmower since 1977 and it's a real time saver. I bought it because of the many trees and obstacles we have to mow around. It cuts mowing time in half at least.

"Another best buy product was a kit to convert my combine pickup reel from steel tines to plastic. I put the tines on last year and it pretty well stopped beans from wrapping and carrying over the reel. Saves lots of beans."

Carl Schroer, New Florence, Mo.: "I would like to see someone develop a disk scraper that could be used to apply NH₃. The **Harlan** disk kit with fingers is too long and drawn out, plugs up in trashy conditions, and is in the way when you only want to disk. The ideal scraper should have a tube that puts NH₃ down by the blade so it immediately gets covered with dirt thrown by the blades.

"My best buys are a 125 **Honda** 4-wheeler and a 1508 **Deere** rotary cutter. I'm well-pleased with both."

Edward M. Boland, St. Paul, Minn.: "I run a lawn service and the new 1985 **Deere** 21-in. commercial walk-behind mower is tops. Has a large capacity gas tank, a 2-cycle no-maintenance engine, and heavy-duty wheels with grease fittings. Everything about it except for the bagger system, which has some problems, is heavy-duty and durable. We have several and our crew loves them."

Gary Maples, Billings, Mo.: "My **White** 2-62 tractor handles real easy and has plenty of power. Very fuel efficient.

"I've had trouble with a **Poulan** weed eater. It takes forever to get it started and you have to adjust the choke constantly to get it to run with any power. For the price it's my worst buy."

Hugh C. Vermilya, Dover, Minn.: "I traded in an **Oliver** 1850 tractor and paid \$15,400 to boot but this 1980 **Deere** 2940 tractor, which had 800 hrs. on it when I bought it last year, was worth it. It has front-wheel assist and has enough power to easily

pull 5 18-in. plow bottoms through sod with no problem, although the dealer cautioned against using that big a plow."

Stephen Smith, Canton, Okla.: "My 1984 **Hesston** 1380 DT tractor is the most fuel efficient tractor I have ever operated without being short of power. It has 123 hp. and pulls a 6 by 18 bottom plow through heavy ground. It also has the best lighting system I have ever seen, and the best price, too."

On the minus side, Stephen's disappointed with his 1985 **GMC** 1-

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ton with a 454 cu. in. engine and automatic transmission. "This truck gets the worst mileage I have ever experienced. I knew it would be bad but I didn't think it would be so terribly low. Also, you can't run the air conditioner without over-heating the engine."

Dale Lesey, Oakley, Kan.: "I bought a new ¾-ton **Ford** van in 1983, the first year of the 6.9 litre diesel engine. So far, I have driven it 57,000 miles with no trouble at all. The diesel engine is the best engine that I have ever operated and I have been driving vans since 1966. It also helps that our local dealer is the best **Ford** dealer in the U.S. Their shop mechanics are the best."

Bill Goertz, Dodson, Mont.: "Our **Gustufson** 5000 grain cleaner has done everything the company said it would do. The thing we like best is that it cleans out wild oats."

On the negative side, Bill's had trouble with his "worst buy" **Anderson** rock picker. "It's positioned wrong, directly behind the tractor, so you have to straddle rocks. Also, it's hard to judge where and when to pick up rocks because you can't see them."

Rodney E. Landers, Kenmare, N. Dak.: His 1985 **Deere** 9850 hoe drill with 7-in. spacing is his "worst buy". "The crop came up very uneven. It skipped two rows across the whole field and one row came up three days before the rest. Spacings varied from 6 to 10 in. The poorest seeding job we've had since 1948, and we've always planted with Deere equipment."

Also on the "worst buy" side is **Rapid Roof** from **Conklin** products. "Wood is rotting under the **Rapid Roof**. Another **Conklin** product, **Diesel Plus**, worked fine for four days and then the filter gummed up with gummy fuel. The temperature was above 20°."

Rodney is pleased, on the other hand, with his 1983 **Deere** 7720 combine. "It was designed and built with the operator in mind. Good capacity, it's very dependable, and I like the spring-tightened belts, grease banks, and monitors located