

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

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# Farmers Nominate Best, Worst Buys

## OPINION

**Bill Green, Wapakoneta, Ohio:** "My worst buy ever is an **A.O. Smith** water heater in my milkhouse. It's a piece of junk," says Bill.

"My best farm implement ever is my **New Holland** 489 windrower. It's a masterpiece of perfection.

"Also, my **Silver King** tractor built in 1946 in Plymouth, Ohio, has to be one of the best small tractors ever made. I've used it practically every day since I bought it new with very few problems."

**Charles B. McKinley, Pawhuska, Okla.:** "It's probably five years old, but it seems like a lifetime! Never has run right. Won't rev-up to full speed unless you leave the choke part way closed or adjust the mixture screws," says Charles disappointed with his worst buy **Sears** Weed and Brush Cutter.

"Another worst buy were the **Firestone** 16.9 by 30 tires that came on a new 1983 **Deere** 2550 tractor. The lugs were so soft you could easily move them ¼ to ½-in. with just your fingers. We had three flats on them in the first summer's mowing — mowing the same fields that my old Goodyear tires went over seven years before having even one flat. We'll never buy another Firestone tire."

air compressor which powers air tools. Can use it in out of the way places, or where box welders aren't adapted."

**Robert & Gary Yakesh, Bloomer, Wis.:** "Our **New Holland** 273 baler with a belt kicker bought in 1972 is by far our best buy ever. We put up 20,000 bales each year and, in all the time we've owned it, it hasn't mistied more than 1 or 2 bales a year. It has high capacity, is dependable, and requires very low maintenance. We've only put about \$200 into it since we bought it. Most of the chains are still original."

**Brian Byerly, Decatur, Ind.:** Brian likes his **Deere** Titan II 8820 Combine. "It's very sound and smooth. The cab is quiet and comfortable. All adjustments are arranged so they're easy to reach. A real pleasure to operate and maintain."

On the minus side, he's had trouble with his 13-shank spring reset **Deere** 1610 chisel plow. "The machine can't be pulled at over 3½ mph without bouncing. It bounced so hard nearly every spring on it broke. It's the worst machine I ever bought."

**Paul Van Noord, Brodbeck, Penn.:** Paul's happy with both his 1984 **Nissan** King Cab pickup and his 1984 **Yanmar** 3360 4-WD tractor with power shift transmission. "The pickup has 28,000 trouble-free miles and is good both off the road and pulling a trailer. Gets 25 to 30 mpg and has been the most easy-to-maintain vehicle I've ever owned. The tractor provides outstanding performance in all conditions, outworking the **Deere** 1010 it replaced by 25 to 30% with 9 less horsepower and 1,200 lbs. less weight. Much less compaction on wet ground and uses only ¼ gal. of fuel per hour at full throttle."

**Jack Harper, Savannah, N.Y.:** "This 1984 **Stihl** chain saw doesn't really have the power I was looking for. The worst thing about it is that the bar fills up with debris and plugs the oiler. You have to take off the chain and clean the bar every ½ hour of use. This saw was meant to trim around home, not work in the woods."

Jack's happy with his 1984 wing-fold **Krause** 4900 25-ft. disk with 22-in. blades. "It's the best minimum till tool that we've ever owned. It leaves a smooth surface in almost all conditions in just one passover. Leaves no ridges on corners and pulls easy."

**Richard Voss, New Boston, Mich.:** His Fish carburetor from **Brown Carburetor Co.** ranks as "best buy". "My Ford pickup with automatic transmission and a 460 cu. in. engine went from 7½ mpg to 14½ mpg with an increase in overall performance."

**Doug Husted, Gladwin, Mich.:** "For a company as old as Belsaw, they sure made a lot of engineering blunders on this saw," says Doug, disappointed with his M14 **Belsaw** sawmill. "The divider board is wider than the blade, the gears on the head blocks jump cogs, and the blade is 3 in. from the carriage."

**Henry Brochman, Stillwater, Minn.:** "It's highly flexible, easy to operate and attaches easily to any

On the "best buy" side, Charles lists his 1984 one-ton **GMC** truck with a 454 cu. in. engine and his **Lincoln** 150 portable welder. "It's a good all-around truck but I wish they could do something with the back brakes. It's just past a year old and I'm on the third set of brake pads. The welder has done everything from welding and thawing frozen pipes to running electric branding irons. After eight years, I finally had to put a new battery in it."

**Chris M. Lee, Arlington, S. Dak.:** "This combine worked perfectly from the first day of operation throughout the whole first season. **New Holland** has a quality product here," reports Chris, pleased with his TR75 combine.

**James Willis, Franklin Furnace, Ohio:** "My **Morton** 54 by 90-ft. building was erected quickly but very expertly and is well-constructed with excellent materials. It has a very good warranty and the company is very reliable."

**Raymond H. Kirk, Oreana, Idaho:** "My best buy is a **Lincoln** portable welder. It's very useful for powering electrical tools, as well as running my