

Best And Worst Buys

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and Iowa will realize that their constituents will be the ultimate losers."

Dean Lowey Sr., Forest Hill, W. Va.: "The camshaft went bad at 12,000 miles and the carburetor at 5,000 miles. It's a shame for General Motors to treat people like this," says Dean, disappointed with his 1980 Chevrolet pickup.

Mitchell Hovell, Seymour, Wis.: "My H & S model 260 manure spreader gives reliable service 365 days a year with only regular maintenance. It's simple and ruggedly made at a reasonable price."

Harold Doerr, Bloomfield, Neb.: "At the present time, I can't decide if my Deere 2950 tractor with MFWD was a good or bad buy. I really like the way the tractor operates, but it has been in the repair shop three times with an oil leak since I purchased it last November. I think it's stopped leaking after the last time it was worked on, but now the shifting is giving us problems. Each time it was worked on the loader had to be taken off, along with the brackets. The local dealer has really been giving us good service but, when you purchase a new tractor, you expect it to stay on the job for a longer period of time without these problems."

Elmer Gossman, Janesville, Minn.: He nominates his Gardener rototiller as "best buy". "This tiller has two sets of tines rotating in opposite directions. Tills either 21, 31, or 10 in. widths. It's controlled by simply raising the handle to advance and lowering it to reverse. Very easy to control. Tills and maneuvers easily in cramped quarters."

Lance A. Sidone, Boswell, Penn.: "Those 28, 30 and 34-in. tires just don't cut it, especially on hard pulls and hilly ground. Stability and traction very poor," reports Lance, disappointed with his 300 International utility tractor.

As "best buy", he nominates his Case 1030 tractor. "We bought it used. Has unbelievable pulling power and torque."

Rick Caswell, Narvon, Penn.: A 682 Hydro Cub Cadet lawn and garden tractor is his "best buy". "In the past 12 months, this machine has operated 200 plus hours with no problems. The 17 hp twin Kohler is an excellent power match for mowing and snow plowing."

S.W. Osborne, Grandview, Tex.: "My 1984 Ford F150 pickup is a best buy. No returns to the dealership for any repairs and no factory-related failures of any kind."

He nominates his Norelco microwave oven as "worst buy". "The unit failed in one week. Even though the warranty said 'free in-home repair or replacement' for 12 months, we couldn't find any repair service which would come to our rural home."

Carl Badger, West Salem, Ohio: "I haven't bought much but I sure like FARM SHOW magazine. There are

always interesting articles concerning conservation ideas."

Joseph Holecheck, Federalsburg, Md.: "I hate to see the International tractor line stopped by Case-IH. I've never had an IH tractor give me trouble. I just bought a 3288 tractor and have a 5288 which I really like. I'm also real pleased with my IH Cyclo air planter."

Kerry Camp, Knox City, Mo.: "As near as we can figure, we work on it 2½ hours for every 1 hour it runs," says Kerry, disappointed with his New Holland TR 70 combine purchased in 1981. "Needs new feederhouse chain every season and a new pan every two years. Had to take the rotors out twice in one season. Pieces shook loose on the rotor so we

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had to weld them in place. New Holland shouldn't have let this 'Prototype' out on the market—too many moving parts and too much maintenance."

Glen Engle, Cochranville, Penn.: Glen lists his International 8-row Early Riser planter as "best buy". "It does a good job of planting in conventional or no-till without coulters. It's also very accurate for planting soybeans."

Larry W. Nabholz, Jesup, Iowa: Larry's pleased with his Ag-Chem pull-type crop sprayer. "It's built simple but has an extra heavy-duty frame. I like being able to see the amount of spray left in the tank from the outside."

Stanley Getlinger, Hortonville, Wis.: He has mixed feelings about his Knight Mini Augie feed blender. "We have far from attained the milk production speculated upon prior to the sale but are slowly gaining now. Also, because of an improperly ground sprocket, the shaft on two different augers bent. These were replaced by the company at no cost. Service from Knight has been outstanding. There was also a problem with the main gear case. They replaced it also."

"Our Servo Vacuum controller from DeLaval is a best buy. We recently installed it to replace two Surge oil cushion controllers. The DeLaval controller is very stable and doesn't allow the vacuum to increase beyond the set level as the Surge did."

Charles Whitaker, Chilton, Tex.: Charles lists Banvel "Cut Surface Treatment" Brush Control as "worst buy". "I used it exactly as the dealer recommended—that is, to cut brush

and spray cut surface. However, I got practically no kill on mesquite or mulberry."

"My best buy is Tuf-Mac 12½ ga. barbed wire. I bought it for \$3 less than other domestic top-of-the-line barbed wire and it performs as well as any I've ever used. Stretches tight and stays tight. Not one break while stretching and working with it."

Ronald Jorgensen, Ward, S. Dak.: "It's just a super machine—the most dependable tractor I've ever owned. I use it year around and have the third set of tires on it now," says Ronald, happy with his 1964 731 Case diesel.

Clyde Austin, Brownsville, Ill.: He's pleased with his Hardy outside woodburning furnace that circulates hot water. "We were able to tie this heater into our existing heating and water heater system. Now, we have all the hot water we can use and keep our house warm without the smoke and ash problem in the house. The company was very cooperative in assisting our set-up and made followup calls to check on its performance."

Terry Elkins, Cairo, Ga.: "Gaucho barbed wire is a new wire that's 15½ ga. It's easy to handle because of its light weight and, when it's unrolled, it lays flat and won't tangle. It has a lot of strength. Another plus is cost. It sells for several dollars less per roll than standard 12 ga. wire."

Kenneth R. Starr, Etna, Cal.: "It was used and out of adjustment when I bought it. After I got it adjusted, it did a really good job baling and worked good with the bale squeeze on my tractor," reports Kenneth about his "best buy" Deere model 346 baler.

Edwin C. Young, Orangeville, Penn.: "It's my second Stihl. I purchased my first one in 1978 after owning many other saws," reports Edwin, pleased with his Stihl Farmboss chainsaw.

Arlo A. Dewald, Tripp, S. Dak.: "This tractor has been nothing but trouble. I've had trouble with just about everything except the engine. I put in two clutches, ring gear, and pinion. I've had many other problems in almost 2,000 hours. The dealer and company have been fair about paying for part of these things, but you don't know what to expect next," says Arlo who nominates his 2290 Case as "worst buy".

He's had good luck, however, with his Deere 4040. "This tractor performs real well. It's only been in the shop once and that was to put a small seal in the pto."

Charles A. Sargent, West Danville, Vermont: "My 1985 Ford F-250, 4-WD diesel pickup has good power, gets 20 mpg, and rides and handles excellently."

Fred B. Cooper, Blossom, Tex.: "I bought a Stihl chainsaw about a year ago. There's no way to beat one. It gets by on half the gas as my Homelite. My Homelite wouldn't start without priming. You can't beat a Stihl. It's always ready to go."

Art Crandon, Gilman, Iowa: "In the past five years I've owned my 1980 Dodge Omni, I've had nothing but trouble. With less than 5,000 miles, the carburetor had to be re-

built. The struts went out at 20,000 miles. Last winter all four door handles broke and now, at 55,000 miles, the transaxle is completely shot. For what I save in gas mileage, I more than pay for in repairs."

Bob Burns, Allison, Iowa: He likes his Raven 400 spray monitor. "It shows a digital read-out of gal./acre and speed as you go through the field so you know at all times if your sprayer is working right."

Bill Tucker, New London, Iowa: "This cultivator will virtually do everything except plant the crop. We've used it in almost every type of residue

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including sod and haven't plugged it. Will work in conventional farming as well as no-till," says Bill who's happy with his Buffalo 30-in. All-Flex cultivator with open top dirt shields.

Christoph Meier, Ghent, N.Y.: "Bodmin milkers with IBA silicon inflations are my best recent buy. They milk gently with minimum mastitis problems."

He also lists his Acorn solid manure pump storage system, Belarus 520 tractor and Gallagher electric fence as "best buys". "The storage system is the best for minimum losses. The tractor is reliable, simple and the best dollar value. The fencer has excellent power for 30 miles of pastures."

T.J. Giannoni, Wedron, Ill.: "My 4-WD Allis Chalmers 6140 does the work of a larger tractor when needed but the price is way out of line."

Bert Knott, St. Pauls, Ont.: "The dealer had it half the time. Troubles were numerous and service slow. Fuel evaporation in hot weather caused hiccupps at start-up. In cold weather, carburetor ice build-up would kill it dead after two miles of driving. The dealer finally took it back with just 6,000 kilometers on it," says Bert, disappointed with his Fiat X19 sports car.

He likes his 5610 Ford tractor. "Only repair required after initial warranty check has been a fuse for the lights."

David McKay, Lone Wolf, Okla.: "I bought a Morton building due to their fine reputation and their warranty. I haven't seen anything good about either," says David upset with his "worst buy" 54 by 72-ft. Morton wood truss barn. "Trusses and posts appear to be failing within the structure. Company representatives say I don't have a problem until there is an actual failure."

David likes his Ford 7710 tractor with front-wheel assist. "It has extra-ordinary power and maneuverability for a tractor of its size. Hydraulics are very responsive, espe-