

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

Donald Jondle, Manson, Iowa: "I'll never buy another one. From the first day I used it, it's been nothing but trouble. It's had no less than six flat tires. It had poor foreign-made inner tubes in the tires and the center frame was bent. The dealer tried to fix it, but the company would only give him the run-around," says Donald, upset with his 31-ft. **Wil-Rich** field cultivator.

However, he's happy with his **Westendorf** WL-42 tractor loader. "It's the best loader I've ever owned. It's rugged-built and will stand the heavy use of high horsepower tractors. You can put it on or take it off the tractor in about one minute without leaving the tractor seat."

Milo Nekola, Toledo, Iowa: "I purchased a 1985 **Dodge** Min-Ram Van with front wheel drive. It gets around 25 mpg and is a smooth-riding van."

Curtis Bauer, Hildreth, Neb.: He's happy with his **Re-Verber-Ray** DR-30 infra-red heater. "This heater burns for a month on a 20 lb. propane tank. When we want to work in the shop we just start it up and in 15 minutes it's warm enough to work without a

Roy Smith, Hampton, Neb.: "My father will not part with his 1962 **John Deere** 3010 tractor unless he can find another one like it with fewer hours and in excellent condition. It has 9,100 hours, and has been generally very dependable.

"I'm also pleased with our **Orthman-Hawkins** hiller. On our gravity-irrigated farm, we have some sidehills that are gumbo ground where it's hard to get good ridges with a disk hiller. This unit does an excellent job. The Orthman bar and shanks are built strong and the Hawkins hiller units make a uniform ridge without dumping plants under."

Roy's not happy with his **Dura Craft** ½ hp. grinder. "This grinder has no power. You can bring it to a stop with minimum pressure to the grind stone."

Clarence Anderson, Sedgewick, Alb.: "My 1984 **Chevrolet** Suburban with a 6.2 liter diesel engine starts easily and gets good mileage."

Robert Feikena, Luverne, Minn.: "I don't see why they can't come up with something better or cheaper. I've been using this herbicide for years but I've never really been happy with it. Conditions have to be perfect or it doesn't work," says Robert, unhappy with **Basagran** from **BASF**.

On the "best buy" side, he lists his **John Deere** 722 mulch finisher. "Does a good job of incorporating all chemicals in one pass. We used it to put down **Dual** and **Treflan**. It did a perfect job and left the field in good shape for planting. Well pleased with this machine.

"I'm also pleased with my **Tox-O-Wick** power washer. I really like the hot water and the high pressure.

"Our **Chevrolet** Silverado 4-WD pickup with 305 engine is also a best buy. I couldn't ask for more in a pickup. A real classy machine that has power and gets good gas mileage.

"Another good purchase is our new **Butler** feeder wagon. Does a good job of mixing all kinds of feedstuffs. The scale works perfectly so far."

Ronnie Guill, Smithland, Kent.: "My worst buy was a **Strip Master One** tobacco stripper. The salesman misrepresented the capacity of this machine. It's not near as fast as they said it would be and it leaves the leaf tangled and matted together. It also lacks power to pull irregular stalks through the machine."

Randall Thomsen, St. Paul, Neb.: "We use our **W & W** 6 by 16 best buy stock trailer for hauling everything from cattle, hogs, and horses to skid steer loaders, feed, furniture and appliances."

Paul E. Folkerts, Carleton, Neb.: "My nomination for best buy is my computer spreadsheet and database combination called **Lotus** 123. They have enabled me to write several programs. One of them adjusts and indexes my cattle weights with a touch of a button which has made selection much easier. Another is a simple general ledger in which I enter all transactions with a code number and then by pushing one button it sorts and totals each category under that code number by the month or year. It also keeps my loan balance and ac-

jacket. There isn't a more economical heater on the market."

Richard Eichelberger, Muscatine, Iowa: "My 50 by 60-ft. **Lester** machine shed is solid with 6 by 8-in. posts. The building crew was very courteous, neat and hard-working.

"I'm also pleased with my **Steiger** 9-shank disc chisel. It's well-built and does not bounce through the field even at 6 mph."

Fred Loudder, Otis, Col.: He's pleased with his minimum-till deep-fertilizer placement **DK5 Noble** drill conversion, manufactured by **Sonrise, Mfg.**, Fleming, Col. "It allows me to use the drill I already own to begin planting. I'm able to continuous-crop all my acres at a very affordable price. I bought it retail but liked it so much I became a dealer."

Jack Dodge, Newton, Iowa: "I should have never bought this piece of junk. The paper prefilters plug up in no time, then the filter falls off into the cannister causing dust to come out of the exhaust hole," reports Jack, unhappy with his "worst buy" **Powervac** shop vacuum.

However, he likes his **McCulloch** Pro Mac 10-10 chainsaw. "I bought it new in 1978 and have worn out 5 bars and 6 chains and have had no problems. The saw still runs like new and always starts good, even when the temperature is below 0°."