

BUYING TIPS YOU CAN USE

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

Philip Pudwell, Medicine Hat, Alb.: "In 50 years of farming, my worst buy was when I bought a Whizzer seed cleaner. I ordered it from **JSX Rebel Industries**, 600 Washington Ave. North, Minneapolis, Minn. I paid \$2,000 cash in U.S. funds on Jan. 26th 1984. With all the phone exchanges, and a trip to their office in Minneapolis, it cost me well over \$3,000, and I still have no seed cleaner. All I got was promises but no machine."

William Hodel, Roanoke, Ill.: "This phone never did work well very far from the base, even though it was advertised as having a 1000-ft. range. Now it cuts out while we're talking. I took it back and they gave me a new one, but it isn't much better," says William about his "worst buy" **Cobra** cordless telephone.

He's happy with his **White** 8-row, 30-in. planter. "I appreciate the simplicity of this planter. I've used it for two seasons with little downtime. It's accurate for seed population and depth at speeds up to 8 mph. I also really like our 6620 **Deere** combine."

John Hansen, Randolph, Neb.: John's pleased with his 1977 **F-150**

Campbell-Hansfeld airless paint sprayer.

On the "best buy" side, he's happy with his **Husky** snowblower and **Shaver** hydraulic post driver. "I've driven 45 posts in 45 minutes with the post driver. It's never needed any repairs."

Louis Roquet, Evansdale, Iowa: "My 'worst buy' was a **Farmecon** pipeline milking set-up with **Bodmin** milker claws. The pump runs backwards and throws oil all over. The milkers froze up in middle of milking, causing loss of milk and mastitis. The mechanics installed the electric components wrong and then charged outrageous prices for repairs. Service is poor."

Mark Lindberg, Fertile, Minn.: "Every time we use it we hold our breath," says Mark about his "worst buy", an 1800 4-WD **Massey Ferguson**. "It's been through an engine, transmission and front and rear axles all in one year, plus an electrical system, alternator and hydraulic system."

On the plus side, Mark's happy with his 1977 **GMC** 4-WD ½-ton pickup with a 350 engine. "In 150,000 miles I've only had to put in two clutches and one set of plugs. I use it every day and use it hard for spraying, and for pulling trailers and heavy loads."

James Richison, Mulkeytown, Ill.: "This truck is very well built. It hasn't had any service problems," says James, pleased with his 1984 **Ford F-250** 4 WD, diesel pickup. "The 6.9 liter engine has performed well and has good power and fuel economy."

"I also nominate my two 86 series **International** tractors and my 1460 **Axial Flow** combine as 'best buys'. All have excellent performance and dependability."

James isn't as happy, however, with his **May-Wes** folding auger hopper. "The hopper works for unloading gravity wagons but only with the auger at a low angle. When you try to use the hopper with an auger inclined at a normal angle, grain spills out."

Jerry Blackledge, Marion, Mich.: Jerry names his **Century AC-DC** welder as both his best and worst buy. "A part was missing so it didn't work. After replacing the part it works beautifully."

Donald Risser, Bainbridge, Penn.: "They paid for themselves in the first day of use because of the better stand," says Donald, pleased with **Depth-A-Matic** depth control arms for **Max-Emerge** planters, manufactured by **SI Mfg.** Spencerville, Ohio. "These stops drastically cut planter unit bounce, especially in no-till and minimum-till conditions."

Tom Noller, Stockton, Ill.: "My 1984 **Chevrolet** Celebrity is a 'best buy'. It has a smooth ride and surprising power for a 4-cyl. engine. I'm also happy with my **Homelite** Super EZ Automatic chain saw. After six years of rough use and only a new fuel filter, it still starts and runs great."

Bob Van Roekel, Maurice, Iowa: "It takes the work out of cleaning hard packed manure off the floors of hog confinement buildings. Does a beautiful job," says Bob about his

Ford pickup. "I'll buy another Ford when this one retires. It's been a 'super pickup'. I've put more than 110,000 miles on it in all kinds of conditions ranging from hauling livestock to taking trips. Dealer service has been super."

Ray Martin, New Holland, Penn.: "I've used my **White** 2-50 diesel tractor, equipped with a **Dunham** model 22 loader, for over 2,000 hours without any problems. The tractor runs efficiently, using about ½ gal. of fuel an hour doing loader work. I like the loader because it attaches and detaches in minutes and can be done anywhere."

Peter Chaykowski, Rose Valley, Sask.: "Even though I've worn out 2 bars and 4 chains on my **Pioneer #26** chain saw, the motor is like new and starts every time."

Peter is disappointed with his **Polaris** snowmobile. "I put in new pistons and a crankshaft, all of which lasted one day. Poor starting and poor dealer."

Wendeldean Roth, Grabill, Ind.: "I class it as an expensive joke. It loses pressure and, after each stroke, you have to wait for it to build up again. I've had it to two different authorized service centers and they can't make it operate any different," says Wendeldean, disappointed with his