

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

Tom Shellpeper, Stanton, Neb.: "In one year's time we've had it overhauled twice and looked at by mechanics countless times but it still doesn't work properly," says Tom, upset with his "worst buy" **Deere** model 300 pressure washer. "After it runs for about 1/2 hour, it quits altogether. The soap dispenser has also stopped working and the trigger sticks. The Deere dealer claims it works great for him and that we're the cause of these problems."

Theron G. Callam, Pawnee City, Neb.: "I've used it a lot and I'm impressed," says Theron, pleased with his 302 **Echo** chain saw. "It's a handy size, well-built, and is always ready to go."

Raleigh Yukel, Silver Lake, Minn.: He nominates his 1980 **Allis Chalmers** F-2 corn special Gleaner combine as "best buy". "I traded for the combine last fall at my local **Allis Chalmers** dealer. There were a number of small things out of adjustment and some parts needed to be replaced but the dealer took care of them and it works great. Very satisfied."

4-WD pickup. "During the first few months after delivery the pickup was in the shop more than on the road. Some of the problems: a bad throw-out bearing; the transmission locked in gear; the engine had a bad camshaft gear and timing chain; the rear engine seal failed, so all the engine oil leaked out; the fuel tanks would not transfer; and the turn signals failed repeatedly. The problems were compounded by very poor dealer and factory assistance. It took two dealers and many trips to find that the transmission was missing parts in the gear stack. In addition to everything else, the truck has a very poor paint job and the plastic "chrome" is falling off all over the truck. For the price I paid, it's very discouraging."

Gary's happy with his **New Holland** 316 square baler. "The 316 was designed and assembled with durability and quality in mind. The baler has good capacity and produces a heavy, well-shaped bale with very few miss-ties. Our dealer provides excellent service."

He's also pleased with his **Motorola** 2-way FM radios. "They provide good coverage and are very clear. The private line feature eliminates all other conversations."

Vasteene Rives, Hickory, Ky.: "It now has 66,000 miles on it and has needed no maintenance except for the glow plugs I installed when I first bought it," says Vasteene, pleased with a 1981 diesel **Isuzu** pickup truck he bought used with 22,000 miles. "It gets 38 mpg on the highway and about 35 mpg for everyday driving. It's got a 5-speed overdrive and the best radio I've ever had in a vehicle. Very comfortable to ride in."

Gerald R. Keith, Leesville, Tex.: "I only used this grinder a few minutes at a time but, after the second job, it started slinging grease from the gearbox. Before the first grinding disc was one-fourth worn, the motor suddenly sputtered and quit," says Gerald, upset with his "worst buy" **Wen** 1501 7-in. portable grinder.

On the positive side, he names his 1984 **Deutz** tractor as "best buy". "I looked at most other makes and this tractor has the quietest cab in the 4-cyl. range and seems to do more with fewer automatic "gadgets" than others. I'm continually amazed at the power and traction it has for an 84 hp. tractor. No problems after the initial break-in period."

"Also on the best buy side, I nominate my **Vermeer** 504G round baler. It makes a tight, good-looking round bale that keeps its shape very well, operating at 540 or 1,000 rpm's. I especially like the efficient electric twine tie and its clean job picking up hay. The only drawback is the picker teeth. Balers should not be allowed to leave the factory without rubber mounted picker teeth. The baler breaks regular teeth like crazy and the new teeth used for replacement won't stay tight. However, once we replaced them with rubber-mounted teeth we've never broken one."

"Another best buy is our **Farmhand** wheel rake. Since buying it new in 1979, we've never broken a single rubber-mounted rake tooth. It picks up well, has good flotation, and I

Austin Heise, Hiwatha, Kan.: "I just purchased an 11-shank **Landoll** Soil Master II disk-chisel. The walking tandem axles help maintain a level and uniform depth. The shanks, set on three bars, provide for good trash flow. I'm really impressed with this machine."

Dave Blanchard, Whiting, Vermont: "My **Fahr** 500 hay tedder is a worst buy. I like the fact that it folds out to a working width of almost 16 ft., but the hinges are made of a thin cast iron that can't take the strain when outer wheels hit bumps and woodchuck holes. The machine has literally broken in half twice. I reinforced it with angle iron and it's okay now but you still have to go slow. Another complaint I have is that it weaves from side to side so when you tow it down the road you can only go 6 to 7 mph. It does a nice job of tedding hay but it's not built rugged enough."

Heading his "best buy" list is a **Jonsereds** 451 chainsaw. "This is the fastest cutting chainsaw I've ever owned. It's ruggedly made but still reasonably light, and it's quiet. I've had it for over a year and have no problems or complaints so far."

Gary Davis, Oak Grove, Mo.: Heading Gary's "worst buy" list is a 1983 **Chevrolet** Silverado 6.2 diesel