

# Best And Worst Buys

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"My worst buy ever was a Case 870 tractor. It was out of commission for 10 weeks over a 2-year period. Of course, those 10 weeks were right when I needed it most. The power shift transmission went out once and the motor sucked a valve the next year. I traded it for the Deutz. American manufacturers had better take a few lessons from foreign competition."

**Gaston Haegebaert, North Battleford, Sask.:** He's disappointed with his Kelly cultivator sweeps. "These sweeps may work in some soils but, in our soil, they are a complete joke. For one thing, they won't scour. If there is the slightest bit of trash they plug because of their straight-across design. Growth wraps around the blade, causing more soil buildup on the sweeps. As this condition gets worse, it creates a very heavy draft load at the same time doing a poor job. When we complained to the dealer, we got the runaround."

**Gerald Woods, Kirkwood, Ill.:** He nominates his International 1460 Axial Flow combine as "best buy". "I owned a 1440 Axial Flow before the 1460. Both have been very reliable and a pleasure to operate. Great capacity and threshing job in both corn and beans. Dealer service is excellent. Wouldn't want to own any other brand."

Gerald's had trouble with his Chevrolet 6.2 diesel K-20 pickup. "The motor gave us a lot of trouble until both heads and gaskets were replaced. It lacks power and the finish on the paint is terrible. Dealer service has been excellent — otherwise it would have been disposed of."

**Jim Roark, Rifle, Colo.:** "My best buy is a Yamaha 125 three wheeler. I use it for many things — from transportation to and from irrigating, to hauling sprinkler pipe and hay on a small trailer I made. I herd sheep with it and feed them off the sled I pull behind in the winter."

**Alvin Pearson, Ellsworth, Wis.:** "It really handles nice and is much easier on my Ford 4-WD pickup than the 16-ft. bumper hitch trailer I had been pulling," says Alvin, pleased with his Kiefer-Built 18-ft. gooseneck cattle trailer.

Alvin says his second "best buy" is his Campbell-Hansfeld airless paint sprayer. "It has lots of capacity with a 1/3-hp. motor and pressure up to 2,500 psi. I bought it to paint my 40-ft. by 100-ft. quonset-type machine shed."

**Raymond Bechstein, Weston, Ohio:** "The engine was very noisy from the start. Then it went bad and the dealer didn't have a properly trained mechanic to work on it. After changing the block once, it went bad again. This time, I had the diesel engine removed and installed a 350 cu. in. Oldsmobile gasoline engine. It's not as economical but has been a pleasure to drive," says Raymond about his 1980 Chevrolet 1/2-ton diesel pick-up.

**Richard A. Whetzel, Wolcottville, Ind.:** "I can plant at 5 to 7 mph with my White 5100 Seed Boss planter, depending on conditions, and do it very accurately. Another plus is the planter's piggy-back toolbar which I bought for planting soybeans. It lets you convert to narrow rows. I've used the planter for two seasons with no problems."

"Another best buy is my Stotz Monster Maul. It'll out-split any wood splitter on the market. I've used it three years and wouldn't be without it."

**Edward L. Williams, Fletcher, Okl.:** He nominates his Dgleman dozer for a 2-WD tractor as "best buy". "It's easy to hook up and unhook, and also does a good job of filling terraces and ditches, as we found out when we had 18 in. of rain last October in five days time."

He's disappointed, however, with Star Bar insecticide ear tags. "The summer before, we used Ectrin ear tags with good results. Star-Bar tags were represented to be just as good at a cheaper price. I got just what I paid for — cheap results. The moral is, if something is working for you, don't change just for a few cents price difference."

**Weldon Wenger, Newton, Kan.:** "My subscription to FARM SHOW has been a best buy. Also, in 1983 I purchased a 3588 2+2 International tractor. At 150 hp., it handles the load better than my former tractor with the same horsepower and dual wheels. Fuel consumption is about 1 1/2 gallons per hour less."

**Charles W. Johnson, Chuckey, Tenn.:** "Our best buy has been a Morton machine and toolshed with a grain liner. The boys who put the building up all knew their jobs and the construction went very smoothly. This was the first building I haven't built myself on our farm and I will

## "I will never build by myself again"

never build by myself again after having a crew do as well as Morton's crew. After our building was up, 11 Morton buildings were sold in this area.

"Another best buy has been our 1982 Isuzu 4-WD diesel pickup that we bought to replace a 4-WD Dodge. We used to have fuel bills of \$30 to \$40 per week and now we average just \$10 to \$12. It's a very tough truck and starts well in cold weather. The only problem is that it could use more room in the cab area. My wife liked the economy of this truck so well she swapped her 1977 Oldsmobile for a 4-door Isuzu car. She gets 40 to 50 mpg."

**Alvin Houtsinger, Delavan, Wis.:** "It's wide and does a good, clean job. We had no major problems in our first

season of use," says Alvin, pleased with his "best buy" New Idea 866 hay head.

**Theo Gelaude, Brunkild, Manitoba:** "My best buy is my 555 Versatile 4-WD tractor. It has ample power for anything I want to do, is easy on fuel, and has an excellent cab. Dealer service is first class. I've really been pleased with this tractor."

**Kim Leudeman, Leroy, Mich.:** "We're pleased with our Hotsy hot water power washer. It heats its own water in 30 seconds to 210° and works at 650 psi. It's great for cleaning farm equipment."

**John Gonki, North Battleford, Sask.:** "Goodyear Wrangler radial light truck tires are my worst buy. The tread is made in a way that makes it impossible to clean them out so that there's almost no traction in snow. Another worst buy is Esso's new plastic baler twine. They used to make a good strong twine with black center strands surrounded by a blue stripe. Now, it's just black twisted strands with no spiral outer layer and breaks very easily, especially in cold weather. When a bale drops, one or both twines break. The old twine never broke."

**Lewis Novak, Belleville, Kan.:** He's had trouble with his Allis Chalmers Gleaner L2 combine. "On anything but flat ground, the sieves overloaded so bad on one side or the other it's impossible to keep grain in the machine at any speed. Finally, the dealer sent out a mechanic. After working on it for one hour, he had us traveling 1/2 mph and throwing over so much milo you could pick it up with a shovel. The dealer and one of the company reps we talked to were no help at all. We finally sold the machine for a \$6,000 loss, plus the loss of the two machines we traded in on it. We replaced it with an 8-year old Deere 6600 that doesn't cut as fast but puts the grain in the bin."

Lewis names his Case 2090 and 2290 tractors as "best buys". "We've owned five Case tractors since 1965 and we haven't had a bad one. They are all stingy on fuel. Our latest buy, the 2090, runs more than 24 hrs. on one tank of fuel while pulling a large round baler doing custom work. The factory recently installed an update package in the rear ends of both of the 90's and treated us real fair. We'll keep using Case equipment even if it is 75 miles to the dealer for service."

**Richard K. Smith, Boonville, Mo.:** "One of my best buys is a New Holland Haybine. I have cut a lot of hay with it with very little trouble. We accidentally ran two fenceposts into it that had to be pulled back out with a tractor but they did no harm to the rolls. The only weak point on the machine is the bushing in the sickle. I like the machine so much, though, that I kept it and bought a new model 488, that has an improved sickle drive, and a new 316 square baler. I also have a New Holland big round baler and two side delivery rakes. I think they build good machinery."

**Dennis Arneson, Hawley, Minn.:** "I bought a Westby rock trap that was originally featured in FARM SHOW. It didn't work. Small rocks went right over it, doing damage to the rotor,

and veins. I've removed it and ordered a new one from International.

"My best buy is an International 1440 rotary combine. It's easy to run, does a nice job cleaning seed, and is easy to set. I look forward to running it each year. They should have had built-in rock protection sooner. I'd also like to see a seat with some suspension in it."

**Darrell A. Hagan, Whitesville, Ky.:** "My best buy is a 7040 Allis Chalmers tractor I bought used four years ago. I haven't had any trouble other than with the air conditioner."

**Norman Bollinger, Alma, Wis.:** "It's almost impossible to keep it running, if we are lucky enough to get it started. The starter recoil has needed repair twice in less than 10

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hours of use. Would never buy another one," says Norman, displeased with his XL2 Homelite chain saw.

He's had good luck with his KATO Lite 25 KW generator. "It's a good feeling to be able to start up this reliable power plant when storms knock out our power. It'll run every bit of electrical equipment on our farm and in the home."

**Donald R. Nutt, Center, Missouri:** His "worst buy" nomination is a Roto-Flo paint gun. "It doesn't mist the paint as it's supposed to. I bought it for painting machinery but can only use it in the upright position or the paint runs over the top of the cup."

Donald's pleased with his International 1300 9-ft. sickle mower. "It's quality-built and does the job well. Easy to adjust and, in over 100 acres last year, there were no problems at all."

**Duane Slining, Belmond, Iowa:** "We installed a speaker in each room of the house and garage so, regardless of where we are in the house or garage, we can hear the markets, news, or just enjoy music. The system is also hooked into the phone line so we can answer the phone from any speaker in the system," says Duane, pleased with his Nutone radio and intercom system.

**Charles Angerth, Council Bluffs, Iowa:** "This tool, which attaches to your chain saw in place of the bar and chain, flew to pieces the first minute of use. I sent it back to the company and they replaced it. The second time it lasted about 2 1/2 minutes," says Charles, upset with his "worst buy" Versatool Brushmaster gear drive brush-cutting attachment.

**Dennis A. Nielsen, Fonda, Iowa:** "I've used my Schweiss log splitter from Schweiss, Inc., Sherburn, Minn., for the past two seasons and I'm very pleased with it. Last fall, my neighbor brought over a crotch from an 18-in. walnut tree. His splitter