

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

Lynn S. Loos, Baylis, Ill.: "I keep hoping a tree will fall on it," says Lynn, upset with her "worst buy" 1980 Ford F350 one-ton 4-WD pickup with Pos-Trac rear-end and automatic transmission. "We have a 300 bu. gooseneck trailer that we used to pull easily with our 1979 Ford 250 ¾ ton. This one-ton can hardly pull it empty. The truck is lighter by 25% than the 1979 model and gets awful gas mileage at 5.2 mpg."

On the plus side, she's happy with her Deere 653 row crop head. "We rented this bean head because we had 523 acres of beans to cut and our grain platform is getting old. Because of the drought, our beans were short but this head gets them all. It eats through weeds like they're not even there."

Charles Storm, Mt. Vernon, S. Dak.: "My Mix Mill electric feed grinder is my best buy," says Charles. "I bought it three years ago and since that time it has performed great. Other than replacing hammers and screens, it has never required repair and we use it almost every day. Once calibrated, it records the amount of feed used for each ration."

any problems whatsoever. No rattles, no wind noise and I get 22 to 24 mph on this magnificent fully-equipped luxury car," says Joseph, pleased with his 1983 Mercury Grand Marquis.

Larry Eaton, Snohomish, Wash.: Larry's pleased with his Deere 24A skid steer loader. "We didn't realize how useful it would be until we purchased it. We had considered buying one before but could see no reason to justify it until we started using sand in our freestalls. After we purchased the machine, the versatility of it simply amazed us. We now use it for many more tasks than we originally intended."

Wilfred Berchimisry, Watson, Sask.: "We're pleased with the results we've gotten with Poast," reports Wilfred about the new post-emergence chemical. "We got a 99% kill on wild oats in rapeseed this spring. The crop didn't burn as with some other chemicals we've used."

Craig Egelund, Bonifax, Fla.: Craig names his 1984 Chevrolet Cavalier as "worst buy". "I had it three days and the computer went out. After two weeks, our dealer still couldn't get the part from the factory. The dealer is bending over backwards to help and will take a part off another car if necessary."

Pat Connelly, Genda, Neb.: "It's probably the handiest farm tool I've ever purchased for livestock and grain farm use," says Pat, happy with his Honda ATC 185. "It runs real well and starts on the first pull almost every time."

On the negative side, he had bad luck with "Pest Gard" sonic sound pest repeller. In my opinion it attracted birds and bugs instead of repelling them. It was supposed to rid the premises of rodents, bugs, birds, flies and many other pests."

Glen Smith, Ferndale, Wash.: Glen's had trouble with his "Arts-Way" Dion Feeder wagon. The beaters on this box are so small that green feed wraps around them and you have to shut it down to clean them off. I don't know why the company doesn't put beaters in these wagons that won't wrap. Dealer service is rotten."

He's pleased with his "best buy" New Holland 462 disc mower. "The mower will cut the thickest tangled grass without plugging. I can cut 20 acres in 2½ hours without stopping. It's extremely well-built and doesn't take more than 40 hp. to run. Dealer service is good."

Robert Vohland, Farmington, Ill.: He's disappointed with his 1982 200 Kawasaki 3-wheeler. "It won't run, has no traction, the low gear is too high and it's worthless for chasing cattle. We also have a Yanmar 240 tractor that hasn't worked out. It overheats (no thermostat), has no traction, went through two radiators, and all we use it for is running augers and mowing weeds."

Ralph Giffen, Barrie, Ont.: His "best buy" is his Deere 1209 haybine. "After cutting our first 100 acres, we only had to replace one guard and two knife sections. The 1209 is easy

Milton White, Hyde, Md.: "This tractor has been a lemon from the start," says Milton, unhappy with his Deere 2940. "The clutch became very hard to push in and, at 800 hrs., it wore out. We're also having electrical problems with the air conditioner and starter. Deere says they'll make it right and they've tried but, at 1,100 hours, the clutch problem started all over again."

Milton likes his Deere 430 round baler. "It makes a very tight bale and is easy to operate. My first bale was as neat as my 200th bale."

George Ehmke, Grover, Colo.: "This baler was junk," says George, about his "worst buy" Hesston 4600 baler. "It wasn't set up right at the factory. The timing was all messed up, it missed a lot of ties, and it was hard on tractors. I don't think the flywheel was heavy enough. We also had a hard time getting parts replaced."

On the plus side, he's pleased with his New Holland 420 baler. "We traded for the baler this spring and have had no trouble at all with it. The bales are all very uniform and the hydraulic tension is really good. We also have a New Holland 282 baler that has worked well."

Joseph A. Becker, Laddonia, Mo.: "I bought this car in January and have driven it over 16,000 miles without