

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

Arthur Vander Pol, Hospers, Iowa: "It's truly a gutless wonder," says Arthur, upset with his 1980 Ford 150 4-WD pickup with a 302 cu. in. engine. "It has no power and I wonder why I ever bought it. On top of that, when I'm pulling something I get only 7 to 8 mpg."

Richard Spann, Malta, Ill.: "My best buy product is a welding rod — called CB 909 Super Rod — distributed by Mauer Welding Supply, Oskaaloosa, Iowa 52577. It's fairly expensive but it will weld cast iron, spring steel, and unknown metals with ease. I highly recommend it.

"Other good buys are the 8820 Deere combine, which does an excellent job for us, our Westendorf "Hitch and Go" for fast hitching and unhitching wagons from inside tractor cabs, Kelderman Manufacturing toolbar hinge kits for do-it-yourself equipment folding and a Woods 214 rotary mower which has mowed over 3,500 acres this year with no major repairs.

"Our worst buy recently is a 1979 GMC 7000 grain truck. The engine

Ralph Van Dyke, Quincy, Wash.: "Our Deere 466 and 467 balers are better and faster than the New Holland balers they replaced," says Ralph about his "best buys". "The mechanism that moves the hay to the bale chamber on the New Holland baler takes a lot of care or you'll have trouble. The Deere balers are much simpler all around and cheaper to upkeep. We're well-satisfied with their performance."

Randy E. Obert, Palmyra, Mo.: "I don't know how I ever got along without it," says Randy, happy with his 1983 Bachtold weed mower with an 8 hp. Briggs & Stratton motor. "This mower handles any kind of mowing from yard to brush patch. I especially like the way it hugs the fence rows so you end up with a beautifully clean job. Also, the engine runs at a low rpm, so engine life is probably increased."

His "worst buy" is a 3400 Poulan chain saw. "I only used the chainsaw four days before a nut on the flywheel came loose, which resulted in a broken flywheel. The dealer ordered a new flywheel which was supposed to take a week to arrive. About 2½ months later, he finally received it after dozens of phone calls, week after week. Why sell the saws if you don't make parts available? The saw is also very hard to start once it's hot."

Wallace A. Johnson, Gibbon, Minn.: Wallace names the Cultivation tractor cultivating mirror manufactured by Klinger Mfg. Co., New Ulm, Minn., which he first saw featured in FARM SHOW, as his "best buy". "It gives a perfect view, without turning your head, of the row from the tractor seat when using a rear-mounted cultivator.

"Our Patz ring drive silo unloader is also a best buy on our farm," he says.

Alan L. Stevens, Northwood, Iowa: Alan says his 7100 Deere Max-Emerge planter, 4440 Deere tractor and 490 International disk are all "best buys". "The planter does an even job of planting. It's easy to set and hasn't caused any trouble mechanically. The 4440 has plenty of power and a good quiet cab. The 490 disk pulls easily and doesn't leave ridges in the field."

He had problems with his International 800 Early Riser air planter. "The planter spent too much time sitting at the end of the field getting repaired. The hydraulic system was always going haywire. I never knew which marker would go down, or if the marker would go down or even if whole planter would go down. The planter pulled harder than a 5-bottom plow. The covering discs plugged with trash easily and were always bending, and the sealed bearings must have had grease worms. When everything on the planter worked, it worked good. The dealer gave excellent service and International extended the warranty on early models one year. But after all the problems, it was time to trade."

Harry Anderson, Hawkeye, Iowa: "The string won't feed out and the motor is temperamental. Usually I end up cutting weeds by hand as it's easier than trying to get the thing to

went bad at 14,000 miles and had to be replaced. It always has something wrong with it."

Frank G. Hrupsa, Harrington, Del.: He lists the accounting service provided by his local Agway farm coop as his "best buy". "The service includes computer filing of your individual records along with an on-the-farm visit by a skilled accountant every three months. They prepare tax forms and stand behind their work. Very reassuring to know you're filed properly with Uncle Sam.

"On the other hand, I find the little cartoon drawings on the gauges of most farm equipment, such as a rabbit which means fast and a turtle that means slow, to be insulting. The machinery companies must think we farmers are too stupid to read."

William Schaefer, Freeburg, Ill.: "They haven't worked since day one," says William about his pair of "worst buy" Regency XL 2000 FM radios. "My dealer has been very good with service but lacks experience. We bought the first radios out of the factory and they have promised to put all the updates in 'free'. Wish me luck."

He's been pleased with a 1981 Deere 853A row crop head bought at an auction. "This row head has surpassed all my expectations. It has enabled us to have our fastest yet most efficient harvest to date."