

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

Steven Brown, Kensington, Minn.: He's upset with his Agri Power tractor from **Menards, Inc.**, Eau Claire, Wis. "This special shipment of imported tractors was supposed to be a good buy and Menards called it the economical power for the 80's. Well, it was economical all right but getting parts and service was like pulling teeth. A number of small things were wrong to start with and, after just 11 hours, it lost oil pressure and I lost the engine. The company refuses to even talk to me, let alone fix it."

Steve Eisenman, Spring Valley, Minn.: He names his **Hesston 7155** pull-type forage harvester as "best buy". "The knives stay sharp much longer than any other model we've owned, plus it gives us uniform cutting with tremendous capacity. I also like the Auto Sharp knife grinder that goes with the unit — easy and fast to use. Followup from the dealer and the company have been very good."

Robert G. Adams, Humboldt, Iowa: "I have often read in FARM SHOW about products like this but I never thought it would happen to me," says Robert, upset with his

chopper. "The windrow pickup worked very poorly, knife adjustment is almost impossible, and the feed roll disengagement clutch cannot be released under load. Both Hesston and their dealer gave only lip service."

On the positive side, John says his **Surge** double-4 herringbone with VSD automatic takeoffs is his "best buy". "We're pleased with the fast milking and super good washing system. Our dealer service is very good, equipment quality high and our mastitis troubles have almost vanished."

Daniel E. McBane, Snow Camp, N.C.: "It's got the strongest 3-pt. lift I've ever used," says Daniel, pleased with his **International 354** gas tractor. "It's very productive. Has good weight, power and balance for a small tractor."

He's had trouble with his **Oldsmobile** diesel car. "It has injector pump problems, starter problems, is hard to start when hot, and gives poor performance."

James L. Cox, Gower, Mo.: "It gets good fuel economy, has ample power for its size but I have not had good dealer service," says James about his **International 686** tractor. "Both rear tires were defective initially. The tire manufacturer said they were installed wrong and the dealer couldn't figure out how to handle them. I had to buy them out of my own pocket and write to IHC to finally get my refund. Then I had trouble with the TA leaking and after four trips to shop, it was finally fixed with a new housing. Have had no more trouble."

Jeff Swanson, Mount Morris, N.Y.: "We bought a **New Holland TR85** rotary combine two year's ago. It has lots of power and does an absolutely wonderful job combining wheat and oats. Our dealer does a good job in service and parts."

John L. Fajna, Emporia, Va.: "Our best buy products have to be our **2705** and **1105 Massey Ferguson** tractors. The **2705** has excellent power, handling, cab and transmission. It has been trouble free after 350 hours. The **1105** has only had a few minor problems after 2,500 hrs. FARM SHOW is also one of our best buys."

Hap Holowach, Cambridge Springs, Penn.: "My worst buy is a **Deere 336** baler with hydraulic ejector," reports Hap. "From the beginning, the 336 has been a piece of junk. The bale kicker never has worked properly and won't reset after kicking a bale out. The baler also shears flywheel bolts at the rate of one every 500 bales."

Richard Anderson, Claremont, S. Dak.: He's pleased with his **International 8-row 30-in.** Early Riser corn planter. "I have used the planter two seasons for corn, sorghum and sunflowers. It has good depth control and spacing of seed with lots of improvement over earlier model air planters. It's also easy to operate and has fewer wearing parts than other planters."

Robert E. Schwader, Winfred, S. Dak.: "We like our **Miller** loader made by Miller Manufacturing, Larchwood, Iowa," says Robert. "It's sturdy and well-built, although it

"worst buy" **Wick** machine shed. "The building is four years old. It has been my worst buy in over 35 years of farming. After several half-hearted attempts at repair, the roof still has several bad leaks due to the fact that no caulking was used on the skylights. The steel sliding doors are complete junk, assembled with aluminum pop rivets which break and fall out frequently. The liason between the company, the dealer and the crew was extremely poor."

Robert says his **Raven SCS 400** spray monitor has been a "best buy". "It represents high quality electronics at an affordable price. Spray flow automatically adjusts to match ground speed at all times. All you do is enter the input data on the keyboard and the computer does the rest. Dealer service has also been exceptional. There are several trained technicians available on their wats line to answer any questions I might have."

"Other good buys are two **Monarch** grain bins. The crew was very efficient, courteous and anxious to do a good job. The bins are of high quality and heavy construction."

John R. Schley, Clintonville, Wis.: "The machine is quality built but the engineering is of the desk variety, not field tempered," says John, disappointed with his **Hesston 2000-150**