

Best And Worst Buys

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of the first N-series combines a big public apology for their mistake in marketing this machine too early plus compensation for down time and a trade-in allowance. We traded last summer for a Gleaner L-2 and it did a super job in comparison to the N-6."

One of Andrew's "best buys" was his **Kinze 800** grain buggy. "It's super well-built and not skippy on steel like so many products today. It's made to last 20 years. Works well and its big size sure speeds up harvest as we can get 30% more out of the combine. We only need one truck and this wagon to keep up with a 1,200 bu. per hour combine.

"Another good buy is our **Deere 7000 Max Emerge** planter. We've planted 3,500 acres in two years with excellent service. It did what it was advertised to do with excellent seed placement and depth control. Seed was covered well in adverse conditions and in heavy clay soils. One complaint is that the markers don't fold quickly out on hilly ground and when they are folded up, they are too far out from the end of the planter and dangerous along fences."

Roger Springstead, Lawyersville, N.Y.: He's happy with his **Dion** self-unloading silage wagons. "Our wagons range in age from 2 to 10 years of age and, aside from shear pins and one drive belt, we have never had a single problem or breakdown."

Don Zelt, Gladwin, Mich.: "Runs smooth and quiet. Trouble free and simple to change from swath to windrow," says Don about his **New Holland 489** haybine.

He's not satisfied with his **Deere 336** baler. "It runs and ties well but I'm disappointed with the capacity. The bale length varies too much when in heavy use. It's also unnecessarily hard to service."

James C. Laurence, Verdon, Neb.: "I bought a 40-80 **Winpower** alternator to make electricity and to use as an electric motor to power a silo blower. It worked great until a year ago when it burned out. Winpower said they couldn't get parts to fix it. I didn't want to pay for it twice so I bought another brand to replace it."

Gary McClellan, Vale, Ore.: "Our best buy is our rotary corrugator made by **Rotary Corrugator**, Ontario, Ore. We have a 40 row pasture model," says Gary. "It makes a beautiful corrugate. Whether you are in new ground, a hay field, or a pasture, it cuts a clean corrugate and does not leave clods to fall back in behind you. It also cuts and mulches the sod as it goes."

He's disappointed with a **Ford 727** manure loader on his **Ford 4000** tractor. "The bucket is too small to hold much manure and, when you fill it, it won't lift — even when the hydraulics are at the recommended psi.

Very frustrating! Also, the bucket only has a one-way cylinder. It will tilt up but has no power to tilt down to dig."

Allen Hoffman, Northumberland, Penn.: Allen's happy with his 1982 **Ford 540-A** industrial-type tractor with front-end loader. "I really like its shuttle-type power reversing, the single handle hydraulic level for the loader, the quickness of the action of the bucket, the good brakes and the comfortable seat with all controls in easy reach. The gas pedal makes it great for easing around posts, which is handy for us as it's primarily used for cleaning out broiler houses and loading manure on trucks. Also, it starts easier in cold weather than I expected for a diesel. Industrial units are a good buy, I feel, because they're built better than normal farm loader tractors."

Paul and Brad Dangberg, Wayne, Neb.: The "best buys" are their **Deere 200** stacker and **Deere 454** row crop bean head mounted with a **Bish** adaptor on their **TR70** New Holland combine. "Upkeep on the stacker has been minimal and dealer service is excellent. The bean head does an excellent job on down and tangled beans and the combine's twin rotor does exceptional work. Grain is cleaned with few cracks and fines."

The Dangbergs are unhappy with their **International 4166 4-WD** tractor. "It's given us nothing but trouble, including the transfer case, the top bearing in the transmission, the hydraulic pump and the fuel tank — everything but major engine trouble. It has logged more shop hours than field time. We've spent more than \$4,000 on repairs in 400 hrs. The local dealer tried to maintain it but it fell apart faster than he could get it repaired. We'd like another 4-WD but it won't be red."

Merle Kuhlman, Lake Benton, Minn.: "This plow has exceptional clearance for plowing heavy standing cornstalks non-stop," says Merle about his "best buy" **White 588** moldboard plow. "The twin spring

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automatic reset works great in rocky conditions. The plow is built very strong and is a pleasure to operate. Dealer service is excellent."

Philip Heydt, Sargeant, Minn.: He's pleased with **Hanson** ring drive silo unloaders. "We have a 16 and 20-ft. unloader. They both work extremely well in all types of material. The smaller one is used on high moisture ground ear corn and does an excellent job."

He's disappointed with the per-

formance of his **Peerless** ear corn roller mill. "The machine works reasonably well but it wasn't made heavy enough to handle high horsepower tractors. I had trouble the first year and the company installed some update packages on it."

W.C. White, St. Ansgar, Iowa: "I bought an **Oldsmobile** diesel in 1979 equipped with a 260 cu. in. motor that General Motors dropped the next year. In 3½ years, I spent about \$1,350 and GM supplied about \$600 in parts for various troubles before the car had 39,000 miles. I kept driving it up to 53,000 miles, when I had so much trouble with it I couldn't depend on it. It cost me a lot to get rid of it — some dealers wouldn't even consider it in trade."

Editor's note: Other GM diesel engine car owners have had similar problems. Class action suits on behalf of 550,000 owners, going back to the initial 1978 models, are pending against GM in federal and state courts at this time. And GM continues to have problems with later model diesels. In February of this year, the automaker recalled some 80,000 early production 1982 cars with 350 cu. in., V-8 diesel engines because of possible rivet separation in the governor. Moisture build-up in fuel tanks also led GM to offer a \$50 warning light for 1980 models. GM is now extending 1981 and 1982 diesel car warranties to 24 months or 24,000 miles for \$100.

Robert Shragel, Galesburg, Ill.: "Our **Ravens SDS 400** computerized sprayer monitor is an excellent product that performs admirably. The monitor automatically maintains a preset application rate regardless of changing ground speed."

R.B. Caine, Safford, Ala.: He's disappointed with his **Hawk-Bilt 155** flail-type side unloading manure spreader. "Flail and drive chains break, and the drive sprockets wear out so that at times you have to unload by hand."

William J. Rietveld, Chicago Heights, Ill.: "Our **Dixon** lawnmower handles very well but you have to carry parts along with you," says William about his "worst buy".

His **Glencoe** flat fold field cultivator is his "best buy". "It pulls easier than other makes and has excellent depth control. The machine transports easily when the wings are folded flat. Well built all the way around."

Leo Walters, Foss, Okl.: He nominates his 30-ft. **Great Plains** folding drill as "best buy". "It has a large 75 bu. capacity grain box and it's easy to fold and unfold. Heavily-built and can be transported with a full grain box."

Phillip H. Hartman, Basin, Wyo.: "He names the 1983 **Interstate Alfalfa Seed School** in Great Falls, Mont., as his "best buy". "We are starting an alfalfa seed business and attended the school to learn more about raising alfalfa seed and leaf-cutter bees. The school was very educational and the other people who attended were very willing to answer our questions."

Phillip nominates his **Heath** air planter as "worst buy". "The row units are not built strong enough and will bend easily. The hydraulic fan drive gave me constant trouble and seed depth adjustment is very difficult to set accurately. But, with some major modifications I believe the planter will work properly on our sugar beet and dry bean crops."

"Another worst buy was our **M & W** alcohol injector for diesel tractors. I didn't get the power increase and exhaust temperature decrease the manufacturer claimed."

Kevin Lapka, Leola, S.Dak.: "My worst buy is a **Goodyear** Truck Tarp that has been advertised recently in several national farm magazines. The 6-week delivery took over three months and the wrong size was sent. The phone number in the ad was disconnected. The quality is so poor it's not worth talking about."

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He says his 3-pt. mounted **Danuser** post driver was a good buy. "The post driver uses a free-falling weight rather than a spring-loaded hammer. This makes it smooth operating, along with the fact that it will drive almost anything."

Kevin's also pleased with his **Deere 4240**. "It was hard to give up the 4020 that the 4240 replaced but, up to this point, it has more than filled the shoes of the old reliable 4020."

Douglas Long, Albion, N.Y.: "The drill press is small enough and light enough to be taken anywhere the work is, yet it has adequate power to drill through the toughest of materials. It's been a real time saver around the farm since we purchased it," says Douglas, pleased with his 3-speed bench model drill press purchased from **Harbor Freight and Salvage**, Hollywood, Calif.

Robert E. Swanston, Bulyea, Sask.: "I've had excellent performance with this tractor for 25 years with very little upkeep. It still runs like a top. I have three other tractors and it's still the best of the lot," says Robert about his 1958 **Massey Harris 444** tractor.

William Pylatuk, Watson, Sask.: "My best buy is an 1175 **Case** tractor. It's the most rugged-built machine I've ever seen. Very durable motor that doesn't use oil and the transmission matches the horsepower. A good tractor all around."

Tom McManimon, Rushford, Minn.: He lists his **Case 1737** skid steer loader and his 1979 **Ford F250 4-WD**, 4-speed pickup as "best buys". "The skid steer loader is built like a tank. Its easy starting water cooled engine, easy maintenance and large load-handling capability make it a joy to operate. The pickup has done everything but plow the back forty and still runs great."

Randall M. DuVal, Tulelake, Calif.: He bought a used **International Hydro 100** tractor. "I love the