

BUYING TIPS YOU CAN USE

Randomly selected farmers “tell it like it is” in nominating their “best” and “worst” buys.

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Bill Irwin, Glade Valley, N.C.: “My worst buy is **Ondura** roofing which I had installed on my barn. The south side of the roof rotted away and I can stick my finger through the roof just about anywhere. After five years the roof’s color was completely gone and after nine years the product itself was no good. The company wouldn’t do anything to help and the dealer stopped carrying the product. I lost thousands of dollars on it. I hope I never get taken in by anything this sorry again.”

Lane T. Devlin, Smith Center, Kan.: Lane likes his 1990 **Deere** 9600 rear wheel assist combine. “It hasn’t had much downtime and is easy to adjust and maintain. However, the bearing assembly on the straw walkers requires about a tube of grease every day. One of the straw walkers broke at about 1,400 hours, but that was the first time we were kept out of the field for more than an hour or two. My dealer had a new straw walker in stock and had it installed within five hours. The straw walker system is the weak point of this machine. I like the header - it stands up to the abuse of driving on terraces and ditches. I mounted a **Vittetoe** chaff spreader on back and it works good, too.”

David Woller, Montague, Mich.: David’s the owner of a 1996 **Case-IH** 3900

meadow hay, barley, CRP cover crops, etc. It makes great hay.”

Glen Borland, Ropesville, Texas: “My **Deere** 7800 MFWD tractor has a lot of pulling power and lifting ability. I also like my two 1969 **Deere** 4020 tractors. The company will have to go a long way before they can top what they built 28 years ago.”

Bill Workman, Omaha, Neb.: “My 1990 **Nissan** Sentra performs better than any car I’ve ever owned. It doesn’t use any oil, gets 35 to 40 mpg, and always starts even in the coldest weather. No problems after 115,000 miles.

“My 1991 **Stihl** 011 chainsaw has a lot of power and doesn’t use much fuel. Runs morning ‘til night without fail.”

Richard H. Stambaugh, Rocky Ridge, Md.: “My 1979 **International** 1460 Axial Flow combine is a wonderful machine and a pleasure to operate. It’s the first combine I ever bought, but I can’t imagine wanting anything better than this great old machine. I really like the flex head. I removed the wooden reel batts and steel teeth and replaced them with aluminum batts and plastic teeth. I drilled and tapped the holes so that the back side of the batts are smooth with no nuts exposed.”

Kurt Hartman, Lewistown, Mont.: “I’m totally satisfied with my 1987 **Deere** 4650 tractor. It has a lot of power and is easy on fuel.”

Gordon Stoner, Outlook, Mont.: Gordon’s the satisfied owner of three 1983 **Deere** 7720 combines. “They’re reliable machines with a lot of capacity. We used them on more than 5,000 acres last year and had a total of only about three hours of downtime. We added air chaffers and built our own beaters which we slowed down to 100% of cylinder speed. We also reversed the rotation of the conveyor augers and made modifications so we can dump tailings into the middle of the feederhouse. In small grain, our 7720’s have almost as much capacity as the larger 8820 models.”

Dave Setlik, Ord, Neb.: Dave nominates his **International** 4200 mulcher-field cultivator as his “best buy”. “It has good trash clearance and eliminates the need for a disk. We mounted a rolling stalk chopper off an **International** 468 seedbed conditioner on it which makes it work even better. We make one pass with it in untouched corn stalks and we’re ready to plant.”

On the “worst buy” side, he lists his **Sanborn** 1 hp 7-gal. portable air compressor. “It worked good at first, but after a few months it was unable to hold pressure. Also, the electric motor malfunctioned, blowing fuses. Difficult to start it up.”

John Brushaber, Double D Farms, Beaverton, Mich.: “My **Case-IH** 2166 Axial Flow combine works good and has enough capacity that I was able to install variable speed on the header drive. It’s an easy machine to maintain. One problem was that we had to remove the air cleaner before we could get the combine in our shed. I solved the problem by lowering the air cleaner and exhaust to the height of the cab. I also had a canvas cover made for the grain tank.”

Don Hoes, Albert Lea, Minn.: “I use a product called **Crud Remover** which can clean oil and grease stains off any surface. Works great, and it’s non-flammable and biodegradable.” (Protective Products Corp., Box 246, Johnston, Iowa 50131 ph 800 666-0772).

Jerry Stahr, York, Neb.: “My 1991 **Case-IH** 1680 Axial Flow combine is simple to operate and maintain, and I don’t

Farmers Nominate Best, Worst Buys

24 1/2-ft. disk harrow. “The disk itself does an excellent job, but the scrapers could work better. It has a well-built, heavy frame.”

Mitchell Stauber, Kewaunee, Wis.: Mitchell’s impressed with his 1996 **Richardton** 770 2-wheel, 1,050 cu. ft. dump cart. “I really like how it turns at the end of the field. It’s much more maneuverable and built twice as sturdy as the 4-wheel **Byron** wagon that I had been using. It also dumps faster and floats better in wet conditions.”

On the “worst buy” side, he lists his 1996 **Deere** 6810 self-propelled chopper. “The chopper itself works good, but with all the electrical systems something is always going wrong. I put about 700 hours on it the first year and at the end of the season there wasn’t much left on the electrical systems that still worked. I also had problems with the rotary screen, knife sharpening system, spout rinse, Power Saver relays, warning flashers, and electric system for the hydraulic breakaway couplers. The system for keeping the rotary screen clean works terrible. It’s designed to use suction from the exhaust pipe, but the suction is too weak to pull wet hay or silage through a 6-ft. pipe, which causes the pipe to plug up several times each day. We have to use a piece of wire in order to poke the material out. I think the company could have built a better machine.”

John Lau, Soda Springs, Idaho: “Our **New Idea** 5112 disc mower is our best buy ever. It’s had very few breakdowns and can mow almost any kind of crop including

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