

## 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

**Ed Cannon, Hohenwald, Tenn.:** A 1994 **Ford** Ranger Supercab 4-WD pickup equipped with a 4.0-liter, 6-cyl. engine rates as Ed’s “best buy”. “It looks great and really earns its keep on our farm. One time I got my 1-ton truck stuck when it was loaded with about five tons of gravel. My father-in-law used the Ranger to pull me out with ease. It gets about 21 mpg on the highway.”

**Richard Rubel, Dallas, S. Dak.:** Richard’s the satisfied owner of a 1995 **Deere** 7400 tractor equipped with a 740 self-leveling loader. “I like how it handles. It’s easy to start in cold weather and the cab has great visibility. All of the loader operations can be handled with one control lever.”

**Patricia A. Bryson, Canaan, N.H.:** “I like my 1994 **Deere** 7200 Quadra Trac tractor equipped with a bucket loader and grapple fork. Before buying this tractor I always dreaded doing morning chores because I froze to death. The heated cab and the great view it offers is really wonderful.

“My **Bow-Matic** milking machines are my worst buy. When I bought them I didn’t realize that it would cost \$750 to \$850 to change the silicon inflations on eight machines. Another problem is that they’re difficult to change and I had to hire the dealer to do the job.”

years ago with only 374 hours on it. I really like the front wheel assist.

“I like my 1987 **Case-IH** 2294 tractor which has 3,000 hours on it. We’ve spent less than \$50 for repairs. However, I wish it had front wheel assist.

“I like my 1992 **Case-IH** 7150 tractor but I don’t like the Goodyear 20-8-42 radial tires. The 7150 can go only a few feet in mud before it gets stuck because the tires aren’t self-cleaning. I’ll never buy a new Goodyear tire again.

“I’m well pleased with my 1989 **Great Plains** 20-ft. drill. It does a good job and is well-built.

“I also like my 1991 **New Holland** TR96 combine but I wish it had a bigger unloading auger. It has an 8-row head and in 150 bu. per acre corn it’ll fill a 270 bu. tank in only seven minutes. However, it takes almost three minutes to unload it.

“I’m pleased with a used **Case** 870 diesel tractor I bought. It has 80 hp and burned 4 gal. of fuel per hour before I put a turbo-charger on it. Now it has 125 hp and uses less than 3 gallons of fuel per hour. We use it a lot with a pto-operated agitator at our slurry tank whenever we haul manure.

“I also like my new **Hutchinson** 8-in. dia. hydraulic swing-around hopper auger. One man can easily move it from bin to bin.”

**Ken Scharabok, Waverly, Tenn.:** “I like my 3-pt. **Hay Wrap** bale wrapper (Hay Wrap Inc., Box A, Bloomsdale, Mo. 63627 ph 800 248-9727). It lets me wrap bales with plastic at a cost of only about \$3 per bale.

“A **Hydra-Bed** (Triple C Mfg., Rt. 4, Box 4A, Sabetha, Kan. 66534 ph 913 284-3674) for a 1-ton pickup allows me to load two round bales, haul them at highway speeds, and then unload both at the same time. It’s well built.”

**Robert K. Moyars, Otterbein, Ind.:** “My worst buy of all time was my **International** Farmall 400 tractor. I always knew when I went to the field with it that I wouldn’t be able to stay out all day without it breaking down.

“My 1991 **GM** 4-WD pickup is a worst buy. It had problems with the alternator, starter, cruise control, brakes, and transmission. Also, the paint started peeling off when it was only a year old and I had to pay \$100 for a new paint job. The radiator was too small and would heat up and the controls didn’t work right.

“My best buy was my **Deere** 4020 tractor. I could always depend on it.

“I also like my 1996 **Dodge** 4-WD pickup. No problems.”

**Gordon Fike, Galion, Ohio:** “I like my 1994 **Dodge** Intrepid car. It gets about 31 mpg. It’s been back to the dealer once for replacement of the air conditioner condenser which was covered by the warranty.”

**Walter S. Pittman, Surry, Va.:** “It performs well and has a lot of lifting power,” says Walter about his 1982 **Massey-Ferguson** 1155 tractor.

“My 1990 **Ford** F-150 pickup is my worst buy. The engine went bad, the gear shift lever wouldn’t move, and the two-tone paint came off.”

**Henry L. Bradbury, Clackamas, Ore.:** “My 1994 **New Holland** 565 baler has been trouble-free. The only time it doesn’t tie is when the twine runs out. It can make bales from 20 to 100 lbs.”

On the negative side, “My 1993 **Ford** F-250 4-WD pickup equipped with a diesel engine and automatic transmission has been back to the dealer numerous times. The front alignment never has worked right. The brakes froze up and there are problems with

**Ralph Odden, Frontenac, Minn.:** “It’s dependable and does a great job. No problems,” says Ralph about his 1994 **MTD** riding mower equipped with an optional bagger.

**Ray Golden, Gurdon, Ark.:** Ray’s impressed with his 1985 **Deere** 2550 tractor equipped with a cab and air conditioning. “No problems. It sure is nice to have a heated cab in the winter and air conditioning in the summer.”

On the “worst buy” side, he lists his 1995 **GM** extended cab pickup. “At 9,000 miles the dealer had to install a new engine because the old one rattled every time it was started. However, that didn’t solve the problem. I was told that I should use a Fram PH-5 oil filter instead of the AC-Delco filter that I was using, but that didn’t solve the problem, either. I’ve found out that others are having the same problem. I think the company should recall these engines.”

**Charles Carey, Ionia, Iowa:** Charles has had good luck with his 1983 **International** 800 8-row hydraulic-fold planter. “It’s a real treat to use. It’s a 3-pt. semi-mounted planter that’s easy to maneuver in corners as well as in the open field. One problem is that the seed calibration instructions in the owner’s manual are for a planter equipped with 14-in. tires. However, my planter came with 15-in. tires.”

**Delbert Bauersachs, Pinckneyville, Ill.:** A used 1984 **Case** 1896 tractor equipped with a cab and front wheel assist heads Delbert’s “best buy” list. “I bought it two