

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

Gary Berrus, Lowville, N.Y.: Gary’s had trouble with his 1991 **Gehl** 1060 forage chopper. “It’s a constant battle to keep this machine going. We’ve had a lot of problems with the metal alert unit. Last spring we had to replace all the bearings on the feed rolls. The bearings had grease fittings on them but there were no holes on some of them to let grease into the bearings. If there was a hole it was on the wrong side of the bearing. The company wouldn’t do anything about it.”

He’s impressed with his 1989 **New Holland** 499 hydroswing haybine. “It’s a high capacity machine that can be easily adjusted to lay hay in a wide swath for drying or in a windrow for making silage. We’ve replaced the guards and knives but haven’t had to make any major repairs.”

Irvin Dey, Newton, Kan.: Irvin rates his 1993 **Stihl** Cut ‘N Trim string trimmer as his “best buy”. “I use it to trim weeds and grass under an electric fence surrounding my pasture. At first I used string with it, but replacing the string was too much trouble so I switched to a 4-pronged, 10-in. dia. metal disc offered by the company. It has 2 1/2-in. long prongs that can be sharpened on each side so if the prongs get dull I just turn the disc over. Saves time that I’d otherwise have to spend winding on new string.”

uid soap and water, leaving me with the cleanest hands around.”

Jo Stec, Long Pine, Neb.: “My 1990 **Preiffert** cattle working tub is a sturdy, convenient system. The panels are high enough that cattle can’t jump over them yet light enough that one person can move them. Cattle flow through the system easily and seem to suffer little stress.”

Everett Lemke, Dahlgren, Ill.: Everett’s happy with his 66-ft. wide, 120-ft. long **Morton** shop building. “It’s easy to heat because the insulation and plastic on it don’t allow any outside air to come through. We use an oil-burning heater to heat it, and the temperature stays the same throughout the entire building without any cool spots.”

On the “worst buy” side, he’s disappointed with his 1993 **Blu-Jet** V-ripper. “It kept breaking shear bolts and three of the five shanks got bent. The points continually broke, and if they didn’t break they wore out too fast. I replaced it with a new **DMI** rig.”

Dayne Wilkinson, Larwill, Ind.: “My 1995 **Deere** 9500 combine is equipped with a self-leveling header which is a big improvement over the old stationary header. It probably saves about 2 bu. of soybeans per acre.”

Paul A. McKie, N. Augusta, S.C.: “It’s a well-designed tractor that’s backed by excellent dealer service,” says Paul, owner of a **Case-IH** 5230 equipped with a 520 front-end loader.

Dave Pohlman, Deshler, Neb.: “I’m satisfied with my 1990 **Honda** 300 4-WD ATV. No problems and I always enjoy using it. However, I wish I didn’t always have to shift gears with my foot - it wears a hole in my shoe. I also wish it had cruise control. I use it with a trailer to haul corn to my cattle and also to spray weeds.”

Edward F. Bowers, Philo, Ill.: Two years ago Edward bought lawn mower blades from **Tri-H Corp.** and says they’re his “worst buy”. “The blades cut well for about 15 minutes, then get dull. One of the blades got bent after I mowed over a small gopher mound. After a half hour of use I removed them and shipped them back to the company within the 30-day warranty period. However, so far I’ve received no refund. I called the company twice but got no action. The blades are made from metal that’s too soft.”

Edward Butcher, Winifred, Mont.: “Our **E-Zee** ‘bloodless’ castrator’ is our worst buy. It’s difficult to crimp the testicles tight enough to cut off the blood supply so that they’ll dry up and drop off. Over half our animals became infected and had to be treated intensively. We’ve used rubber elastator bands on baby calves for 40 years with almost 100% success, so we’re very disappointed with the poor results of this product.”

Fred Berning, Minster, Ohio: Fred nominates his 1995 **Deere** no-till drill as his “best buy”. “It has better seed depth control than other no-till drills we’ve used in the past. The result is more even emergence which helps in weed control because we’re on a postemergence herbicide program. The even emergence is also important to us wherever we reduce herbicide rates.”

Gene Brumbaugh, Cascade, Idaho: “I bought a 1994 **Deere** 4960 MFWD tractor and liked everything about it. Then the dealer called and said the factory had put the wrong bolts inside the rear end. They had to split the tractor apart and remove the cab. When the tractor came back it leaked oil and the hydraulic controls didn’t work.

Vic R. Shefelbine, Wolf Point, Mont.: Vic’s impressed with his 1993 **Belarus** 825 tractor. “I like the low price - less than half that of a comparable horsepower American-made tractor. I use it for all kinds of jobs around my farm. Works great.”

Jim Rehfeld, Holly, Colo.: “I like my **Hillsboro** 24-ft. 300 series flatbed trailer. It’s easy to pull and there’s a lot of room under the gooseneck. The torque axles give it a smooth ride with no bouncing. The trailer is big enough so I can haul large loads of bales without having to stack them too high, and the ramps are handy and easy to install.”

Carl W. Richel, Tensed, Idaho: A 1995 **Kawasaki** Mule 500 utility vehicle rates as Carl’s “best buy”. “I bought it to use around our farm for doing chores but had no idea that it would be so versatile. It’s probably the only machine I’ve ever bought that has completely exceeded my expectations.

“I’m disappointed with my **Wagner** power painting system. It has never worked right. The O-ring in the backpack cover leaks, and it’s almost impossible to get the paint mixed right so that it doesn’t splatter and drip.”

Marion Denlinger, New Paris, Ohio: “I like **Soy Clean** industrial solvent (Interchem Environmental Inc., Overland Park, Kan. 66214). It’s an all-purpose cleaner and solvent that’s 100% biodegradable and is made from American-grown soybeans. It’s the best hand cleaner I’ve found for my shop. It’ll remove almost anything, including dried-on paint. It washes off with a little liq-