

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

Edward F. Bowers, Philo, Ill.: Edward’s disappointed with lawn mower blades made by **Tri-H Corporation**. “The blades cut well for only about 15 minutes before they got dull. Then one of the blades got bent after I mowed over a small gopher mound. After a half hour of use I removed the blades and shipped them back to the company, well within the 30-day warranty. However, I never got a refund. I called the company twice but didn’t even get a reply. The blades were made of material that was too soft. My mower’s original blades work better.”

Bert Rosenbalm, Luttrell, Tenn.: “My best buy is my **GS Superior** 3-pt., double-cutting 7-ft. sicklebar mower (made by Gribaldi & Salvia in Italy and sold by Greene’s Trailer & Equipment, Rt. 2, Box 321A, Hwy. 33 N., Sneedville, Tenn. 37869 ph 615 733-2272). These mowers cost only about half as much as disc mowers and are fast replacing them here in Tennessee. They mow almost as fast as a disc mower and you can use them with a tractor as small as 30 hp. They’re guaranteed not to clog up even in wet, down, tangled, or thick hay and sell for about \$2,000. I’ve used mine for three years and it has worked great. It mows right

Timothy Prestin, Wenona, Ill.: Tim’s impressed with his new **DMI Ecolo-Tiger** 730 tillage implement. “It’s equipped with a front row of 22-in. dia. discs mounted on an independent frame that’s equipped with a hydraulic cylinder, allowing the discs to be raised or lowered to vary residue management. The discs are followed by seven deep-tillage shanks mounted in a ‘V’ formation on 30-in. centers. The discs can be equipped with 2, 7, or 10-in. wide winged ‘Tiger-Points’ that run about 1 1/2 in. under the hardpan to break up soil compaction. Various covering attachments and levelers are available to create the desired residue cover and field appearance. An optional ‘X’ disc frame assembly has individually mounted discs on 15-in. centers that are offset to provide a 7 1/2-in. cut.

“I’ve searched all my life for a tillage implement that I really like and have finally found it. It works good in all field conditions. I really like being able to raise or lower the discs independently on-the-go to control the cutting and mixing action. The discs are independently supported on spindles so there are no arbor bolts to ball up or scrapers to plug. The disc leveler at the rear of the implement prevents ridging so that when I’m done the ground is almost as level as when I started. If I want I can raise the discs up completely off the ground and just use the tool as a ripper and leveler. I plan to buy another one someday.

“I like my **Deere** 9400 combine but I prefer the larger engine used in the 9500.

“My worst buy is my **Ford-Versatile** 850 4-WD tractor. It’s an axle buster. The company should have a program to replace axle housings.”

Walter Reeves, Wilmington, Ohio: Walter’s the owner of a 1989 **Dodge** pickup. “The paint started peeling off soon after I bought it. The company said it would only pay for half the cost of repainting it. They were willing to pay for painting only the bed and hood, even though paint was peeling all over the pickup.

“Another problem is that wind noise inside the cab is so loud that I can hardly hear the radio. Also, the rear view mirror is useless at night due to the angle of the rear window.”

Randall D. Messinger, Bear Lake, Penn.: “My 1986 **International** Cyclo 800 4-row planter places seed uniformly. It’s my best buy.”

Dean McOmber, Van Wert, Ohio: “I’ve been using my 1968 **Deere** 458 grain dryer for almost 30 years and it’s still dependable. I use it as a continuous automatic dryer with a 10 hp electric motor and a 2 hp unloading motor. My total cost for repairs has been less than \$300. I use it to dry about 24,000 bu. each year.”

Dale Gilles, Plum City, Wis.: A 1992 **Deere** 714 Mulch Tiller rates as Dale’s “best buy”. “It goes right through any residue. I put narrow shovels on it whenever I want to leave more residue on the surface. The wide twist shovels do a nice job mixing in field lime.”

Richard Worlie, Conde, S. Dak.: After reading about a calf warmer in **FARM SHOW** made by Robert Hendrickson of Superior, Wis., Richard decided to buy one. He says it’s his “best buy”. “I’ve used it for two years. It’s well designed and well built. I can put a calf in for an hour without having to watch it, which leaves me free to work with the rest of my herd. The heater is located outside the warmer so the calf can’t knock it over if it tries to stand up. Part of the warm air comes in under the calf and

through hay that would clog up a conventional sicklebar mower. One time I used it to mow 5 acres in two hours. I use my Long 360 36-hp tractor or Massey Ferguson 35 32-hp tractor to pull it.

“It looks like a conventional sicklebar mower but it’s definitely not one. The guards are riveted onto a flat bar just like the knives. Guards and knives are belt-driven by a double action crank that has two rods. One rod drives the guards while the other drives the knives. The double cutting action is what makes it cut so great. It lets you mow about as fast as you can drive or as fast as your ground will allow. Every moving part runs on needle bearings so it requires daily greasing.

“The machine has a kickback like any other mower. By adjusting the length of a chain on one side of the mower you can mow at almost any angle which works great on ditches. As the hold-down clips on the cutterbar wear down they can be adjusted with set screws.

“I also like my **Hesston** 530 round baler which I’ve used for over five years with no problems.”

Terry Riegle, Sparta, Mo.: “My 1966 **International** truck is my best buy. I really like the 354 cu. in. Perkins diesel, which is the same engine used in Massey tractors. It gets 8 mpg loaded. I paid only \$1,000 for it. Parts are readily available.”

Fred C. Dunlop, Stayner, Ontario: “One of our best buys is our 1985 **Pontiac** with a 305 cu. in. engine. It has well over 220,000 miles. The 4-speed automatic transmission was replaced at 200,000 miles.”