

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 Hollatz, Garner, Iowa: "I like the **Martin** row cleaners I installed on my planter. They're well made and can be adjusted fairly easily. They work well and have improved my crop stands."

"My 1984 **Deutz-Allis** 8030 front wheel assist tractor is also a best buy."

Daniel Krenzel, Cullman, Ala.: "I bought my 1971 **Plymouth** Duster with 318 cu. in. V-8 engine new. I installed an Allison electronic ignition system in 1976 and it has been in operation ever since with just two plug changes in 120,000 miles. I use Conklin metal base oil 10/30. At 106,000 miles, I replaced the head gaskets and the valves were good. The sleeves didn't even have a ring groove. I closed up the engine and have continued to drive it until today. Runs great."

Jerry Oувerson, Fertile, Iowa: "My 1986 **Micro-Trak** MT-3000 spray monitor is my best buy. I've had few problems with it. It's easy to operate and takes the guesswork out of spraying. The company bent over backwards to help me whenever I had any questions. Their service is outstanding."

Robert Himmerich, Pena Blanca, N.M.: Robert's "best buy" is a tillage tool he made out of a 1950's **Case** S-128 disk.

nothing like the original ones that came with the machine. The only thing common to the two blades is the bolt hole pattern. Now I have to buy 10 more blades to match the eight I've already bought."

Glen Grice, Beechy, Sask.: Glen has over 5,000 hours on his "best buy" 1974 **Deere** 4230 tractor. "It still has the original alternator which has never been repaired. I've never had any trouble with the engine or transmission. It's a real work-horse."

Ronald H. Schultz, Truman, Minn.: "My best buy is my 1993 **Caterpillar** Challenger 75C tractor equipped with 35-in. wide rubber tracks. The tracks reduce soil compaction, cause the tractor to ride smooth, and steer easily, resulting in much less fatigue at the end of a long day."

On the "worst buy" side, Ronald's unhappy with his 1993 **Hobart** Beta Mig 250-amp wire welder. "I've had problems with it ever since I bought it. It's rated to work on a 50-amp breaker, but it kicked out the 60-amp breaker I was using. I had to use an 80-amp breaker to make it work. I sent it back to the company under warranty on three occasions, but they couldn't find anything wrong with it. I also don't like how the welder arcs - it fluctuates and is erratic. I've used several different brands of welders over the past 15 years. This is one of the worst."

Richard E. Frisk, Osco, Ill.: Richard's "best buy of all time" is his 1965 **International** Cub Cadet 70. "I still use it every year to mow my lawn."

Dwain W. Case, Wesson, Miss.: "My 1992 **Vermeer** 505 round baler is the best and simplest baler on the market. It makes nice bales and is easy to operate."

"My 1991 **Fella** 8-ft. mower is my worst buy. A bearing in the sicklebar went out, four oil seals in the gearbox failed, the lift arm pins broke off, and numerous welds broke. All of this happened during one hay season. The following year I bought a **New Holland** mower. I love it."

Thomas N. Johnson, Rossville, Tenn.: "It's the best mower I've ever had," says Thomas, owner of a **Taylor Way** 1500 15-ft. hydraulic batwing rotary mower.

"My new **Case-IH** 900 no-till planter is one of the best planters ever built. It does a good job planting under almost any conditions and doesn't even need no-till coulters. It's truly a fine row crop planter."

Warren Stevenson, Lewis, Ind.: "My **Husky** 18 hp 45-in. riding mower is my worst buy. The 7-in. blade on the left side of the mower is a joke. It doesn't cut right. I think it was added to the 38-in. deck just to use up the available horsepower. I'll never buy another mower that has different size blades. I think three 15-in. blades would have worked much better."

Earl Black, Vonore, Tenn.: "My **New Holland** 411 discbine is my worst buy. A bearing went out which tore the blade apart. I had to replace the complete cutterbar at a cost of about \$3,300. I did all the labor myself. Also, the rubber cover on the crimping rolls came apart and the dealer wouldn't pay for any of the repair cost."

Russell D. Ellerhoff, Sperry, Iowa: "It has all the pep I need and goes 70 miles per hour," reports Russell, pleased with his 1992 **Ford** Tempo 4-door car. "It's a pleasure to drive. It gets 30 mpg on the highway."

Joseph Warren, Maple City, Kan.: "It drives like a dream," says Joseph, pleased owner of a 1985 **Pontiac** Grand Prix. "It turns corners without skidding and the 6-

"We replaced the rear disk gangs with a pair of 2 1/2-in. sq. toolbars which we fitted with 11 **Allis-Chalmers** field cultivator spring tines with twisted chisel points. They throw soil back toward the center of the disk. The center ridge is broken up by a straight chisel point. For less than \$400 we now have an excellent piece of conservation tillage equipment."

"My **Vac-A-Way** seed and grain cleaner/grader is my worst buy. It doesn't develop enough vacuum power to remove light material from the grain. To get acceptably clean seed we have to run grain through it at least three times. We had to reinforce the bagger-elevator in order to keep the sheet metal from collapsing onto the elevator belts and jamming them. For a little more money we could have bought a much better rig."

David Dowling, Lohrville, Iowa: "I think the seedboxes on older **Deere** 7000 and **Kinze** planters should be made from clear plastic so you could see the seed level without having to remove the lid. The lids should seal tighter, and the boxes should have increased capacity and a sloped bottom to get all the seed out."

Bill DeRemer, Conneautville, Penn.: "I'm disgusted with my **Land Pride** 3-pt. pto-driven tiller. I looked at a dozen different 3-pt. pto-driven tillers before I bought it. I broke two blades and couldn't find replacements anywhere. Finally, a local dealer ordered four left hand and four right hand blades. They're made in Italy and are