

BUYING TIPS YOU CAN USE

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

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E. Robert Olson, Moorhead, Minn.: "Our **Concord** 3310 air seeder equipped with a model 2000 fertilizer/seed tank is our best buy. We've used the Concord seeder for three years and have had good, uniform stands of wheat, barley, and soybeans. It lets us do all our seeding and fertilizing in one pass. The big tank allows us to seed a lot of acres between fills and is easy to clean."

Ronald Pearce, Cisne, Ill.: "The **Selectro** 'Row Shut Off' unit on my Case-IH air planter (Wayne Tjeerdsma, Selectro Co., Box 226, Avon, S. Dak. 57315) is a best buy. The system was easy to install and worked better than my greatest expectations."

William Hester, Waukegan, Iowa: A **Deutz-Allis** 6260 tractor heads William's "best buy" list. "Its short wheel base is just the ticket for my semi-mounted 6-row planter and mounted 6-row cultivator. It also shines for pulling my old IH 37 disk, which I rebuilt and weighted. I can do about 6 acres per hour. It goes a long way on a tank of gas, and it has a big, roomy cab with great visibility. Reminds me of being in my living room."

time side, the air-cooled engine should have shutters to keep it running warm on cold days. Also, air flow and heater output could be improved to keep the cab windows from fogging up on cold, cloudy days."

Carl E. Tharman, Atchison, Kan.: "My two best buys are a **Hesston** 560 big round baler I bought used in 1994 and a **New Idea** 5409 disc mower I bought new last year. I used the baler to make 480 bales last year and had no trouble with it. It's so fully automated that anyone could operate it. The New Idea mower worked just beautifully. It went right through anything we wanted to mow."

Harold N. Willmuth, Walnut Ridge, Ark.: Harold nominates a 1986 **M & W Gear** (Gibson City, Ill.) 4 by 5-ft. round baler as his "best buy". "I've made over 7,000 bales with it and all it's ever needed is a couple of light bulbs and one small bearing. It's simple to operate, maintenance-free, and does an excellent job baling. It also costs less than most other balers."

John Carey, Riverton, Kan.: "My **Bosch** sabre saw is one of the toughest tools money can buy. It can be adjusted for use on wood, steel, etc. It cuts through a 2 by 4 in no time at all. I taught vo ag before I retired and we had one in the shop. It took more abuse than you can believe but we never had to repair it once in five years."

Edward Steiman, Triplett, Mo.: "My best buy is my 1975 **Chevrolet** 1/2-ton pickup equipped with a 454 cu. in. engine. It has over 550,000 miles on it and the engine has never been touched. I replaced the transmission at 420,000 miles."

Glenn G. Bremer, Nebraska City, Neb.: Glenn's all-time "best buy" was a 1937 **Deere** Model A tractor he bought used for \$650 when he started farming in 1938. "The only repairs it ever needed were a ring job or two, new spark plugs as needed, and a paint job. When I retired from farming in 1972, it sold for \$3,150 at my sale."

Allen Bjergo, Corvallis, Mont.: A 1982 **Subaru** GL 4-WD is one of Allen's "best buys". "It has 261,000 miles on it and we've had absolutely no engine or transmission problems. We had to replace the front wheel bearings at 260,000 miles, however, because we forgot to repack them."

Lynn Kent, Milaca, Minn.: Lynn's pleased with his **Packard Bell** 486-DX 33 mhz personal computer, **Epson** 3250 AP 24 pin printer, and **Quicken** software. "The computer has plenty of speed and power to keep records on my small farm. The printer does a nice job of printing. The software is great for keeping my checkbook in order and for providing nearly instantaneous totals for preparing taxes. I love the 'memoitized transactions' feature."

Milton Devermann, Harvard, Ill.: "A **DR** trimmer/mower from Country Home Products in Charlotte, Vt., is my best buy. It's a string trimmer on wheels with a battery start Briggs and Stratton gas engine. I've had it for a couple of years and it starts, runs, and works great. I use it to cut grass and weeds along the edges of corn and bean fields where the ground's too rough for a tractor or there's no room."

Donald L. Larsen, Harwood, N. Dak.: Donald's "best buy" is his new **Deere** 7800 MFWD tractor equipped with a 19-speed "powershift" transmission. "The MFWD provides good traction and the gauges are well-placed and big enough to see easily. The cab has good visibility in all directions and a comfortable seat. The engine has very good torque."

Farmers Nominate Best, Worst Buys

OPINION

Leonard J. Juhnke, Sedgwick, Kan.: One of Leonard's "best buys" is his 1992 **Sunflower** 1443 30-ft. self-leveling disk equipped with 26-in. dia. conservation tillage blades on 8 1/2-in. spacings. "It does a perfect job for both primary and secondary tillage under all conditions. Other than a subsoiler-chisel plow, this is the only tillage implement we use. The company backs its products and gives us great service."

On the negative side: "My 1992 **Polaris** 4-WD 350 ATV is my worst buy. The engine keeps seizing up and the company refuses to back its machine, although they did add a fan to try to correct the overheating problem. The new models have a liquid cooled engine, which the company claims will solve the problem."

Jerry Mead, Burwell, Neb.: "The **Jeep Cherokee** we bought new in 1989 is absolutely the best vehicle we've ever owned. We've got over 120,000 miles on it and all we've ever had to do was replace a fuel pump. It starts in any temperature - including 38° below zero - even though it's parked outside. It's also very fuel efficient - 22 to 26 mpg."

Earl H. Martin, Elora, Ontario: Earl's 1993 **Agco-Allis** 8610 4-WD tractor is his "best buy." "It's fuel efficient, always starts right up, and runs smooth. It has 900 hours on it. The electric governor is fantastic - I wish all tractors had it. When you hit a tough spot in the field the needle on the tachometer doesn't even move unless the tractor is overloaded. The economy pto has four speeds, which allows me to save on fuel, engine wear, and noise. On the nega-