

“Best & Worst” Buys

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had all fallen off or doubled over. I sent the fingers back to the company last July and asked for my \$97.50 back. I never heard from them.”

Richard Kimball, Seymour, Mo.: “Our 1990 Dodge 3/4-ton 4-WD diesel pickup is the best truck we’ve ever owned. We’ve put 170,000 miles on it and all we’ve ever had to do is replace two U-joints. We’re proud to ride to church in it.”

“An Oswald TMR mixer we bought in 1991 was our worst buy. We had four of them in three months and none worked right. They were supposed to mix grain and alfalfa but they would bind up with hay or the augers would break. We never knew if they’d work or not.”

Chuck Hodell, Eureka, Ill.: Chuck’s “best buy” is FarmDayta, the electronic information service from Broadcast Partners. “Using the information on markets, options and charts, I’ve paid for the system many times over. Color weather maps show me when to expect rain. And there’s a lot of other valuable farm information.”

“A Cross 4 by 8-in. hydraulic cylinder wore out the clevis end of the cylinder when I used it on my IH disk. After a few hundred acres, it became unusable.”

Walt Stewart, Menahga, Minn.: “My worst buy is a Dahl outdoor woodstove. It’s a tin can with a roof on it. What’s more, it took a cord of wood a week to heat our 4-room home in October. Also, the installer didn’t know the first thing about how to install the stove properly. I replaced it with a Jack Line stove. It heats efficiently and economically and cost only about one fourth as much as the Dahl stove.”

Melvin E. Mason, Atlanta, Ill.: Melvin’s best buy is his Taylor outside wood burning furnace that he installed two years ago. “It heats my house, machine shed and domestic water efficiently.”

Robert B. White, Chrisman, Ill.: A 1994 Millermatic 130 wire welder and 1995 Henrob 2000 gas welder and cutting torch head Robert’s “best buy” list. “The wire welder has been trouble-free. It does a fine job for the price. The cutting torch works as well as the company claims and it’s very versatile.”

“My two worst buys were a 1993 Century 85-amp wire feed welder and Vise Grip Quick Grip welding clamps. It didn’t take much to throw the overload switch on the welder, so I spent all my time waiting to work. The welding clamps do not grip tightly and easily slip off objects I’m trying to hold.”

Gerald Krahn, Warroad, Minn.: “The best buy I ever made was installing Marvin windows in the old farm house my son now lives in and in the new house we built five years ago. The insulated glass helps cut fuel bills.”

“My worst buy was a 12 1/2-hp Cenex lawn mower I bought two years ago. The frame is weak and twists on real uneven ground and then the belts slip. Also, the blades turn all the time even when disengaged.”

Alva L. Hayes, Salem, Ala.: Alva’s “best buy” is his DR trimmer/mower equipped with a 4 hp electric start engine. “It rolls through high weeds with ease. It uses heavy-duty nylon cord and cuts through the

toughest weeds like butter.”

Jerry Wiford, Bellefontaine, Ohio: Jerry’s “best buy” is his 60 by 60-ft. Golden Giant farm shop he put up in 1994. “The shop is insulated and has radiant tube heat. It costs very little to heat it in the winter.”

Jim Zinne, Ryegate, Mont.: “We bought a new Oliver 2255 tractor in 1974 and it gave us trouble every day of the nine years we owned it. I have a list of 30 service calls and endless things I fixed on it. My dealer was helpful, but the tractor should have been replaced. I’ve talked to other owners who had similar stories.”

“My best buy is my 1993 Ford 250 diesel pickup equipped with a 4:10 rear axle and 5-speed transmission. It’s given me 38,000 miles of trouble-free service. Our 1989 Case-IH 7140 tractor is also a best buy.”

Gerald Austin, Salcha, Alaska: Gerald’s unimpressed with his 1991 W-250 Dodge pickup equipped with Cummins diesel. “In 60,000 miles, I’ve had a front locking hub, transfer case seal, and rear axle seal go out. It has less load carrying capacity than my old International pickup. The only good thing I can say is that it gets fairly respectable fuel mileage, about 20 mpg average.”

Clayton Severson, Stewartville, Minn.: A Deere Gator 4-WD purchased a year ago is Clayton’s “best buy”. “It’s really handy around the farm, there’s just no end to its usefulness. If I’m not using it, my wife is.”

Daniel Rion, Prattsville, N.Y.: “Our Badger Northland 3500 truck-mounted vacuum manure tank and pump is one of our best buys. It came in a kit that made it easy to install on our truck. It does a fine job and is easy to maintain.”

Dale Radermacher, Monango, N. Dak.: Dale’s “best buy” is his 1993 Racal AGH1 Airstream Dust Helmet (Elbow Lake, Minn. 800-328-1792). “I use it mainly for chopping straw in my dairy barn. It does an amazing job of providing clean breathing air as well as protecting your eyes from dust. It works much better, and is a

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lot more convenient to use, than a regular dust mask and goggles. This helmet is simply one of the best production-boosting products I’ve ever purchased.”

Bud Merrill, Pine Ridge, S. Dak.: “No farm or ranch should be without a Lightning Charger portable generator. I was so impressed with it after I bought it that I became a dealer. It starts a car with a dead battery in five minutes or less and gets a semi tractor with four 6-volt batteries going in 15 minutes or less. It’s simply the most efficient, economical and convenient generator on the market. Weighs only 16 lbs. I can’t say enough good about it. (CBS Towing, P.O. Box 362, Pine Ridge, S. Dak. 57770).

“No Power” Bale Hauler Is Their “Best Buy”

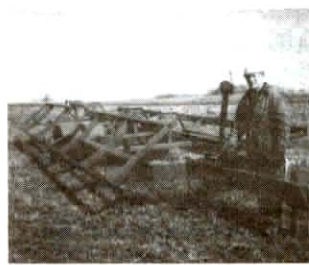
“One of our best buys ever is a big round bale hauler we bought about nine years ago. It’s just a shame the company doesn’t make them any more because they’re so sturdy and so convenient to use with no need for hydraulics or other outside power,” says Bert Loehrer about his easy-unload bale hauling trailer.

Loehrer has a special interest in the handy hay hauler. He and his father, Bill, designed the trailer originally and then had it built at Custom Fabricators, Watertown, S. Dak. The company later started manufacturing the bale hauler.

The trailer is 32 ft. long by 10 ft. wide. It’ll handle eight big round bales, four per side stacked lengthwise.

Bales are easily loaded onto the trailer with the Loehrer’s grapple loader because the trailer rides only 30 in. off the ground. Pulled behind a tractor or pickup, the bale loader can haul a full load of bales down the road at 45 mph.

The best part is that you don’t need



another tractor or loader for unloading. Bale cradles on each side dump at once simply by pulling a lever.

“It’s very heavy-duty,” says Loehrer. “The frame is made out of 6 by 5-in. steel beam and it has dual wheels on each side to support the weight it’s carrying.”

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Bert or William Loehrer, R.R. 1, Box 129, Milbank, S. Dak. 57252 (ph 605 432-5783 or 4342).

Brian Kloeping, Baileyville, Ill.: Brian’s “best buy” is his 1993 Dyna-Drive rotary tillage tool from HCG Inc., of Mendota, Ill. “It’s a great tool for meeting conservation requirements. It allows you to work the seedbed in one pass and still leave 60% residue on the surface. It has few moving parts to wear out since it’s ground-driven. It worked better than any other tillage tool I could have used in the wet spring of 1993. Last year, under ideal conditions, it worked even better. I like it so much I sold my chisel plow and heavy disk.”

O.R. York, Wildwood, Alta.: “I put a Fish carburetor on a 391 Ford engine in a 125 Versatile tractor. When I first installed the carburetor, it ran well at an idle for 15 min. Then it started running rich and kept on that way regardless of any adjustments. After installing a new carburetor from Princess Auto, the tractor ran perfectly. I learned a \$575 lesson.”

Robert Bell, Gardner, N. Dak.: The Morton Building Robert put up for a new shop in 1992 is one of his “best buys.” “The salesman was very helpful with suggestions about which features to add as well as willing to work with us in incorporating our ideas into the plan. The shop was a turn-key contract and Morton Buildings took care of any problems with plumbing, heating or electrical contractors with no hassles. The materials and workmanship that went into our shop are first rate.”

Donald C. Reetz, Webster, S. Dak.: “My 1989 Deere 4755 tractor equipped with MFWD is one of my best buys, as were all the other 13 Deere tractors I’ve owned since 1969. I purchased the 4755 used and have put about 2,200 hours on it without any down time or repairs. I liked its traction, power, handling ease, and comfortable, roomy cab. In fact, I liked the 4755 so much, I traded it for a 1991 Deere 4955, also equipped with MFWD, last winter.”

“One of my worst buys a Rem 1026 grain vac. Since I bought it new in 1992, I have had to repair its belts, bearings, chains, and sprockets, and flex tubing. Trouble is, parts are priced sky high. There must be a 100 to 150% markup to the customer by the time they get through the distribution chain.”

Lyman L. Nuss, Dorrance, Kan.: “I’m very pleased with my 1993 Ford-Versatile 846 tractor. I like the instrumentation,

handling, and power.”

P.A. Lovejoy, Monongahela, Penn.: “I’ve had great luck with my 3-year-old Case-IH 1130 4-WD utility tractor. I’ve put 200 hours on it so far with no problems. I use it to mow around the house and barn, to pull a hay rake and a 6-ft. disk. The 4-WD gives it enough power to get the job done. I also use it to push a lot of snow. I wouldn’t hesitate to buy another one.”

Ken Vogel, Weyburn, Sask.: “My worst buy is a Fish carburetor. I overhauled a motor and put the carburetor on it. Now the motor surges all the time and is harder on gas than with the old 2-barrel carburetor. It has more low-end torque but less power overall. I’ve talked to a dealer in the States but no one seems to care.”

“My 1986 Versatile 836 4-WD tractor is a best buy. It now has 2,100 hrs. and is still in like new condition. It starts extremely well, has good power, and is stingy on fuel. I liked this tractor so much that in 1990 I bought a new Ford Versatile 846 and I now have 1,500 hrs. on that tractor. It’s just as good as the 836.”

Neil Fleischhacker, Humboldt, Sask.: Neil’s pleased with his 1994 Ford Genesis tractor with FWA. “Most new products have some bugs that have to be worked out but we put over 400 hrs. on this tractor the first year without a stop. The tractor is quiet, comfortable, and handles like a dream. Ford was good to work with in regards to leasing. I’d buy another one in a minute.”

On the minus side, he’s disappointed with his 1994 GMC 3/4-ton 4-WD 6.5 turbo diesel. “In the first three months of operation, it had to be towed back to the dealer six times. Part of the problem was the dealer didn’t know enough to change the fuel pump, which is a problem on 6.5 turbo diesels. After changing the computer, lift pump, all filters, and tearing the fuel tank out to look for dirt, he finally changed the fuel pump and our problem was solved.”

What’s your nomination for “best buy”? What’s your nomination for “worst buy”? Please give the make, model and year of each product named and describe your experiences with the product - both good and bad. Send your report, along with your name, address and phone number, to: FARM SHOW, P.O. Box 1029, Lakeville, Minn. 55044.