

BUYING TIPS YOU CAN USE

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

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Michael Mechem, Clarion, Iowa: Michael says he wouldn't run a Deere Maximizer combine without a **Schwerin** concave and finger grate like the one he installed for harvest last fall (Schwerin Concaves, Inc., Rt. 5, Box 314A, Walla Walla, Wash. 99362 ph 800 468-1888 or 509 525-7556). "We bought a Deere 9500 Maximizer a few years ago and all we ever did was grind grain and put it out the straw walkers. Deere factory reps and our local dealer worked and worked to remedy the problem with no success. The Schwerin concave made a dramatic difference, and we're extremely pleased. We've got more capacity, no grain loss, and no more ground grain."

Harry Byrd, Hazlehurst, Ga.: "The tungsten-coated sickle knives from **Mid-Continent Mfg.**, Colby, Kan., that I installed on my IH 810 platform about five years ago qualify as my best buy. They wear very slowly and seem to maintain a sharp cutting edge as they wear, just as advertised. None has ever broken, though one jumped out of a guard one time."

"My 1987 **Poulan** 2800 chainsaw is my worst buy. The engine wore out completely

"I've always used Ritchie waterers which are difficult to fix because they're hard to get into. The Smidleys are simple and easy to repair."

Mark Stupfel, St. Paul, Ore.: Mark's pleased with the **Deere** 3835 3-bottom switch plow he bought new in 1993. "It does a good job of covering crop residue in ground that's been disked first. It seems to break up the soil more than a moldboard plow. In tough plowing conditions I can change the bottoms from a wide cut down to a 14-in. wide cut. Also, the plow's so light my small tractor can lift it."

Clark Jensen, Bennet, Neb.: "Dad's 1979 **IH** 1086 tractor is a definite best buy at our place. It's our main tillage tractor and, even with 5,100 hours on it, the only thing we've ever had to do to the engine was to replace a water pump. The tractor starts at 5 degrees F, the engine has excellent power and torque and doesn't smoke, and it doesn't use over 5 gals. of fuel an hour. It would be hard, I think, for a newer tractor to measure up to this one."

Billy V. Stewart, Brownwood, Texas: Billy's "best buy" is a **Miller** "Legend" welder he bought new in 1994. "It's the quietest and most dependable welder I've ever owned. It will easily handle any size rod and the generator will perform at idle speed, which is a great plus to me. I'd recommend this welder to anyone and would buy another one in a minute."

Alex Chisholm, Auburn, Ontario: A 1979 **Ford** F-250 3/4-ton 4-WD pickup heads Alex's "best buys" list. "It has almost 350,000 miles on it and it still looks and runs great. I put in a 400 cu. in. rebuilt engine at just over 180,000 miles and rebuilt the 4-speed transmission twice. Last year, I had to rebuild the positraction. This truck has been worked hard - I even skid logs with it. It can outpull any tractor up to 65 hp."

Bernard Roberts, Syracuse, Ind.: Bernard is pleased with the **Deere** 750 no-till drill he bought new in 1994. "In our variable and stoney soils, it outperforms all other brands we rented in the past."

Richard Schilling, Kanawha, Iowa: "My 1993 **Dodge** Intrepid is a good solid car with plenty of comfort and room. It drives great and gets the best mileage of any car I've driven in its size class."

Justin Schafer, Portland, Ind.: Justin likes the heavy-duty design of his 1994 **Dixie-Chopper** zero-turn mower equipped with a 50-in. deck and 20 hp Kohler engine. "My only complaint is that it leaves two rows of grass slightly uncut between the center blade and right hand and left hand blades in damp, heavy grass. The center blade should be moved forward a little so the outside blades can overlap it for a cleaner cut."

W. H. Greenwell, Augusta, Kan.: "My 1992 **Zetor** 5245 4-WD tractor equipped with a front end loader has given me three years of trouble-free service."

David Proden, Ladysmith, Wis.: A 1991 **Ford** 8730 tractor and a 1993 **Deere** discbine are two of David's best buys. "The tractor has a transmission that's a dream to shift and the cab is comfortable and quiet. The discbine is a dandy. I can go as fast as I want, and the impellers dry hay just as good as rollers or better."

"My worst buy was a **New Holland** Hydro haybine that I bought new in 1993 for \$14,000. I used it to cut 130 acres of hay and couldn't keep it from plugging up. My dealer tried to fix it but couldn't. He called experts at **New Holland** who came

Farmers Nominate Best, Worst Buys

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after five winters of cutting firewood and cleaning fencerows. I got \$25 in trade on a **Husqvarna** from the same dealer I bought it from."

Harold Crooks, Spearman, Texas: Harold's worst buy is the **Hesston** 5580 round baler he bought new in 1982. "I've kept in shape getting off the tractor to thread twine through the double twine arms, cut the twine when the knives didn't, straighten twisted belts, replace broken axles, put on extra idler sprockets to keep the long chain from flopping off, and unplug the pickup fingers. The only good thing about it is I've only had to replace the bearings on one belt roller."

Donald Sears, Carlisle, Ky.: "The worst buy I ever made was my **New Holland** 630 round baler that I bought new in 1990. Both outside belts would always run up on top of the inner belts. I changed all the belts and that still didn't help. Finally, a roller swallowed one of the belts and that was the straw that broke the camel's back. I'd had the machine only five days and had worked on it four of them. So I loaded it up, took it back to the dealer about 35 miles from here, and told him I'd have it fixed or I'd have my money back. He gave me my money back."

"The next day, I bought a new **Deere** 375 baler, which is one of my best buys. It's been trouble-free, runs quiet, and looks great."

Thomas Wessman, Albert City, Iowa: Thomas didn't believe a friend who told him if he ever bought a **Smidley** hog waterer he'd never use another brand, but he says he found out his friend was right.