

Best & Worst Buys

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280 disc mower and a Lely Lotus 300 tedder and windrower are Robert's best buys. "They're the second of each machine for me. They're easy to maintain and have the hardest surface blades on the market. Even with the worst break down, I've always been able to get back into the field in 6 hours."

Earl Engelbarts, Malcom, Iowa: "Our 3-year-old Case 8360 hay conditioner equipped with stub guards is our best buy. It cuts hay in places where the old one would plug up. We haven't had to replace any parts yet."

Melvin Simpson, Santanta, Kan.: A 1989 Deere 30-ft. disc and a 1990 7130 Case IH 4-WD tractor are two of Melvin's best buys. "We haven't had to replace a single gang bearing on the disc. The tractor is easy on fuel, is easy to drive and has good visibility. We've only had two minor problems with the tractor in the 4,000 hours we've worked it and both problems were quickly taken care of by our dealer."

Richard Backland, Kandiyohi, Minn.: "My 1993 Meyer T55 618 forage wagons and 1992 Case IH 600 forage blower are the perfect combination for my operation. The wagons operate smoothly with no clumping or piling of silage when unloading because they are variable speed augers instead of beaters. The blower moves material up the silo as fast as you can unload it. We have a 90 hp tractor on the blower and when I'm in a hurry, I can unload an 18-ft. load of corn silage in 2 to 3 min. If I'm not in a hurry I can start unloading haylage or silage and go feed calves without worrying if the equipment's going to plug."

Alberta Savage, Kellogg, Iowa: "One of our worst buys was a Bryan wood-burning outside furnace that one of your

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readers recently listed as a best buy in FARM SHOW. The people selling them told us they had all the pipes, baffles, etc., to install the furnace and would help in any way. But they wouldn't even return our phone calls. So we had our L.P. furnace man do the work, and ended up with over \$3,000 in installation expenses."

Robert Northey, Red Deer, Alberta: An E-Kay self-propelled auger mover kit from E-Kay Enterprises, Sedgewick, Alberta, heads the list of Robert's best buys. "We installed the E-Kay mover on a 7-in. dia. by 45-ft. long auger. The kit drives the augers wheels, allowing one person to easily move it around - even through deep snow or uneven ground. A hydraulic motor operates the auger's lift winch, so there's no more hand cranking. A hydraulic cylinder lifts the auger throat up and down making it easier to enter grain bins. It also has a hydraulic outlet that runs our drag auger."

On the negative side, Robert's not happy

with the peeling paint on his 1987 Chevrolet 4-WD pickup. "Our local G.M. dealership could care less about it, even knowing it was G.M.'s lack of quality control that caused the problem."

Elmer Heupel, New Leipzig, N. Dak.: Elmer's best buy is a 1994 New Holland 451 sickle bar mower. "It cuts cleaner and runs smoother than any mower I've ever used."

John Kelly, Tucson, Ariz.: A 1994 Belarus 250 AS qualifies as one of John's best buys. "It's an inexpensive plain tractor that costs just a little more than used 30-year-old junkers. The gearing and engine hp is well suited to my needs - mowing, light plowing, and roto tilling. It has needed a few minor repairs like tightening the steering wheel and rewelding a broken 3 pt hitch stay chain."

Eugene Sellers, Trout Run, Pa.: "Our 1981 Volkswagen diesel pickup is a best buy. It's still in daily service with 192,000 miles on it. I wouldn't be afraid to start for California with it tomorrow. If the fuel tank was full when I did, I would be over 700 miles west of here by the time I had to refuel."

Steve Kuntz, Park, Kan.: Steve's best buy is a Ford 1620 compact tractor with front wheel assist. "It has a good diesel engine and hydrostat which work well for my small lawn rototilling business. At the same time, the tractor has plenty of power to feed a large round bale to my cows."

Wayne Olson, Cambridge, Ill.: Wayne's best buy is a 1994 Deere 6400 equipped with MFWD and loader. "Handling of the tractor and loader is exceptional. The cab provides excellent visibility. And the transmission is perfect for loading manure."

Dwight Michener, Waynesville, Ohio: "My worst buy is a 1980 10-ft. wide Moore no-till drill. Nearly every part was worn out, been replaced, or repaired several times."

LeRoy Schmoekel, Marion, Texas: A 1993 Kinze 2100 4-row 3pt hitch-mounted planter equipped with electronic seed monitor heads LeRoy's best buys. "You can plant at a moderate speed, which is a whole different ball game than any other conservation planter I've ever used."

Rock Francis, Greeley, Colo.: "Green just keeps saving me green," says Rock about his best buy, a Deere 2750 tractor equipped with MFWD he bought new in 1983. "I've done everything with it - haying, plowing, discing with a 14-ft. disc, mowing hay. It does it all."

Henry Webb, Belton, S.C.: A 15-ft. Terrain King batwing mower is one of Henry's best buys. "It does a fine job of clipping pasture, and it's twice as fast as my 9-ft. cutter with the same tractor."

Roland DeVries, Marne, Mi.: "Our best buy is our 1994 Kawasaki 2510 4-WD ATV. We use it every day to haul tools, parts, personnel, etc. We never use more than 5 gal. of gas a week."

Robert Johnson, Canyon, Texas: A DR Trimmer/Mower from Country Home Products, Charlotte, Vt., heads Robert's list of best buys. "Powered by a 5 hp Quantum engine, this mower uses heavy 155 mm. string instead of a blade



Bryan Davis, Derby Line, Vt.: "I made my worst buy ever nine years ago when I bought a Madison silo. Last August, the silo, which was full of first and second cut alfalfa, fell over like a tree sawed off at the bottom. So after nine years of payments on the silo I have nothing to show for it. I lost not only the silo, but my silo unloader was also destroyed, along with the feed room, a conveyor, part of the hay storage barn, and a big percentage of 400 tons of feed. On top of all that, it cost me almost

\$3,000 to clean up the mess.

"Before it fell, the cement staves and hoops appeared to be in excellent condition. The silo sat on a flat and solid foundation. It stood straight and wasn't leaning or twisted. The moisture content of the feed was 67% so the feed wasn't wet or heavy enough to cause undue pressure on the silo.

"Madison Silo Co. and its insurance company can't tell me why the silo collapsed."

for mowing a 22-in. swath. It trims along fences like a weed eater, goes through growing pig weed like a sickle, and cuts wet grass better than a blade. Crankshaft-bending obstacles have no effect on it."

Richard Witkovsky, Caro, Mi.: "We're very pleased with our 1991 Dodge 3/4-ton pickup with Cummins diesel engine. We like its pulling and handling abilities as well as fuel economy. We pulled a 26-ft. travel trailer through Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York and Canada - 1,800 miles, altogether - and got almost 18 mpg."

Gordon Corn, Hendersonville, N.C.: "My best buy is a Mitsubishi MT250D tractor I bought new in 1987. It's done much heavier work than it was designed

"This string trimmer-mower goes through pig weed like a sickle. Cuts wet grass better than a blade."

to do. I pull two moldboard plows at 14-in. deep and subsoil 28 to 30-in. deep and the tractor takes it in full stride. It has plenty of power and a wide selection of road and ground speeds, thanks to a 9-speed transmission. It's been trouble-free."

Bill Sardone, Old Bridge, N.J.: "My best buy is a Belarus tractor I bought through Northern Hydraulics. The tractor is great. Very inexpensive compared to American-built models. The battery compartment is the only problem. Maintenance is difficult on batteries when you have a front-end loader attached."

Bob Grove, Urbana, Ill.: "I'm pleased with a combine reel enlargement kit I bought last year from Reel Mfg. & Sales (Rt. 1, Box 132, Stonington, Ill. 62567). I read about it in FARM SHOW. When I cut millet it fed right through without wrapping on reel ends like before. And there was no carryover of bean stems on the reel. I can see better now and it reaches out in front of the platform further."

BettyAnn Bakos, Denio, Oregon:

"Our 1992 Hesston 1320 swather-windrower is a wonderful, reliable machine that's a joy to use. It effortlessly out-does our Hesston 6600 swather. No down time.

"Another best buy is our 1994 ProAg bale scoop. It's simple to use and reliable and a perfect fit with 750 to 800 lb. square bales. Makes an easy one-man operation out of clearing fields.

"One product we're extremely dissatisfied with is our 1992 New Holland D1000 square baler. It's a \$40,000 machine that needed 10 service calls to produce a total of 5,000 bales in three years. The dealer was helpful but the factory would not stand behind this poorly engineered product."

Dick Bahensky, St. Paul, Neb.: "One of my best buys over the years has been 4-way drying systems from Sukup Mfg. Co., Sheffield, Iowa. I now own two Sukup systems with auto dry computerized grain monitor controllers. They remove moisture from grain with the least labor and upkeep of any system I'm aware of on the market today. I bought my first one in 1970 and then two more in 1983. They've improved the quality over the years. Sukup is family-owned. Service is personal and the quality of workmanship superb."

Sylvester Huse, Warnerville, N.Y.: Heading his "best buy" list is a Deere AMT 600 4-WD 5-wheel utility vehicle. "We bought it about a year ago to help manage grazing of our 100 plus beef brood cows. We affectionately call it our green horse. From May to about Christmas, the AMT carried temporary fence supplies daily. It is possible to get it stuck but you really have to try. A friend says it works like a hovercraft. My son and wife complained that they could never get their hands on it because I had it so much, so we bought another one to use this year.

"There are some problems with the AMT, however. It starts poorly in cold weather. And it's underpowered, which adds to the safety of the vehicle but is frustrating."