

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

Harry Nolt, Lewisburg, Pa.: "I use newspaper for bedding, and the Dynavent bedding chopper with 11 hp Honda engine is my worst buy. The rotor just didn't hold up for chopping paper. Knife holder brackets would break off and really make a mess. I put a third motor in it, then got rid of it."

"My New Holland 640 round baler equipped with Autowrap twine tying system is my best buy. I like how easy it is to hook up, to maintain, and to operate. When you go to the field, you know you're going to get the job done. I had a little trouble with the twine wrapping system at first, but it worked fine after a few minor adjustments."

Joseph Waskiewicz, Amherst, Ma.: "The Allis-Chalmers D-170 we bought new in 1965 is my best buy because it's been so dependable. We had to have a major overhaul done in 1975 but now, 20 years and over 12,000 hours later, it's still running like a top. I'd buy another one if the company still made them or if I could find one at an auction sale."

"My 1989 Chevrolet C-10 2-WD pickup is my worst buy. Just about everything except the engine had to be replaced, including ball joints, distributor, and 4-speed automatic transmission. Luckily, a very

breaks down."

Jim Lacey, Dell Rapids, S. Dak.: "We have a 1994 3/4-ton Dodge 4-WD pickup with Cummins engine that has over 42,000 miles on it. It's my best buy, a really outstanding piece of equipment."

Francis Deters, Seneca, Kan.: Francis had had bad luck with his Sears Craftsman V5 1/4-in drills and 6 to 7 1/2-in. high speeds grinders. "The 1/4-in V5 lasted about two hours; the 3/8-in. about 150 hours before the armature burned out. My four Craftsman high speed grinders each lasted from 18 to 21 hours. Sears sent me a new one and that lasted around 10 hours. It'll be my last one. I'll never even look at a Sears catalogue again."

"I always had good luck with Chevrolet trucks. My old 1975 inline 6 cyl. started like a charm and was a real mountain climber. My 1988 Chevy 4.3 liter V-6 gets 24 mpg on dirt roads, 27 mpg on the highway, and 31 mpg with a tailwind. It doesn't start as well as the inline 6, maybe because the firing order in the V-6 is kind of crazy."

Dean Begg, Columbus Grove, Ohio: "Whoever designed the 1993 Krause Model 4706-R3 High Residue Cultivator did a great job. I have a 6-row (30-in.) model and weeds just don't get by it. It's one of the heaviest cultivators I've ever hitched to, requiring a sizeable tractor to pull it. Adjustments are easy."

Oliver Drummond, Keota, Okla.: Oliver's happy with his Campbell Housefeld 60 HZ air compressor. "It's got quick air pressure recovery and maintains good steady pressure for painting, spraying, and degreasing. It's given me two years of solid service with nothing but an oil change and lube every year. It also provides plenty of power for sand blasting."

"My worst buy is a toss-up between my Murray 12 hp. 38-in. cut side delivery mower and my Craftsman sand blaster from Sears. The mower throws grass everywhere and won't cut grass with more than a week's growth without stalling. The sand blaster works poorly and it's almost impossible to get new nozzles for it."

John Leidenix, McLaughlin, S. Dak.: "I traded my trouble-free New Holland 850 baler in for a New Holland 853 baler that sold for \$17,500. It didn't cut the twine properly right from the start, and the pickup sheared a pin for every bale made. The bale command controls don't work right. I spent \$1,300 for a new alternator, new batteries, and rewiring but it didn't help. The problem is that the computer won't hold what's programmed into it. The dealer can't fix it and won't replace it. He blamed the dust, the hay, and the operator, but never the baler. The only way I can bale is to override the computer."

Art Thomas, Stryker, Ohio: Art counts his Glencoe Soil Finisher equipped with Nok-On Shovels as his best buy. "I like the one pass-and-plant seedbed preparation it offers me. The Nok-On Shovels are quick and easy to change. It handles high residue well, too."

Kenneth Brecht, Moorcroft, Wyo.: "It's lightweight, dependable, and has a lot of power," says Kenneth, pleased with his Stihl 038 chain saw. "The electrical system failed but my dealer replaced it at no cost."

David Warburton, Chinook, Mont.: "I like my 1994 New Holland 660 round baler. It bales everything I ask it to. If it had a wider pickup it would definitely be the best round baler on the market."

Harvey Melcher, Friendswood, Texas: Harvey's two best buys are his 1994 Deere 265 riding mower and his 1991 2555 Deere tractor. "I do custom mowing and landscaping so I use my equipment every day. These two latest Deere purchases are, to-date, trouble-free. The tractor has a detachable front end loader, also trouble-free. I use a 10-ft. and a 15-ft. flex mower deck and the

good Chevy dealer took care of most of the problems, but I don't know that I'd ever buy another Chevy pickup."

Henry Nelson, Towanda, Kan.: "In 50 years of driving my 1993 Dodge Intrepid is the worst car I've ever owned. When driving down a fresh-graded gravel road, dust comes in everywhere. After about 50 miles, you can write your name on the rear armrests in dirt so thick you can't tell what color they are. Chrysler told me it was the car's design and there was nothing the company could do. In trying to diagnose the problem, we drove other Intrepsids, Concord and Eagles and the same thing happened, so I traded it off after owning it for just a year and a half."

Frank Allen, Kenton, Tenn.: Frank's more than pleased with the Chevrolet Silverado 4-WD pickup he bought new in 1993. It now has 30,000 miles. "It drives and rides like a Cadillac with plenty of head and shoulder room. Its 350 cu. in. engine is extremely powerful and gets better than 18 mpg, almost twice what my old Ford 4-WD pickup got. I'll never buy another Ford."

"My worst buy was a Case-IH Magnum 7130 tractor equipped with front-wheel-assist. The hydraulics are a joke. The power lift leaks down while the tractor is in operation. You have to push the lift lever down and then pull it back up to reset it. It sometimes blows the hose end out of the outlets when lifting an implement. The engine had to be overhauled at 2,000 hours. It drives and rides like a log wagon compared to Deere tractors I've owned."

O.R. Hutchinson, Vermillion, Alberta.: "The Versatile 876 4-WD we bought in 1985 is the best 4-WD tractor, as far as fuel consumption, we've ever had. And it never