

## BUYING TIPS YOU CAN USE

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

By: Mark Newhall  
Editor

Bill Gergen  
Associate Editor

Jim Houtsma  
Associate Editor

**Howard Prough, Carrollton, Ill.:** Howard purchased a **Farm Drainage Plows** tractor-pulled tile plow last year after reading about it in FARM SHOW (Farm Drainage Plows, 909 4th St. N.W., Waverly, Iowa 50677). "We're really happy with it and have used it to lay more than one mile of tile. We can tell it works because we can see water running out of all the lines of tile we laid. We couldn't have hired anyone to do a job this small."

On the "worst buy" side, "Our **International** 735 variable width plow has been welded on many times. The hydraulic hoses aren't made strong enough to handle the load and it does an uneven job of plowing."

**Dean Wolf, Spring Creek Farms, Inc., Howard, Ohio:** Dean's disappointed with his **Kinze** 2000 planter. "We had planted only a few acres when the drive coupler on one of the row units began to cause us problems. We replaced it, but it's still a problem. A small cotter pin on the single fertilizer opener sheared off, allowing the lock nut to work loose and ruin a seal. We had a hard time finding one to replace it. We called several dealers with no luck.

buy. It has never been in the shop, except for updates."

**Brad Becker, Alta Vista, Kan.:** A 1994 **Vermeer** 604 Super J round baler rates as Brad's "best buy". "It's a quiet, smooth running baler that makes a heavier bale than the 605F model that I traded in. I really like the 'equal-fill' electronic control system. It's very dependable."

On the negative side, Brad lists his 1992 **Case-IH** 5140 front wheel drive Maxxum tractor. "Overall, I've been well pleased with it except for an electrical short in the powershift transmission that the dealer can't seem to find. You almost need an electrical engineer to repair this tractor."

**Greg Geiger, Morton, Ill.:** "It's hard to fill this grain drill if you don't have an auger system," says Greg, who's otherwise pleased with his 1994 **Deere** 750 no-till grain drill. "It has great depth control at all speeds and produces excellent stands."

"My 1994 **White** 6100 planter spaces seed accurately and also produces excellent stands. However, the transmission is somewhat clumsy to use and the hopper lids leak insecticide whenever the planter is folded vertically."

"My worst buy is my **Deere** 350 mower. The cutter bar is difficult to raise into transport position - it should be powered by a separate hydraulic system. Also, it's difficult to hook up the quick hitch to the drawbar lift mechanism."

**Ralph F. Johnson, Ada, Mich.:** Ralph's the satisfied owner of a 1970 **Bobcat** 500 skidsteer loader. "It works good. My only complaint is that the engine is a little underpowered. I've had to overhaul it three times."

**Tom House, Killbuck, Ohio:** "It's the best handling, most trouble-free motorcycle I've ever owned," says Tom, pleased with his 1995 **Honda** Gold Wing. "This is my fifth Gold Wing, and they've all been trouble-free. They're made in Ohio with American labor."

**Robert Gill, Shullsburg, Wis.:** "I've owned several Ford pickups and a couple of Chevrolets over the years that were okay, but this is one terrific pickup," says Robert about his 1994 **Dodge** Ram 1500 pickup equipped with a 360 cu. in. engine and automatic transmission. "It has 10,000 miles on it. I've checked the fuel economy three times and it's been 18 mpg every time. It rides as well as most cars."

**Mark Miller, Belvidere, Tenn.:** "I bought an **Echo** power blower in 1992. My brother and I use it to clean the dust off our chicken houses. We also use it to clean off our tractors, pickups, etc. It works much better than the **McCulloch** power blower we had been using. That one ran only for a little while and then quit because of a bad piston."

**Roger Kuntz, Grainfield, Kan.:** "Our **Gleaner** C11 combine is our best buy. We like the all-mechanical controls and ease of maintenance and repairs. It's a reliable machine that has performed without costly breakdowns year after year. I also bought one for my son to drive. We do some custom work with it."

"We like **Honda** products ranging from 3-wheeler ATVs to trail bikes and generators. Honda engines are built with more quality than any other engine we've used."

**Philip Geissen, Moulton, Texas:** Philip likes his **New Holland** 185 box manure spreader and **New Holland** 306 side delivery spreader. "Both spreaders work great. No problems with either one. The side delivery model does an excellent job of

# Farmers Nominate Best, Worst Buys

## OPINION

"Our dealer no longer sells this planter. I talked to one of the factory men at a farm show and explained my problem, but it didn't help."

"My 1994 **Ford** F-250 Supercab 4-WD is a great pickup. It rides, handles, and performs well and looks nice. We love it."

**Terrell Webster, Houston, Texas:** "One of our best buys is our **Deere** walk-behind lawn mower. My wife is a very tiny woman but she can start it without help. After three years it still always starts on the second pull."

**Elmer Beiler, Paris, Tenn.:** Elmer's "best buy" is his 1992 **Case-IH** 5130 Maxxum tractor. "We're well pleased with it. It has performed beyond our expectations. It handles great, runs cool, and has an outstanding 3-pt. hitch. The powershift transmission really shifts smooth. It's built a lot better and heavier than anything built by competitors even though they all try to copy it. We'd recommend it to anyone. No problems at all after almost 2,000 hours of use."

"We're also pleased with our 1991 **Dodge** W250 4-WD pickup equipped with a Cummins diesel engine. It'll pull almost anything we hook up to it. It's easy on fuel and is a tough pickup that's well suited for farm use. Starts easy in cold weather. It has 104,000 miles but still runs like new."

**Joe Doyle, Holton, Kan.:** "My **Deere** 4430 tractor has 8,000 hours and is my best