

## BUYING TIPS YOU CAN USE

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

by Harold Johnson  
Editorial Director

Mark Newhall  
Editor

Bill Gergen  
Associate Editor

**Stanley Foote, Peru, Ill.:** "My Wick pole-type machine shed is one of my worst buys. The roofing and siding started rusting after 7 years and the roof has always leaked. The contractor died soon after the shed was built. I approached the company several times at farm shows and they promised to have someone contact me but no one ever did. I called the company several times and was always told that the person I should talk to was gone. The shed had a 10-year warranty on the metal. Now the company advertises a 20-year warranty. It's probably no better than the 10-year warranty."

**Roslyn M. Galloway, Roebuck, S.C.:** "One of my best buys ever is my Brillion 15-ft. Sure Stand coultter-packer. It seeds, packs, and levels the ground and helps get crops off to a week's earlier growth. It weighs 3,800 lbs. and is maintenance-free. It does a beautiful job preparing soil for seeding alfalfa and leaves the ground level for my disc mower."

**Wilbur Tiahart, Meckling, S.Dak.:** Wilbur's generally satisfied with his Remington electric chain saw equipped with a 16-in. bar. "It's safe to use because it stops whenever you take your hands off the trigger. It's light and easy to handle and the 2 1/2 hp motor has plenty of power.

economy is good, too, at an average of nearly 20 miles per gallon."

**Lawrence Eilts, Cumberland, Iowa:** "My 1994 Schweiss riding lawn mower works fast without bunching up the grass and has a zero turning radius. It's also easy to operate. My kids can run it."

**Tom Wilson, Lamona, Wash.:** Tom's happy with his 1994 Morris 9100 field cultivator. "It has a floating hitch tongue that lets it penetrate soil evenly from front to rear even on contoured land. It has good trash clearance and an excellent hydraulic system. Works much better than other brands that I've used in the past."

**Victor Pflueger, Red Bud, Ill.:** "My best buy is the Farmall H tractor my dad bought when I was 16 years old. I've used it for 53 years. It has had two overhauls but very few other repairs. It does mostly light work now but I still use it almost every day.

"My 13-year-old Echo SRM 200 trimmer is a best buy. It's had only one tune-up. I've used it a lot to trim grass under electric fences. It takes a lot of punishment - I can't wear it out."

On the "worst buy" side, Victor lists his International 37 wheel disk. "It doesn't work level and leaves the field full of ridges. It should be used for building levees, not for tillage work."

**Wayne Harter, Wakarusa, Ind.:** A 1990 Case-IH 5130 tractor heads Wayne's "best buy" list. "It handles beautifully and is a dependable, economical tractor. We've put almost 3,000 hours on it.

"My 1991 New Holland 553 skid steer loader's been in the shop or repaired on my farm an average of every 50 hours. It has less than 1,000 hours. The biggest problem is with leaky seals or O-rings. It costs \$130 to \$180 each time to repair. I like the Kubota diesel engine, but not the problems."

**Raymond Burke, Stromsburg, Neb.:** "I'm happy with my 1992 Ford F-150 extended cab pickup equipped with a 302 cu. in. fuel injected engine and an automatic transmission with overdrive. It's easy on fuel and drives comfortably. It has 76,000 miles with no problems."

**Harry A. Cox, Rosburg, Ohio:** "My best buy is my 1994 Plymouth Voyager van. It gets 27 mpg on the highway and handles well. No problems. This is my third Voyager van since 1987 and they've all been trouble-free."

On the "worst buy" side, Harry's unhappy with his 1992 Noma riding mower. "It's hard to keep it cutting level and it's poorly made. The 4-wheel steering system should be greasable."

**Jeff Meyer, St. Olaf, Iowa:** Jeff's impressed with his 1994 Stihl RE102 power washer. "It's handy to use, lightweight, and the pressure setting can be adjusted from 100 to 1,200 psi. The nozzle can be adjusted with just a twist of your wrist. It does an excellent job and is reasonably priced."

**Roger Feese, Alma, Neb.:** "Two years ago I bought a Homelite lawn mower. It broke down and was sitting idle for two months because it needed a new throttle cable which the company back ordered. However, whenever I call customer service all I get is a recorded message. I'd like to talk to a human being."

**Henry N. Gammon, Providence, N.C.:** "My 1992 Dodge Dakota club cab pickup rides as smooth as a car. The 5.2-liter engine has all the power I need and easily pulls a heavy trailer. I traded in my 1988 Chevrolet pickup, which was a real lemon. It had to have new valves, seals, heads, and intake but still blew smoke. It had only 38,000

However, it's hard to get enough oil onto the chain. You have to use your thumb to operate the oiler as you run the saw."

**Don Ward, Chula, Mo.:** Don bought a used Deere 7000 no-till planter and says it's his "best buy". "Works great and distributes seed corn evenly.

"My 1994 Ford F-150 SuperCab pickup has an excellent cab and rides comfortably. I'm impressed with how the back seat folds down to carry luggage, etc. The 351 cu. in. engine is fuel efficient."

**Ron Ingram, Charlestown, Ind.:** A 51 by 99-ft. pole barn from Borkholder Buildings (Nappanee, Ind.) rates as Ron's "best buy". "The building was completed as promised in December 1992. I was impressed with the quality of materials and with the construction crew. They took pride in their work and turned out a well-built barn. It had a few minor problems that were quickly corrected by the dealer."

**LaVern Winter, Church Hill, Tenn.:** A Belarus 57 hp 4-WD diesel tractor heads Lavern's "best buy" list. "I like everything about it, especially the front-end loader. It's the most fuel efficient diesel tractor I've ever owned. I'm well pleased with it."

**Todd Maxedon, Sullivan, Ill.:** Todd leased a 1992 Chevrolet CK1500 1/2-ton 4-WD pickup and is impressed with it. "I have a lawn care service and use it to haul my mowers around. The 4.3-liter 6-cyl. engine has plenty of power and the rubber floor in the cab is easy to keep clean. Fuel

# Farmers Nominate Best, Worst Buys

## OPINION