

## 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

**Covert Henry, Union, Miss.:** "My 1992 Belarus 400AN tractor is the worst buy I ever made. It had problems from the beginning. I use this tractor to mow, rake hay and feed round bales. The first year the fuel injector pump failed three times (fuel leaked into the engine). The bearing in the front steering gearbox failed so I had to replace the gearbox. The temperature gauge stopped working the first week I had the tractor. A seal in the front wheel leaked as did a hydraulic lift cylinder, which had to be replaced. A nut fell off the air blower shaft and later the shaft itself broke. I had to install a new master battery switch.

"During the second year, the engine would often run backwards when I started it up. I had to replace the batteries and put in a fourth fuel injector pump (the tractor was in the shop for five weeks that time). The main clutch finger spring broke and a hold-down pin came off another clutch finger. The tractor now has 430 hours on it."

**Lawson Jones, Webster, N. Dak.:** Lawson's generally satisfied with his 1993 Deere 7800 tractor but has had a few problems. "The powershift transmission is extremely jerky at times. I wish I could operate hydraulics and the pto from the back of the tractor like I could with my old Deere. The

**Lawrence Jost, Garden City, Texas:** Lawrence likes his Case-IH 7150 Magnum tractor. "It's a good, reliable tractor that's easy on fuel. A real work horse. All five of our Magnums have been reliable."

On the negative side, Lawrence lists his 1990 Ford F-250 pickup equipped with a 7.3-liter diesel engine. "It's a real lemon. No dealer could solve the problems we had with this truck."

**Fay L. Pemble, Columbia Falls, Mont.:** "My best buy is my Farmhand F-11 front-end loader. It's the most labor-saving piece of machinery I've ever owned. I use it to pick up bales in the field, load them onto a wagon, unload them into sheds, and then load them onto a truck for feeding. I also use it for dozens of other jobs around our place including snow removal."

**Craig Sedlmayr, Stoddard, Wis.:** Craig's impressed with his Mountain Lion 6-WD ATV (Mountain Lion Outdoor, Inc., Walker, Minn). It has walking beam rear axles, power steering, shift-on-the-go transmission, live hydraulics, and a front hydraulic lift for mounting a mower, snow plow, and engine-powered snowblower. It also has a hydraulic dump box that can be equipped with a toolbox on each side and can be outfitted with a rear-mount scraper blade. It comes standard with side-by-side bucket seats. "It does a good job of plowing snow and mowing my lawn. Works great for hauling small loads without leaving a heavy footprint. The dump box makes one end of the trip enjoyable, at least."

**Craig Stokes, Dubuc, Sask.:** "We had a problem with clearance under the front axle of our Leon 850 land scraper so we cut about a foot off the gooseneck, and then turned the axle upside down and reattached the gooseneck. As originally built, the low-slung axle often dragged along the ground. Turning it upside down leaves plenty of clearance."

**Bryan Moeller, Dayton, Iowa:** Bryan nominates his 1975 Deere 12404-row plate planter as his "best buy". "It's an excellent planter. The gears and row spacing are easy to change. It has worked almost flawlessly except for a minor problem with the chains that switch the markers. It's one of the best planters ever built."

**M.H. Koltun, Lively, Ontario:** "My 1994 GM Bonus cab short bed pickup equipped with a 6.5-liter turbocharged engine gets only 17 mpg empty on the highway. The 1993 models got about 23 to 24 mpg. The company won't admit there's a problem."

**Hollis R. Cummings, Pulaski, Tenn.:** "I'm 82 years old and have been using chain saws ever since they were invented. My Husqvarna 42D equipped with a 20-in. cutting bar is the best all-around chain saw I've ever used. Starts good and keeps running without having to be cranked up all the time. It's a godsend to a man with a crippled right arm. It does everything it's claimed to do and then some. We use it on dried-out Osage orange trees. They're really hard to cut."

**Kenneth H. Ferguson, Riceville, Iowa:** "I like my 1989 White 100 FWA tractor. It has 2,000 hours on it. I had some problems with the fuel injector pump at first, but the company promptly solved the problems."

"A wheel bearing went out at 19,000 miles on my 1989 Ford F-150-4-WD pickup. The company and dealer said the bearing wasn't part of the drive train so it wasn't covered by the warranty. I had to pay for the repair myself. Then the paint started falling off and the dealer wouldn't do anything

hydraulics work extremely well. We put a vertical boom in the middle of the bucket on our Deere 158 loader to lift things. We ran a support chain back from the boom to the back of the bucket."

**Francis Simmers, Jamestown, N. Dak.:** A 1992 Kawasaki Mule 500 rates as Francis's "best buy". "It's a useful yard truck. We use it for garden work, hauling wood, etc. It has a large dump box and it's easy for an older person to get on and off."

**John Schumacher, Mitchell, S. Dak.:** John's happy with the 1986 Du-Al 345 loader he bought used 3 years ago. "It's one of the best machines I've ever bought. I haven't had any problems with it bending or breaking except for one weak spot where the grapple fork bolts onto the bucket. It's a well-built, rugged loader."

**Chuck Benhoff, Farmville, Va.:** "I like my Haywrap round bale plastic wrapper (Haywrap Inc., Box A, Bloomsdale, Mo. 63627). It sells for \$2,495 which is much less than other bale wrappers. I liked it so much I became a dealer."

**Ross Lunn, Wallacetown, Ontario:** "We bought our Deere 7800 MFWD tractor a year ago and have about 600 hours on it with no problems. It has a lot of power and I really like the power quad transmission. I also like the front wheel assist."

**Greg Briggs, Aspers, Penn.:** "My 1992 Deutz-Allis rotary hay rake never has a wrapping problem and it allows hay to dry much faster with less leaf loss. We're pleased with it."