

BUYING TIPS YOU CAN USE

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

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Danny Nieforth, Milford Station, Nova Scotia: Danny's had trouble with his 1992 Case-IH 695 tractor equipped with front-wheel assist. "This tractor was jinxed from the start. We used it for only two hours before the internal shifting linkage came undone, preventing the tractor from moving either forward or backward. The left front tire had a slow leak, the tachometer cable broke, and the emergency brake mechanism fell apart while I was driving the tractor down the road. The left main cylinder on the loader developed a leak. The hydraulic system filter plugged up at 20 hours, and the hydraulic pump had to be replaced at 80 hours. These problems happened while the tractor was under warranty and were corrected without any direct cost to us other than the loss of our tractor for about 60 days.

"However, after the warranty expired, the hydraulic filter plugged up again so we sent hydraulic oil samples away to be analyzed. The report showed that the oil was very dirty. It contained metal flakes as big as half a fingernail, and metal particles 40 or 50 microns in size were circulating through the hydraulic pump. We flushed out the hydraulic system by running diesel fuel through it for about 5 minutes and changing

sawmill and sharpening package and says it's his "best buy". "It's a well-built machine that performs well. The company is helpful and has a toll-free phone number to call if I ever have problems."

Ralph W. Ward, Cridersville, Ohio: An Easy-Cut cutterbar kit for combines from Argis Ltd. (Listowel, Ontario ph 519 291-4205) is Ralph's "best buy". "About halfway through soybean harvest I ran into a field with patches of heavy grass. The double cut system on our combine hammered excessively and cut poorly so I installed the Easy-Cut cutterbar which has every other sickle section turned upside down. It cut smooth and clean at the same ground speed that I use when in a clean field. I think it's the best cutterbar system on the market."

Dick Koerlin, Gary, S. Dak.: "My best buy is a used 22-in. TroyBuilt tiller that I bought at an estate sale. I changed the oil and grease, put gas in, and went right to work. It does everything the company says it will do. I can steer it with one hand, although I have to use two hands to turn at the end of the garden."

Eugene Schellinger, Hartford, Wis.: Eugene likes his 1993 Kawasaki Mule 2510 4-WD. "It's easier to use than an ATV and the large cargo bed makes it more versatile around the farm. We sold our conventional ATV when we got the Mule and haven't regretted it for a minute."

S.P. Burton, Ridgeville, Ind.: He likes his 1993 Brillion disk chisel equipped with curved shovels. "The discs in front cut through corn stalks, straw, and debris. The long spring curved shovels loosen the soil deeper than a moldboard plow and leveler."

Don W. Langmaid, Newton, Iowa: "It does a good job and is easy to service," says Don about his 1990 Case-IH 1460 combine. "I use a 20-ft. grain head and a 6-row, 30-in. corn head with it."

David L. Millsap, Abingdon, Va.: David owns a 1993 Ford 7740 SL front wheel assist tractor and says it's his "best buy". "It has a lot of power for its size and is easy to handle. The cab has two large doors that make it easy to get in or out. It's fuel efficient, has excellent lights, and rides comfortably."

"My worst buy is forage harvester chains made by Shoup Mfg. The chains are connected by a Master Link equipped with 'S' hooks. Grass unbent the 'S' hook and allowed a chain to go into the cutting drum of our chopper. It did quite a bit of damage. A riveted link would eliminate this problem."

Larry Reindahl, Clear Lake, Wis.: Larry's pleased with his Westendorf 26 Quik Tach loader. "It's easy to hook up to the tractor. By pulling two lock pins I can change buckets from the tractor seat in seconds. It's the best loader I've ever owned."

Herb Beckman, Pennock, Minn.: "Our worst buy of all time is our Wick pole-type machine shed. The roof has leaked like a sieve from day one. The company said we should go back to the contractor, but we found that they had taken away his franchise. Repeated calls produced no results so we went to the company's booth at the Minnesota State Fair and complained. Of course, they didn't want us complaining there so they promised to come out to our place. That was several years ago and they haven't been here yet."

Anton N. Steiner, Mott, N. Dak.: "In January 1993 we bought a 1990 Buick LeSabre Limited car loaded with all the options. We're well-pleased with it. It gets

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the filter, followed by straight base stock for about an hour with another filter change.

"Our most recent oil analysis report showed contamination has been reduced to acceptable levels. The oil in the tractor now has been used for about 150 hours. We'll change it at about 200 hours just to make sure we get all the dirt out. The tractor has worked like a charm ever since we flushed out the hydraulic system. From now on, before we buy any new motorized equipment we'll have oil samples from the engine, transmission, and hydraulic system sent away for analysis before the machine ever leaves the dealer's lot.

"Our 1992 Kverneland Silagrip loader attachment is a best buy. It's designed to be used on both wrapped and unwrapped silage bales. The double-acting hydraulic cylinder and ball bearing-mounted rotating spike sleeves allow wrapped bales to be lifted without ripping the plastic. The sleeves can be replaced with double spears when handling unwrapped silage bales."

James Bernard, Wabasso, Minn.: "My 1993 H & S manure spreader is my worst buy. It's supposed to haul both liquid and solid manure. However, it leaked liquid manure like a sieve and we had to plug it up with rags. The dealer mounted some plastic rings on the augers which helped some, but it still leaks. I think the dealer or company should take it back, but it's paid for so neither one of them will do anything."

Louis Paap, Grand Rapids, Mich.: Louis owns a 1989 Woodmizer LTHD 40