

## 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

**Arlen Bonde, Kathryn, N. Dak.:** Arlen nominates his 1989 Ford TW-35 front wheel assist tractor as his "worst buy". "Judging by the way they designed the radiator screen, they must have thought this tractor would be driven only on the highway. There are big gaps on the corners of the screen that let in pieces of straw. Also, pieces of straw kicked up by the front tires get sucked in under the fuel tank. On windy days I have to clean out the radiator two or three times.

"The air filter design inside the cab is a joke. The filters are secured by small plastic holders, but there's no way to adjust them to get them tight and so much dirt gets sucked into the cab that it won't stay clean. One of the plastic holders broke, allowing a filter to fall out, and I accidentally drove over it with the tractor.

"The engine leaked oil and anti-freeze onto the front wheel assist driveline and made a mess. The seat is poor quality and ripped after only one year. The tractor is underpowered and uses too much fuel. The transmission gears are so close to each other in speed that one third of them are useless. The hydraulic levers are poorly positioned and won't stay in their proper settings. The hydraulic system leaks a gallon of oil per day. The tractor was supposed to come with a 3-year warranty, but our dealer wouldn't

most every weekend in winter. In summer we pull a rotary mower behind it. I can't believe how much traction this little tractor has."

**Linwood R. Thompson, Tenants Harbor, Maine:** "The front brakes on my 1986 Ford F-250 4-WD diesel pickup are noisy. I had to replace the 'anti rattle clips' three times in 71,000 miles. Otherwise, this pickup has been mostly trouble-free except for a problem with air getting into the fuel system. I couldn't find what was causing the problem so I disconnected the original fuel tanks and hooked up a 55-gal. drum that I mounted in the bed behind the cab. I used it that way for two years. Last summer I reconnected the fuel tanks and haven't had any trouble since then.

"My 1991 Deere 1070 diesel tractor starts better and faster than any other diesel tractor I've ever used. Starts right up whether it's hot or cold. It's equipped with wet brakes and a synchromesh transmission. I use it mostly for rototilling and mowing. I'd like the transmission better if there was another gear between third and fourth. Third gear goes 1.8 mph and fourth gear goes 3.4 mph. Also, I wish it had overdrive so I could go 17 or 18 mph on the highway."

**Barry Denison, Metcalfe, Ontario:** "My 1977 Massey Ferguson tractor is excellent. It has 5,000 hours of everyday use and the powertrain is 100% original. It's a pleasure to drive, has a lot of power for its size, and is easy on fuel. I'd definitely buy another one.

"My Deere 111 riding mower is my worst buy. The first year it ran like a Deere, cutting our 1/2-acre lawn every week. However, the second year the engine suddenly seized. Our dealer installed a new short block engine for \$800, and the company refused to help pay for the cost. One of the dealer mechanics told me this wasn't the first time this problem had happened. The next year the same thing happened again. We traded it in for a Roper 18 hp model. We're very satisfied with it after two years of use."

**W.A. Leritz, Sugar Loaf, N.Y.:** "My 1991 Dodge 250 4-WD pickup, equipped with a Cummins diesel engine and automatic transmission, is my best buy. It gets 22 mpg using no. 2 diesel fuel in summer and a combination of no. 2 and no. 1 in winter. Pulls anything I put on or behind it and is responsive. Starts right up in temperatures down to 10 degrees below zero. I love how it sounds.

"My Howard Rotovator 70-in. wide, 3-pt. tillage implement is a best buy. It has curved (not L-shaped) tines so it doesn't leave a plow pan. Easily handles large stones and is offset to cover wheel tracks. It's built heavy and solid."

**Donald J. Brungardt, Clear Lake, Wis.:** Donald's pleased with his 1992 Century 230 amp arc welder. "It does a nice job. Easy to strike an arc and once I get it going it holds the set temperature well, unlike some other welders that keep burning hotter and hotter. It's also compact in size. My only complaint is that the ground cable and electrode holder cables are only about 4 1/2 ft. long. Also, I don't like the welding helmet that comes with it."

**Larry Enfield, Goodland, Kan.:** A 1990 International 235 front wheel assist tractor equipped with a loader rates as Larry's "best buy". "It's so compact it's easy to haul from job to job. When I bought it I thought it was too small to do much work, but hardly a day goes by that we don't use it. Front wheel assist lets it do the work of a much larger tractor."

fix anything without charging us for it. The adjustable steering wheel is located so far from the seat that I have to lean over to reach it. If I slide the seat ahead so I can reach the steering wheel, my knees hit the dash.

"My Deere 4760 tractor is my best buy. It's rated at only 5 hp more than the Ford TW-35, but it can pull everything 1 mph faster and uses much less fuel. I had a few small problems with it, but my dealer fixed them at no cost. Deere tractors cost more to buy, but at resale you lose twice as much with a Ford.

"My Deere 9600 combine is a best buy. It's a quiet machine, and daily maintenance is faster than on any other combine I've ever used. We combined all year without any down time."

**Richard J. Noel, Highgate Center, Vt.:** Richard's 1991 Dodge 250 4-WD pickup equipped with a Cummins diesel engine heads his "best buy" list. "It's an excellent puller and has much more power than my 1987 Chevrolet pickup equipped with a 6.2-liter diesel. It's also more fuel efficient. Starts easily at temperatures down to 20 degrees below zero."

**Harvey A. Campbell, York, Penn.:** Harvey's 1948 Farmall Super A tractor heads his all-time "best buy" list. "Performs as well today as it did when it was new.

"My two brothers and I bought a 1947 Oliver HG68 tractor in 1979. It's a good tractor. We use it to pull trees out of the woods to split for firewood. We use it al-