

## 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

**Bill Fansler, Welch, Okla.:** Bill's had trouble with **Martin** row cleaners that he mounted on his 1993 Case-IH 900 12-row planter. "I used them to plant 120 acres of extremely cloddy soil. They performed well, but severely damaged the row units, cutting grooves into the frame. When I called the company, they said they had an update kit to solve the problem and that it would be available within a month. I don't know why they sold these row cleaners to me when the update kit was almost ready for sale. They must have known the row cleaners had damaged other planters. I feel restitution is in order."

Bill says his Case-IH 900 planter is his "best buy". "I planted everything late this year. On most fields I just disked twice and planted so conditions were poor. However, I had perfect stands on all my fields."

**George Markle, Claresholm, Alberta:** George is pleased with the 1991 **Redekop** straw chopper and chaff spreader he mounted on his New Holland TR86 combine (Redekop Industries, Highway 16 West, Box 178A, RR 4, Saskatoon, Sask., Canada S7K 3J7). "It spreads both straw and chaff evenly over a 36-ft. width and is easy to mount. It has performed flawlessly and followup service by the manufacturer has been great."

transmission is difficult to shift without grinding gears. Otherwise, both tractors have been a pleasure to operate. They start easy and are fuel efficient. The way they're built reminds me of U.S. technology used in the 1950's. They have a simple design and all components are located for easy access. I also like the low price."

**Mack James, Empire, Ala.:** "I haven't had any problems with my 1993 **Bush Hog** 8-ft. disc mower. It's a best buy."

**Clarence L. Patterson, Jr., Gardiner, Maine:** Clarence is impressed with his 1993 **Knight** 7716 manure spreader. "It's been trouble-free. Spreads manure in an even pattern and allows me to vary application rate independent of ground speed."

**Edwin Brown, Jeddo, Mich.:** "Our 1991 **Deere** 9400 combine equipped with rear wheel assist is one of our best buys. The cab is as quiet as a pickup cab and it steers as easy as a pickup, too. We had a couple of problems, but the dealer solved them."

"Another best buy is our **Simpalift** hydraulic power unit designed to raise or lower grain augers (Blazon Corp., Box 212, Lintonka, Iowa 50480). Lets us raise or lower the auger right from the tractor seat."

"Our **Woods** 5210 riding mower, equipped with a 5-ft. deck, is easier to operate than any other mower on the market."

**Clair Gelsner, Hunt, N.Y.:** Clair's the owner of a "best buy" **New Holland** 269 baler equipped with a thrower. "Last spring I retired my 'old faithful' New Holland 66 baler and bought the 269 model used at an auction. It has performed perfectly. During one period last summer it missed tying only four bales out of more than 1,500."

**Bob Brekke, Nielsville, Minn.:** "I like my 1993 **Chevrolet** turbocharged diesel pickup. I traded in a 1982 **GMC** pickup equipped with a 6.2-liter diesel engine that had 223,000 miles on it but still ran like new. The only problem I ever had was starter failures."

**Harry Dias, Atwater, Calif.:** Harry traded his 1990 **Chevrolet** Silverado pickup, which had 61,000 miles on it, in for a new similarly equipped 1993 model. "I like it, but it should get better gas mileage."

**B. Placid Scheiding, Conyers, Ga.:** "Our **DR** trimmer/mower is our best buy (Country Home Products, Inc., Box 89, Ferry Road, Charlotte, Vt. 05445). It has a 22-in. cut and is equipped with a 3 1/2 hp Tecumseh engine. It's mounted on wheels and works much faster than hand-held trimmers. Starts easy and cuts from 1 to 3 in. high. It's a beautiful machine and well worth the money. It can be used with three different size trimmer cords. Takes only a few minutes to change them."

**David Deyoe, Nevada, Iowa:** "The **Rotomax** power washer nozzles mounted on my pressure washer are my best buy (Direct Line Co., Richfield, Minn.). The zero degree ceramic sprayer tip rotates to cover 15 degrees. It makes my sprayer perform better than when it was new and has cuts wash time by about 20%."

**David J. Cowling, Denver, Colo.:** David says his **Makita** cordless drill heads his "best buy" list. "I'm building a log home on a remote site that doesn't have electrical power. I use my Makita to drill 1/4-in. dia. pilot holes for the spikes that connect the logs. It runs all day long on just two batteries, has plenty of torque and is lightweight."

**John A. Ochs, Newton, Ill.:** "The **General** tires on my 1992 **Chevrolet** pickup are worst buys. One tire had less than 5,000 miles when it threw off all its tread in big

**C.H. Cummings, Sun River, Mont.:**

"My 1992 **Dodge** 250 LE 4-WD pickup equipped, with a Cummins diesel engine, is my best buy. It'll do anything I ask it to. Starts good in cold weather and is easy on fuel. It gets 20 to 23 mpg pulling a small trailer and 16 to 19 mpg pulling a gooseneck 20-ft. livestock trailer. Plenty of power for pulling trailers through mountain passes."

"My **Honda** TRX-200 2-WD ATV is a best buy. It's easy to ride and goes anywhere. I built a 4-ft. wide, 8-ft. long wooden trailer for it that rides on small airplane wheels. It really works good for doing chores around our yard and corrals. Saves a lot of carrying and lifting."

**John R. Ford, Hazleton, Ind.:** "Our worst buy is our 3-year-old **Farm Fans** CF-AB 270 grain dryer. The company worked on it for the first two years before they finally got it running right. Now the sensors on the dryer are going out and the sensor on the discharge auger doesn't work. We haven't been able to get either problem repaired."

**Ronnie Roe, Junction, Ill.:** "My best buy **Deere** 4020 has 7,000 hours on it and is still going. My 1979 **Deere** 4640 is also a good tractor and my **Deere** 7000 planter is a best buy."

**George E. Montague, Kooskia, Idaho:** George is happy with the **Belarus** 822 and 574 tractors he's owned for about 6 years. "My only complaint about these tractors is the design of the clutch and transmission. The clutch is difficult to adjust and the