

## 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

**David Moyes, Murtaugh, Idaho:** David nominates his 1989 GM 3/4-ton 4-WD extended cab pickup as his "worst buy". "This vehicle should have been painted lemon yellow. The controls for heating, air conditioning, ventilation, etc., work only part of the time. Many times I've had to drive in snowstorms with my head out the window because the defroster wouldn't work. The radio has been replaced twice. However, it still won't pick up any AM stations, and whenever I'm very far from home it locks up so that I can't change stations, adjust the volume, or even shut it off. I have to stop and turn off the engine just to shut off the radio.

"The front and rear differentials and the transfer case all leak oil badly even though some seals have been replaced twice. The power steering system still chatters after being replaced twice. The transmission shifts into overdrive at 30 mph which causes the engine to lug so hard that it knocks. I asked the dealer to adjust the transmission so that it won't shift into overdrive so soon, but the shop foreman says there's nothing they can do. The transfer case grinds whenever I shift into 4-WD, and I usually have to try several times before I can get it to shift. The carrier bearing on the driveline squeals even though

anywhere on the conveyor and has a completely self-contained gear reducer and motor that eliminates the need for belts and chains. The bale chute makes it easy to put bales on the conveyor. It cuts hay unloading time in half."

**Kenneth Cunningham, Richmond, Kan.:** Kenneth nominates his 1985 Honda Big Red ATV as his "best buy". "I use it for feeding cattle, spraying weeds such as musk thistle, and to seed clover when the ground is too wet for a tractor."

**Fred Fillman, Paton, Iowa:** "It has surpassed all my expectations," says Fred, pleased with his 1991 Deere 9500 combine. "Having operated Gleaners for years, I was experienced with electric over hydraulic controls so it feels like 'home' to me. I really like them. I also like the combine's capacity. I've spent less than \$50 on repairs in 2 plus seasons."

Fred's disappointed with Last Perch sparrow traps. "The company admits this trap won't catch every bird on our place. That much is true. The fact is, it'll catch only a few birds a year at most. The best solution to bird problems is the scary eye balloons (Bird Scare, 1240 Josephine Rd.-SF, Roseville, Minn. 55113). I bought one from a neighbor. It really frightens starlings."

**Alan Stasney, Beasley, Texas:** Alan's had good luck with his 1991 Sundance 8-row cotton stalk puller. "It lets me pull cotton stalks out of the ground at a high rate of speed so that I can stay in compliance with area destruction dates, even when the ground is too dry to plow. It can also be used to uproot corn and milo stalks.

"My worst buy is my 1991 Alloway Rau 24-ft. flail shredder. The first problem is that the transport kit is built too light. After I used it on 400 acres the end plates started cracking, the rotor bearings wore out, and the machine started to vibrate badly. The oil in the gearbox showed signs of metal flakes. The company spent four months trying to get the vibrations out. They finally took the machine back and gave me a partial refund."

**Michael L. Reed, Yellow Jacket, Colo.:** Michael's had good luck with Posi-Lock gear and bearing pullers (Ray-Mac, Inc., Box 457, Gwinner, N. Dak. 58040). "I've used two different sizes of 3-jaw pullers for the past three years and they work great. I really like them for pulling small diameter bearings because the puller is designed so that it can't jump off. It forces the bearings off, even when the shaft is a little rough."

**James Gore, Ulster, Penn.:** James is pleased with his 1988 White 5100 no-till special corn planter but says it could use a couple improvements. "I've had some trouble with the drive chains, and bearings on the disc openers broke in the first two years. I replaced them with heavier ones. Otherwise I'm quite pleased with this planter. It always produces an excellent stand.

"My Deere Power Till 1500 8-ft. drill is my worst buy. It requires too much horsepower and is too expensive to operate in our stony soil. The cutting discs last only about 30 acres."

**Larry Harr, Stuttgart, Ark.:** Larry's happy with his 1990 Case-IH 7150 tractor. "It's rated at 150 pto hp but puts out 180 hp on factory pump settings. Rides comfortably and is fuel efficient. No problems."

**Wayne MacIntosh, Paisley, Ontario:** "Our 1980 Deere 4040 tractor is our all-time best buy. In the first five years we spent only \$28 on repairs. We haven't spent much on repairs since then, either. It's a good,

the bearing is still good. I finally got tired of the noise and replaced the bearing, but the new one started to squeal just like the original after a couple thousand miles. The turn signal wiring is defective and the right hand turn signal is too weak to be seen during the day. The interior paint is chipping off. It really looks bad.

"I take good care of my vehicles and this one has been used only on the road, not on the farm. I wish that the engineers who design these vehicles had to service them. This vehicle is almost impossible to grease by myself simply because the grease zerkers aren't positioned right. The oil filter is small and hard to reach. It's mounted directly over the driveline's universal joint which causes a mess whenever I change the oil.

"My best buy is my Deere 4555 MFWD tractor equipped with a power shift transmission. It's a dream to operate and fuel efficient. It has lots of power."

**Marvin J. Vander Molen, Pella, Iowa:** "It's really comfortable to operate," says Marvin about his "best buy" 1988 Deere 4250 tractor equipped with powershift transmission.

"My 1982 Deere 6620 sidehill combine has about 3,000 hours. It's also an excellent machine."

**Jeffrey E. Reed, Emporium, Penn.:** Jeffrey's happy with his 1992 Zimmerman 880 portable bale elevator (Zimmerman Mfg. Corp., 125 King Court and Hollander Road, New Holland, Penn. 17557). "The drive unit is unique. It can be mounted