

BUYING TIPS YOU CAN USE

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

by Harold Johnson
Editorial Director

Mark Newhall
Editor

Bill Gergen
Associate Editor

Larry D. Hobson, Scandia, Kan.: "My worst buy is my 1988 Ford F-250 4-WD pickup equipped with a 460 cu. in. fuel-injected engine. It gets only 6 to 8 mpg. All of the U-joints went out at 32,000 miles because they weren't greased at the factory. The anti-lock brake system is a joke. The brakes fade out or grab on different wheels, but the dealer could find nothing wrong. I finally received a card from the company admitting that there was a problem with the brakes on 1988 and 1989 Ford F-250's. Also, the paint is terrible. It chips and peels off."

Eric Angus, La Salle, Colo.: "Two years ago I reported that my Sund bean pickup had been a worst buy. I had been having problems with the bearings wearing out in less than one hundred acres. After publication in FARM SHOW, I was contacted by a representative of Sund Manufacturing to see how they could help me. He sent a new set of bearings that had been specially designed for the 22-ft. pickup. He also gave me the name of a service man who helped me further. The service man suggested that I mount an additional hydraulic drive motor to help turn the pickup. These two changes have made all the difference in the world. The pickup now works as I expected it to

plained to the company they said they no longer make the mower and won't do anything about it."

Darrel Adams, Columbia Falls, Mont.: Darrel says his Freeman self-propelled balers (made in Portland, Ore.) are the best buys he's made over the years. "I've owned two of them. The most recent one was powered by a Perkins diesel engine and had hydrostatic drive and a cab. I owned it for about 20 years. I've thoroughly enjoyed every minute of operating these balers. They're really built to last. In my opinion if you haven't baled with a Freeman, you really haven't baled hay yet."

Glenn Oxandale, Wetmore, Kan.: "Our Vermeer 604-J baler does a great job starting bales, even when the hay is a little damp or green. Makes a compact bale with little spoilage."

Stephen Warminski, White Deer, Texas: "I subscribe to Data Transmission Network (DTN) and it's alright, but the best part of DTN is an additional service called AgResource from Ag Resource Co., Chicago, Ill. I took their advice last summer and sold my crop during a run-up in prices. They took my emotions out of the drought talk that was going on last June."

"Another best buy is Quicken computer software. I use it to help keep my books for income tax returns and even for enterprise accounting. It's a very user-friendly program that doesn't cost a lot."

Leslie Spies, Hudson, S. Dak.: "Our Deere 9500 combine is dependable, comfortable, and a real 'acre eater'."

"Our best buy of all time is our new house built by Home of Your Own Inc., Wells, Minn. They provided outstanding design, materials, framing, and finishing work at a cost that put the word 'value' back in our vocabulary."

"Of course, every silver lining has a cloud and this house is no exception. Our worst buy is the Command Air ground source heat pump installed in the house. It didn't work right from the start and is obviously incapable of heating the house. It was purchased from and installed by a local contractor who has been very cooperative in regard to the problem. However, the company has taken the attitude that if we keep trying we'll learn to like the 60 degree indoor temperature."

Harold E. Peterson, Minnedosa, Manitoba: "I've owned other brands, but none work as good as this one," says Harold about his Husqvarna 41 chain saw.

Clarence B. Arndorfer, LeRoy, Minn.: Clarence has had good luck with his 1982 Mira-Font energy-free hog waterer. "It froze up only once - when windchill temperatures reached 100 degrees below zero. It's the most trouble-free hog waterer I've ever used. The company and dealer provided super service at little or no cost."

"My worst buy is my Skil 536 electric hand saw. It burned out after less than two hours of use, and the dealer refused to even try to get me an adjustment. I went to Sears and purchased a Craftsman 315 saw. It has far outperformed the Skil with no problems at all. Needless to say, there are no Skil tools in my shop."

Duane Fischer, Beattie, Kan.: "We like how it handles and rides and have had no problems with it at all," says Duane about his "best buy" 1991 Polaris 2-WD 4-wheel ATV.

M.L. Lybeck, Hixon, B.C.: He's pleased with his Mazda B2600 4-WD pickup equipped with an extended cab but says it could use some improvements. "I don't like

Farmers Nominate Best, Worst Buys

when I bought it. I'd recommend the Sund pickup to anyone. The people at Sund Manufacturing have been good to work with. It's nice to have a manufacturer care enough about its product to help out the consumer when there's a problem."

Steve B. Chatterton, Franklin, Idaho: Steve's had trouble with his Westfalia dairy computer feed system. "It was installed and put into operation in January 1991. It worked fine until August of 1991 when the computer started shutting down by itself. This problem happened as often as four times a week. The dealer practically lived here trying to keep it going. The company kept telling him to look for stray electricity or something like that. Finally in November the company's regional fieldman came down from Oregon. After making two trips he had the company send out a new computer. That immediately solved the problem. However, by that time production from our dairy herd had dropped dramatically. We had to cull 48 cows because it would have been impossible to bring them back to peak production."

Fred Dunlop, Stayner, Ontario: "My best buy last year was a 10-year-old Gleaner F2 combine that I bought used equipped with a series 111 grain head. The electric over hydraulic controls work great in beans."

Dean Himschoot, Agnos, Ark.: "The frame is built too light," says Dean about his "worst buy" 1991 Bush Hog DM9 disc mower. "It's the same frame used on the company's smaller model. When I com-

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