

BUYING TIPS YOU CAN USE

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

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Glenn Holland, Pocomoke, Md.: Glenn's disappointed with his 1992 Kinze 2000 planter. "It did a good job planting no-till corn in light soil, but as the season progressed it didn't rain and the ground got much harder. Even with spring tension on the no-till coulters set as tight as possible, full seed hoppers, and two bags of seed on top of each hopper, it still wouldn't plant over 1 in. deep in many parts of the field. All the frames on each row unit either broke or got bent so bad that they had to be replaced. Two bearings on the coulters also had to be replaced. I called the factory and all they could say was that the ground must be too hard to plant.

"Another problem was that whenever the dry fertilizer drive stopped, the entire drive train stopped, causing pins to shear off and bolts to break. By the time the monitor would alert me I had already gone 8 to 10 ft. without planting any seeds. My dealer and area field service man couldn't figure out what caused either problem. Kinze Mfg. has shown very little concern about my problems and has tried to put the blame everywhere but where it should be. We planted no-till with a Deere 7000 for years and never had a problem."

On the "best buy" side, Glenn lists his

has performed well under a variety of conditions, including rotary combined straw," says Mark, pleased with his 1991 Vermeer 605 Super J round baler. "It's easy to operate and service. An outstanding product."

David Fry, Dodd City, Texas: David's disappointed with his 1991 Chevrolet 4-WD 3/4-ton pickup. "The radiator is too small which causes the pickup to run hot. I contacted the company several times, but they wouldn't do anything to solve the problem."

Kent Estes, Altoona, Kan.: "My 1992 Calc-An-Acre made by Micro-Trak is my best buy (Micro-Trak Systems, Box 3699, Mankato, Minn. 56002). I mounted it on my Honda 300 ATV and use it to measure ground speed or calculate acres covered whenever I pull my sprayer or seeder. It has performed just like I thought it would. I'm very satisfied with it."

Steven McDonnell, Quinn, S. Dak.: Steven's 1989 Deutz Allis 7145 tractor heads his all-time "worst buy" list. "It has been in the shop four times. Right now the transmission is out. The hydraulics are a joke. They have a built-in delay which is very inconvenient for loader work. The tractor has 1,400 hours and was using a gallon of oil a day for the first two years. It still uses a half gallon of oil a day. It uses about 8 1/2 gal. of fuel per hour which I think is too high. I gave up on the computer system after trying three different computers. It still doesn't work."

"My 1982 Versatile 835 tractor is my best buy. It has 6,000 hours but still works perfect. It's a pleasure to operate."

Arlan J. Moss, Hull, Iowa: "Our Yamaha Terrapro 4-wheel ATV is our best buy. We use it every day to do calf chores and other errands around our dairy farm. We use it to pull wagons, move calf huts and calves, rope wick soybeans, mow 9-ft. tall weeds with a 42-in. rough cut mower, and to check crops. We also use it for fun."

"Our Black and Decker 4 1/2-in. power grinder is a best buy."

Debbie Replogle, Enon Valley, Penn.: Debbie's pleased with her 1987 Deere AMT 600 but says it could use a few improvements. "It has great load capacity for almost any small or medium job. However, the 5-wheel design causes it to be tipsy even when the company's update kit is installed. It should have six wheels for better stability and better steering. The brake system and wheel bearings won't stand up in mud. We've replaced the bearings seven times in five years. It should have sealed brakes and bearings, faster speeds, easier throttle control, and much higher clearance for driving over snow and ruts."

Boyd Woolsey, Stendal, Ind.: "My Deere 4425 combine has been a real headache over the years. The first two years it never ran more than 11 hours without being worked on. At 128 hours the engine blew up. We usually have to spend about \$1,200 each year on it and we run it only about 100 hours a year. Makes me wonder about some of Deere's other equipment."

James Gerber, Gadshill, Ontario: "My 1990 Cadman 4000S hard hose traveling irrigation gun for hog manure (Cadman Power Equipment, Courtland, Ontario) is a best buy. I like it better than a liquid manure spreader because it doesn't compact the soil. It gives me time between pulls to do chores, etc., while it keeps on going. The hose is 4 in. in diameter and 1,100 ft. long and mounts on a turntable."

"My worst buy is Galvalume siding on my hog finishing barn. It was installed in

Farmers Nominates Best, Worst Buys

OPINION

1990 Deere 4955 tractor. "It has plenty of power, a quiet cab, and it handles well. The only problems we've had have been minor ones with the air conditioner."

John C. Herubin, Braham, Minn.: John's had trouble with his Black and Decker vibrating finishing sander. "It literally fell apart when the bottom pad came loose. It vibrated so bad my hands were almost numb after using it."

Edward Schaaf, Qu'Appelle, Sask.: "My 1986 Hesston 5545 round baler is my worst buy. We've had to install three new bearings in the top drive roller over the last three years. If the hay is a little too dry the bale won't turn over. We installed a kit that partially solves the problem. When we bale straw we have to clean the belts out on every other bale. It's also priced too high. No more Hesstons for us. Our next baler will be a Vermeer. We owned one before and it worked very well. The only problem was that the bales it made were too wide to feed in our barn."

Wilf Higginson, Smithers, B.C.: Wilf's 1990 Kubota riding mower is his "best buy". "It has hydrostatic drive so I can go as slow as I want while maintaining engine speed, which works great for cutting long grass. I made a large carrier behind the seat that'll hold 200 lbs. and can be removed in seconds. It's very useful for harvesting garden crops. I also made a small cultivator for it. I'm now making a ground-driven fertilizer distributor for it."

Mark Danielson, Rothsay, Minn.: "It