

Best & Worst Buys

(Continued from previous page)

Lawrence Schluter, Armstrong, Ill.: A 1991 Deere 750 no-till drill heads Lawrence's "best buy" list. "The accuracy of seed placement is outstanding. We've used it to seed wheat and oats as well as soybeans."

F.A. Young, New Richland, Minn.: He installed "Kevlar" composite plastic lining on the clutch of his 1923 Chevrolet after reading about it in FARM SHOW and says the product is a "best buy" (Tribco, Inc., 1700 London Road, Cleveland, Ohio 44112). "The lining can be used on brakes, clutch plates, automatic transmission friction discs, and other parts that would otherwise be lined with asbestos, bronze or other types of friction linings. According to the company, the linings will last 3 to 5 times longer than conventional linings. Kevlar, which was developed as part of the space program, resists higher frictional heat and abuse, and can be used wet in lubricated transmissions and assemblies."

Marshall Murphy, Jr., Brocton, Ill.: "My 1991 Deere 525 riding mower cuts even and turns short. It's great."

"My 1992 Chevrolet 3/4-ton turbo-charged diesel 4-WD truck has plenty of power and acceleration."

Enoch Aarrestad, Debden, Sask.: Enoch likes his Miller 110-volt Cricket XL Mig welder. "It outperformed my expectations for a 110-volt model. I did lengthen the feed wire from 8 ft. to 15 ft. so I could get into tight places better."

"My Leon 790 high lift loader is well built and designed to last many years. It has great lifting power and lets me load wagons from one side only."

"The Briggs & Stratton engines on our two lawn mowers are worst buys. Whenever I mow grass I have to be ready for a fight because it takes super man strength to start the engines. They both burn an incredible amount of oil. If they run out of gas I have to let them cool off before they'll restart. My next engines will be from Honda."

Grant Shipley, Chickasha, Okla.: "We're well pleased with our 1991 Case-IH 9250 tractor."

"We're also very pleased with our Jarvosky 39-ft. field cultivator made in Russia. It pulls easy considering how wide

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it is."

Bill Jones, Liberal, Mo.: "My 1991 Case-IH 1660 combine is my best buy. It requires little maintenance and is comfortable to operate."

Robert E. Banbury, Wolseley, Sask.: Robert's the satisfied owner of a 1990 Flexi Coil 300A cultivator used in tandem with a Flexi Coil 1100 air seeder. "Both machines have performed very well, placing seed and fertilizer accurately. No problems."

Robert B. Wiley, Boone, Colo.: Robert

says his Deutz-Allis 7085 is "the most fuel efficient tractor I've ever operated. The air-cooled engine has never even been hot. This 85 hp tractor has the guts of a 100-110 hp tractor. The front 3-pt. and pto drive are essential in my reduced tillage system. I couldn't farm without it. The Deutz-Allis air-cooled engine is far superior to any other engine on the market today."

Don E. Darding, Bradford, Ohio: "Our 1992 Polaris 250 2-WD ATV is our best buy. My wife drives it a lot. It has variable speed drive so she doesn't have to shift. We like the running boards for safety. The spring suspension is extra good. We use it to spray and to do a lot of small farm jobs."

James Chuey, North Lima, Ohio: "My best buy is my 1990 Great Plains 10-ft. end wheel no-till drill. It does an excellent job of seed placement in the most adverse conditions."

"My 1992 Woods 208 pull-type mower is a best buy. Cuts smoothly right through heavy grass."

Doug Allemand, Bartlett, Neb.: "Our Navigator automatic guidance system made by HR Mfg. works very well on our rolling ground (HR Mfg. Co., Rt. 1, Box 71, Pender, Neb. 68047)."

Roger L. Horton, Randolph, N.Y.: "I purchased 14 Humane cow mats and 27 Humane cow tie stalls in 1987 when I remodeled my dairy barn. Now the paint on the stalls is peeling and the steel has rusted badly under the paint. The mats are very slippery when wet and are tearing apart at the edges. I lost three mature cows when they broke their legs after slipping. I had been using Agway cow mats in the same barn. They were installed in 1964 and some are still in use with no problems. I called the company but never got an answer. The mats have a 5-year guarantee that expired this year."

Dave Gilbert, San Diego, Calif.: "My best buy is a 3-pt. scoop for my tractor made by Corsicana Farm Equipment Co., Corsicana, Texas. It can be operated in either forward or reverse position. Works great."

Pirus Abraham, Livingston, Calif.: "My 1988 Honda 125 ATV is dependable and a best buy. It's one of the most useful rigs on my farm. I use it to check the progress of our irrigation systems and to look for separated or damaged drip irrigation lines. It saves a lot of wear and tear on our truck. It could use a couple of improvements such as a speed control lock setting that would be useful for spraying. An automatic transmission and a pto might also be handy."

Marvin Miller, Mifflinburg, Penn.: "We use Snap-on Tools in our repair shop. They're quality-built and the company stands behind its guarantee. We've broken quite a few sockets and ratchets, and chipped off screwdriver tips, but the company has always replaced them. We've never had a wrench spread apart at the jaws. A company dealer stops by our farm every week to see if we need anything. He replaces any tools that we need with no questions asked."

Russ Wahl, Cut Bank, Mont.: "About 1 1/2 years ago I bought two York 5023 grain bins from a dealer 300 miles away. The bins were erected one month late, and the dealer arrived for the first time two months after erection. The first time we unloaded a bin it

leaned over to the heavy side (we used a bin sweep). To help correct the problem, we had to replace the lighter bottom panels on the bin with heavier ones and use heavier anchor bolts.

"Last spring high winds caused one of the bins to collapse and the other bin also started to collapse. Although I had several times complained that the bin walls rippled in a 30 to 40 mph wind, the factory and dealer didn't pay any attention. I was never advised of the need to purchase extra 'wind rings' for our area or sidewall stiffeners for the light gauge panels that came with the bins. To help us out, the factory 'generously' gave us a 6% markdown in price. Counting the markdown, we have spent enough to buy 3 1/2 more bins."

Rollin Wachter, Hubbard, Neb.: "My 1988 Honda 3813 riding lawn mower is my best buy. It has a 2-cyl. liquid-cooled engine and works far better than an air-cooled model. The only problem is the mower deck. It's so shallow that it doesn't cut clean. Grass builds up above the blades, causing them to drag."

Alonzo Gaubert, Piedmont, Okla.: "My 1966 Deere 4020 tractor has about 8,000 hours but still starts and runs good. It's my all-time best buy."

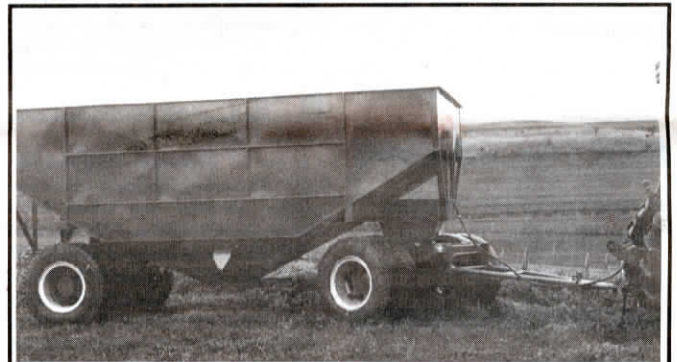
Tom Wilkins, Pocomoke City, Md.: "It cut our spraying time by 50 to 60%," says Tom, owner of a "best buy" 1992 Melroe Spra-Coupe 210 sprayer equipped with a 51-ft. boom. "It accommodates 16 38-in. rows perfectly. The best part is the quiet, air-conditioned cab. In recent years I've

experienced hearing loss due to tractor engine noise. The quality of the cab construction on this sprayer should significantly prolong my hearing. The charcoal filter virtually eliminates chemical odor from my spraying environment. From the standpoint of health preservation, I rate it as a great buy."

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Neil F. Walter, Oglesby, Texas: "My 1974 Deere 6600 combine has always been a best buy. However, I think one of the worst ideas Deere ever had was mounting the engine next to the cab. It makes the engine and drives almost impossible to work on without having to stand on your head. Moving the engine to the rear on the current models was a welcome idea."

Elmer C. Ahlf, Edson, Alberta: Elmer nominates his 1975 Troy horse rototiller as his "best buy". "I realize it's an old product, but I wanted to let you know that I think it's a best buy. A manufacturing defect showed up after 10 years. Someone called all the way from New Jersey to help solve my problem and, despite the age of the machine, sent parts at no charge. It had already worn out two sets of tines."



Heavy Duty 500-Bu. Gravity Wagon

Dean Fechter, Belvue, Kan., used two truck frames and rear-end assemblies to build a heavy duty 500 bu. gravity wagon equipped with 10.00 by 20 dual truck tires.

The wagon box is 17 ft. long and 8 ft. wide and is made out of reinforced 14 ga. steel which, along with 2 1/2 in. angle iron, was the only material used in the project that he purchased new.

"It gives me most of the benefits of hauling grain with a truck but without paying for a truck license and insurance," says Fechter. "My farm liability insurance covers me while towing the wagon on the highway. As long as the trailer is pulled with a farm tractor, no truck license is required which makes it considerably cheaper to own than a truck of similar capacity."

Fechter used a Ford rear axle assembly on back and an International axle on front. The differentials and floating axles were removed and caps were made out of 3/16-in. steel plate to cover the main axle and bearings. He made the front turntable by welding a large pivot pin to the center of a 28-in. sq. piece of 1/2-in. reinforced steel plate and then mounted that to the top of

the axle. He made the top half of the turntable by cutting a 22-in. circle out of 1/2 in. plate steel with a pivot, made out of steel tubing, welded to the center of it. Grease zerks were installed in the pivot and steel plate so the turntable can be easily lubricated.

Fechter used 5/8 by 2-in. steel bar to form the top edge of the box and the ribs that stiffen the sides. Two 3/4-in. steel bracing rods run across the box for strength. He used 1/4-in. steel plate to make a sliding door in the bottom of the box and mounted the timing chain and sprocket from an old car onto the door. He uses a 1/2-in. ratchet wrench to turn a shaft to open and close the door.

"I was so pleased with the first wagon that I built two more. I bought each set of truck frames, rear ends, wheels and tires for \$250 and spent a total of \$1,200 to 1,400 to build each wagon depending on how much new steel I had to buy. Commercial wagons of comparable size cost up to \$8,000 and aren't built as well."

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