

## 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

**Harold R. Stoudt, Hamburg, Penn.:** Harold's "worst buy" is his 1992 Parmac 6-volt solar electric fence. "I recently switched to a rotational grazing system for my beef cattle, and I thought the fence would be ideal for a newly-installed remote fence. The fence is advertised to handle up to 25 miles of fence. As a trial, I connected it to a section of fence that was less than 1/4 mile long and equipped with polyethylene insulators. The fence's no-load output tested over 4,650 volts, but after connecting it to the new fence it dropped to 900 volts. My cattle soon discovered this and as a result I can't use the fence. I had to connect the remote fence to my old fence with a 110-volt charger which maintains over 3,300 volts. I wrote to the factory several months ago but never received the courtesy of a reply."

**Stan Campbell, Iona Station, Ontario:** "It's the best blower we've ever had," says Stan about his Gehl 1560 forage blower. "Wet haylage doesn't plug it up like on other blowers. The only time it plugs is when the silo is full."

"Our 1988 Ford F-250 4-WD pickup is a worst buy. The front brakes rattle constantly and the rear end leaks oil. Electronic fuel injected engines aren't made for farm use. It

good power, rides comfortably, is quiet, has good styling, and is fuel efficient. No problems. It's well designed and built."

**Hazel B. Huschka, Brodhead, Wis.:** "Our worst buy is our A-Maize-Ing Heat shelled corn forced air furnace. The distributor installed it last fall on October 7, but never started it or showed us how to operate it. Our first call was returned by the company president who instructed our son to make some adjustments, then call him back. We had to pay for the phone bill. There were more problems so we had to make more phone calls."

"The area service man replaced several defective parts. Some were defective because of improper installation by the distributor. The service man came out many times, but we never got any help from the distributor. On December 14 the service man installed a new corn-only burning pot (the third pot sent to us by the company). The furnace was working okay when we shut it down last spring. However, we still don't know how reliable it will be. We're lucky that we kept our oil burning stove."

**William Bok, Defiance, Ohio:** "My best buy is my 1992 Deere 2755 4-WD tractor equipped with a cab. It runs great."

"My Deere Max-Emerge II planter is my worst buy. We had trouble with the vacuum system, but the dealer solved the problem. Also, the fertilizer boxes weren't set up right."

**Dale Cipra, Prairie du Chien, Wis.:** "We're satisfied with our 1990 Chevrolet Corsica 4-door car except for the radio. The reception is poor. The car has a 4.2-liter 4-cylinder engine."

**Wilbur M. Rohrer, Dayton, Va.:** Wilbur's happy with his 1989 Ford F-150 XL 4-WD pickup that's equipped with a 6-cylinder engine and 5-speed transmission. "I like the fuel injection. The engine never hesitates or chokes too much. The transmission is a bit fast for off-road work, but it works fine on the road."

**Dave Adams, Kellerton, Iowa:** Dave bought a Gripple wire joiner after reading about it in FARM SHOW and says it's a "best buy" (Gripple Inc., 160 S. Mallory, Batavia, Ill. 60510 ph 708 406-0600). Gripples can be used both to splice and tension wire, and it tightens in either direction. "It's simple and reusable. We use it to repair breaks in the middle of a stretch of single strand electric fence wire. It eliminates the need to retie the end of the wire. Once installed it can be retensioned whenever necessary. Electric current seems to carry well through the repaired sections of fence."

**Sylvester Goeller, Hartford, Wis.:** "Our best buy is the Rotomax rotating nozzle that we installed on our pressure washer (MidAmerCo, Inc, P.O. Box 44241, Madison, Wis. 53744-4241 ph 800 383-7298). The nozzle increases pressure and makes our washer about three times as effective as before. You have to see it to believe it. It removes grease and oil from machinery like a steam cleaner. It also works great for removing peeled paint from buildings. Suggested retail price is \$100."

**Terry B. Cooper, Wetaskiwin, Alberta:** Terry's pleased with his 1992 GMC Suburban but says it could use a few improvements. "It's roomy and comfortable, runs quiet and smooth, and starts great. It has had very little maintenance, and I like how the cruise control can be shifted down into second gear from overdrive. However, it could use better passing performance and fuel economy. The dash rattles, and the

won't start on a damp morning or if it gets a little wet. The anti-lock brakes lock up all the time. My 1979 Ford F-250 4-WD pickup equipped with a 400 cu. in. engine is a better truck. It has almost 200,000 miles."

**E. V. Armknecht, Auburn, Neb.:** "We have two large picnics in town each year. When my wife and I went out to the farm to get another picnic table with our proud new 1992 full-sized Chevrolet pickup, we discovered to our surprise that the table was too big for the bed. We lost pride in the new Chevrolet when our son had to haul the table with his new Ford pickup which has a box that's 5 in. wider. We were ashamed to have to use a Ford to haul our tables back and forth. I can see why Ford outsells Chevrolet in pickups."

**Winton Simon, Quicksburg, Va.:** "It performs well and is fuel efficient," says Winton, whose 1991 Dodge pickup has nevertheless had some problems. "The dash started rattling at 2,000 miles. The dealer tried to solve the problem and discovered that the cab was broken on both sides. The factory representative recommended that we weld it so we did, but it lasted only 2,000 miles before the same problem happened again. Anyone who has a Dodge pickup with a dash that rattles should check behind the front fender. The problem happens only on pickups equipped with Cummins diesel engines."

**William A. Mielke, Marriottsville, Md.:** A 1991 2-door Ford Explorer is William's "best buy". "I'm very satisfied with it. It has