

# Best & Worst Buys

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I started with a Silopress XPIII (Silopress, 1915 Floyd Blvd., Box 988, Sioux City, Iowa 51102) and now also use a Uni-press. Both systems make it easy to make excellent quality feed for my 65 dairy cows. They've allowed me to increase production and profit per acre from forage while reducing the amount I spend on purchased feed. I had been using cement top-unloading silos and Harvestores, but now they stand empty and unused - I can't afford to use them.

"My 1990 Knight Reel Augie 2375 TMR pull-type mixer is also a best buy. It lets me feed all my milk cows once a day in about 45 min. and has allowed me to maintain a 20,000-lb. herd average while cutting purchased feed costs by 40 to 50%. The TMR mixer and silage bagging systems together have greatly increased my profitability. I'll never go back to my old system.

"My 1991 Vermeer 504 Super I baler performed just like I expected and makes nice tight bales. The dealer spent plenty of time with me to make sure I knew how to use it. I'm completely satisfied.

"My Landoll Tilloll implement provides true one-pass spring tillage. Really saves time and fuel.

"My Deere 1460 disc mower-conditioner is a best buy. My wife can use it to cut hay at 7 to 8 mph without plugging it up. I've tried my hardest to plug it up, but I can't. It lasts as long as it's supposed to, it'll earn 'best buy' status.

"My worst buy was a 1990 Case-IH Maxxum 5120 tractor. It caused me lots of grief before I traded it in on a Deere. In

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fairness to Case-IH, it was one of the first models built and I understand that most of my problems have been corrected in later models or by recalls. However, I still feel it has too much electronic equipment for a farm tractor. The 3-pt. took too long to lower for a job like cultivating and trim pieces kept falling off. In cold weather the engine would start fine, but the tractor wouldn't move. The clutch works off electric switches somehow. The dealer bent over backwards to solve the problem but had no luck. I'd recommend the dealer to anyone, but a Maxxum only to my enemies."

**Mike Buchholz, Fingal, N. Dak.:** "Our best buys are a 1991 Ford Versatile 9030 Bi-Directional tractor, and a 9-row front-mount Wilrich Danish tine row crop cultivator equipped with rolling shields that we mounted on the tractor. We're chemical-free organic farmers, and last year our registered soybeans were as clean as any that were sprayed with herbicides. The driver sits right over the rows which takes the stress out of cultivating. The only cultivator blight happened when I was trying to see how fast I could go.

"I installed an oil gauge on the engine. With 15-40 wt. oil the engine has only 30 lbs. pressure when cold and only about 10 lbs. when hot and idling. When it's hot and

at full throttle it has 20 to 25 lbs. pressure. The dealer says there's nothing to worry about, but I'm still worried.

"The swather head we bought for the tractor works excellent but causes the tractor to use a lot of fuel. We had been using an International swather equipped with a 4-cylinder water-cooled engine. It could swath 100 acres on 15 gal. of gas. The 9030 uses 35 gal. of diesel fuel on only 50 acres. Seeding and cultivating with the 9030 takes about the same amount of fuel as our International 966 tractor used. All those hydraulic motors on the swather head take a lot of power. But it's nice to be able to use one tractor for so many jobs, and it's fun to drive, too."

**Jay Justice, Chetopa, Kan.:** "Our best buy is a Krause 4900 wheel disk. We can go from field to field without having to make any adjustments. No problems.

"Our Deere 630 wheel disk is a worst buy. It didn't work right for 6 to 7 months after we bought it. The rear gangs on the wings hang way too low and dig deep holes. When we raised the wings so they didn't dig, the disk would ridge in the middle. I never could go from field to field without having to adjust something on the disk. I found out that the frame had never been welded level so everything was off. A neighbor had the same problem with his model. Whenever someone asks us what kind of disk to buy, we recommend Krause."

**Charlie Harant, Caldwell, Kan.:** A 1991 Ford F-150 pickup rates as Charlie's "best buy". "It rides easy and quiet and is an all-around better vehicle than the 1989 Chevrolet 1500 that I had owned. I sold the Chevrolet after two years. The wind noise was terrible at 50 mph. The Ford has a much quieter cab. The only problem is that when the engine is cold it stalls when I accelerate. My dealer hasn't solved the problem."

**Gary Joachim, Claremont, Minn.:** "My best buys are the Osborne hog feeders that I installed in my confinement buildings (Osborne Industries Inc., Box 388, Osborne, Kan. 67473). There's hardly any waste, they never plug up, and require almost no adjustments. I haven't spent one minute cleaning manure out of them. The only problem is that once in a while a small pig will crawl in and get caught.

"My Deere 72008-row planter isn't really a lemon, but in real wet conditions like we had last spring wet clods stick on the idlers causing the chains to fall off the row units. My neighbor had the same problem. Also, most of the dry fertilizer tubes rusted away after the first year. My old International 400 planter had a much better dry fertilizer hose assembly. I like the spring-loaded idler on the seed and fertilizer transmissions. Case-IH planters have used similar idlers for almost 20 years."

**Donald R. Morris, Kearney, Mo.:** Donald's pleased with his 1989 Ford 7710 tractor, but says it could use a couple improvements. "The clutch and brake pedals are too close together and the hydraulic hose tips are junk. I replaced them with the same tip that's used on Massey Ferguson tractors."

"My 1988 Hesston 1050 disc mower-conditioner is a best buy."

**James Bromley, Irons, Mich.:** His "best buy" is a 1988 Buick LeSabre car. "It has

90,000 miles with no problems at all."

**Russell H. Pennock, Kewanee, Ill.:** "My 1989 Belarus 611 tractor does everything well and is a best buy. It pulls great and I can't believe how little fuel it uses for plowing and disking. My only complaint is that the pto shaft is difficult to engage and disengage, but that's a minor problem. The rest of the tractor is fine."

**Merlin Atwell, Remsen, N.Y.:** Merlin's "worst buy" is his 1990 Deere 2000 semi-mounted, 4-bottom 18-in. plow. "It's not built with the quality of Deere's other products. It doesn't even perform as well as our 20-year-old Allis-Chalmers semi-mounted auto reset plows. The bolts wear through the points and land sides because there's not enough taper on them. Three of the moldboards have cracks in them around the front mounting bolts, and the shear bolts continually break from coulters tension. Our dealer has done nothing to help."

**Jim Kelich, Elwood, Ind.:** "My 1991 Walsh sprayer works great. The electric controls really make a difference when spraying point rows.

"My 1978 International 1086 tractor is a best buy. The only major problem over the years has been the clutch."

**Larry Tiller, Stewartsville, Mo.:** "Our Motorola FM radios are among the few things we own that just keep on working with very few problems."

**Dave Anderson, Postville, Iowa:** "My best buy is my 1989 Vermeer 605 J round baler. I do custom work and have used it to make more than 10,000 bales. I also use it to make constack bales every year. The only repairs have been for a few bearings, chains, and sprockets, and last spring I replaced about a dozen of the rubber-mounted pickup teeth."

**Alvin Pearson, Ellsworth, Wis.:** Alvin likes his portable Super Blast 1200 industrial pressure sprayer (Parker Cleaning Products, Inc., Minneapolis, Minn.). "It has 1,200 lbs. pressure and is equipped with a siphon intake for adding soap.

"My worst buy is a round bale feeder from Sioux Steel Co. We've had to reweld and reinforce three of the six rings so far and each one cost at least \$40 to repair. The welds failed between the bottom ring and the upright support to the second ring. I called the company and they had a representative come out and take photos. However, they never called back. I recently bought two more feeders from them that are built heavier with a solid steel bottom."

**Ben L. Beiler, Ronsks, Penn.:** "It handles like a dream," says Ben about his "best buy" 1991 JCB 930 Rough Terrain 4-WD forklift. "The enclosed cab keeps me warm in the winter and dry when it rains. We love the way it handles and would buy another one if we needed it. The only problem was a bro-

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ken fuel gauge sender."

**Amos Z. Sensenig, New Holland, Penn.:** Amos is pleased with his 1991 GM Sierra pickup equipped with a 305 cu. in. V-8 engine and 4-speed transmission. "It works just fine. It's a best buy."

**Melvin Knaack, Gladbrook, Iowa:** Melvin likes his 12-row Cox Row-Zone (Randall Cox, Van Wert, Iowa 50262). "A

planter mounts behind it for one-pass planting. Lets you apply all fertilizer at the same time and takes care of soil compaction. Built to last a lifetime."

**Francis Sweet, Afton, Iowa:** Francis likes his "best buy" 1990 Dixon ATR 426 lawn mower. "It cuts mowing time by a third and turns short around trees and flowers. No problems at all."

**Ole Cherland, Highmore, S. Dak.:** "My 1991 Dodge Ram 250 diesel pickup is the best pickup I've ever owned. It's fuel efficient and has fantastic pulling ability and excellent torque. No problems."

**Craig Moriak, Clayton, Wis.:** Craig's "best buy" is his Posi Lock gear and bearing puller. "A cage around the jaws keeps them from slipping off as you pull the bearing off. It works excellent."

**Leo Heimann, Winslow, Ill.:** "It's easy to service, starts in any weather, and has a lot of power," says Leo about his "best buy" 1991 Gehl 3610 skid steer loader.

**Clarence Toomsen, Iowa Falls, Iowa:** Clarence nominates his Dixon ZTR 429 riding lawn mower as a "best buy". "It's equipped with a 12 hp Briggs & Stratton engine and transaxle. Starts and runs well, has good power, and is equipped with all the necessary safety features."

**Nels W. Nielsen, Montgomery City, Mo.:** His "best buy" is a 1991 Deere 2955 tractor. "It's the best starting diesel tractor I've ever owned. It's quiet, handles good, and is very fuel efficient. The Deere 148 loader that I mounted on it is also a best buy. It'll pick up anything."

**Eric Wallis, Rudyard, Mich.:** A 1981 Kubota M7500 DT 4-WD tractor equipped with a loader rates as Eric's "best buy". "It has over 4,500 hours of hard use with few problems. Our only expense was for a clutch assembly that we replaced at 3,500 hours. We feed our livestock round bales and use the loader all during the feeding season. We also handle all our manure with it. The loader detaches quickly so we can use the tractor for tillage or hay making. It uses about 1 1/2 gal./hr. pulling light loads, such as a Haybine, and up to 2 1/2 gal./hr. for plowing or disking. That's quite respectable for an 80 hp tractor."

"Our 1986 Kubota M6950 DT tractor is also a best buy. It has slightly less horsepower than the 1981 model, but is slightly bigger. We use a loader on it also. It had some nuisance problems that the dealer eventually solved. It has about 2,300 hours."

**Gerald Lacher, Lebanon, S. Dak.:** Gerald's impressed with the Quicken IV computer accounting program by Intuit. "This program does everything necessary to keep detailed accounts of a farm or business. It's very simple to use. The instruction book is simply written and the information easy to find."

**Kenneth Stull, Ethel, Mo.:** A calf warmer made by R.G. Hendrickson of Superior, Wis. which he read about in FARM SHOW, heads Kenneth's "best buy" list. "We've saved several wet and cold calves with this warmer."

"I purchased a used 1982 Honda Big Red 4-wheel ATV 6 years ago. I use it every day and have spent very little money on it."

"My worst buy is my 1992 Black & Decker 3/8-in. drill. The chuck won't stay tight and the trigger doesn't work sometimes."

**Ivan Gleeson, Lexington, Ill.:** "My best buy 1980 Dodge 3/4-ton truck has 135,000 miles and is still going strong with no problems."