

Best And Worst Buys

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bunches of cows by scattering hay far enough to allow all the cattle to eat. The company has been the best I've ever dealt with, in understanding their product and standing behind it.

"Another good buy is our Hot Shot Power Mite made by **Hot Shot Products**, Savage, Minn. We have used many hot shots but none have lasted as long as these. They are light, compact and fit easily in your hand. After use on several thousand cattle, we haven't had one malfunction and they're powerful enough to get the animal's attention, yet mild enough not to bruise the meat."

Steve Thompson, Trenton, Tex.: "In 1972 I bought a 720 **Oliver** wire baler and it was, and still is, the amazement of everyone that knows about it," says Steve, who's used all kind of balers in his custom operation, baling well over 100,000 bales annually. "I baled over 600,000 bales with the Oliver, replacing ten bottoms in the bale chamber. The sides of the bale chamber even had holes in them. I have never seen another baler that has been used so much the sides wore through. I sold the baler in 1979 to another custom baler for a standby. He liked it so well he put it on full time and baled over 100,000 bales with it. I understand White has sold the patent for this Oliver baler to Hesston."

Henry A. Chapman, Dorset, Vt.: "I ran over it with my 8-ton truck and it still works," says Henry, pleased with his **Husqvarna** 285 21-in. chainsaw. "Besides standing up to abuse, it has a lot of power, runs well and doesn't need much maintenance. It's not heavy, either."

He had trouble with his "**Belsaw** 550 chainsaw sharpener. Poorly designed in that you cannot readily alter the grinding angle and the chain holder has excessive play. The whole machine is cheaply made and lacks the rigidity necessary for precision work. Time consuming to set up and operate. I can do a better and faster job with a file."

Kenneth Barger, Hardinsburg, Ky.: He's pleased with his 1983 **GMC** diesel 6.2 liter heavy half-ton pickup. "It has about the same performance as the 1979 GMC with a 350 V-8 gas engine and gets about twice the mileage."

Murray Musselman, Gowans town, Ontario: "I bought an oxygen limiting sealed concrete silo from **Mid-West Silo Systems Ltd.**, Wellesley, Ontario, in 1977 for high moisture shelled corn that is my best buy," says Murray. "The silo works great with almost no problems and saves a lot of money on drying charges and labor to haul the corn to and from the dryer."

Garvin D. Anderson, Erskine, Alberta: "I bought this tractor new last fall. It's good on fuel, has plenty of power, is easy to drive and handles well in all situations," reports Garvin about his "best buy" 5288 **International** tractor.

Dallas F. Boge, Gales Creek, Ore.: His "worst buy" is his **Deere** 317 tractor. "The engine seized after 20 to 30 hours. The dealer replaced it 50-50. The steering gets loose and requires constant adjustment. I like the hydrostatic transmission, however, which works well mowing and rototilling 19 acres of Christmas trees."

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He adds that **FARM SHOW** is his "best buy". "Very useful. I read it cover to cover as soon as it arrives."

Marvin Sutter, Waseca, Minn.: "This sprayer does a very uniform job of application and can put out a lot of material. The adjustable booms are really super and aren't hard to fold. For the capacity, I couldn't find a better sprayer on the market," says Marvin about his **Demco** 800-gal. sprayer with 60-ft. floating boom.

"Another best buy is our **Walinga** 511 air conveyor. Twice last fall when a grain vehicle became disabled in a bad spot we were able to easily transfer the grain with the Walinga. It also enables us to fill tall grain bins that an auger couldn't reach and not have to worry about power lines overhead."

Bert Bakken, Shingle Springs, Calif.: "It seems to be failure-proof," says Bert, pleased with his **Troy Bilt** 5 hp. rototiller. "It starts on the second pull with a Briggs and Stratton engine, tears up the ground, including roots and debris, and it's easy to operate. It's also adaptable to other projects besides gardening."

David Peterson, Dumont, Iowa: "In 160,000 miles we've replaced nothing but spark plugs and a water pump for the engine. The seat cushion has one small tear and the truck runs and drives as good as it did at 50,000 miles. Its only drawback is that it gets just 10 mpg.," says David, happy with his 1973 **Chevrolet** ¾ ton pickup with automatic transmission and a small V-8.

His "worst buy" is an **Allis Chalmers** Gleaner K combine that he bought used in 1973. "I've replaced the bearings between the variable speed 13 times. The first owner replaced it at least once. I've had no help from the company. I'm satisfied with the job the combine does but now that it's time to buy a new combine I can't see any reason to buy another machine that the company won't back."

Dale Sampson, Wheeling, W. Va.: "International tractors can't be beat for the long run," says Dale. "I bought an IH 656 tractor when it was 10 years old but it hasn't given me any trouble

in two years. It's the best all-around tractor I've had in 30 years of farming and it should last me for many more years."

G.W. Sawtelle, Boston, Ga.: "We couldn't keep the engine running for two minutes — even in the repair shop," he reports, disappointed with his **Homelite** 550 chainsaw. "The company has discontinued this model but not soon enough for me. I have a \$400 saw that has not run an hour total since it was new."

W.L. Boutin, Valmarie, Sask.: "The end walls fit terribly, the sliding doors stick, and there is a bad bird problem. The company is unwilling to correct these problems," says Boutin, about his "worst buy" **Miracle Span** quonset building.

On the positive side, he's happy with his 1980 **Honda** Accord. "It has 75,000 miles on it with absolutely no trouble. Still runs like a top and I've yet to find a grease nipple on it."

Don Colton, Boonville, N.Y.: He lists his **Oldsmobile** Ciera diesel 4-door sedan as "best buy". "It cut our fuel bill by an average of \$27.50 per month. Easy driving and handling. Electric locks, windows and seats, along with climate control and cruise control, help prevent long distance fatigue."

Loren Fulford, Largo, Ind.: "This unit will not work for 12 hours without a malfunction of some type. We have replaced gears, augers, switches and pins but it is junk and we finally quit using it," says Loren, disappointed with his **Sukup** heavy-duty 3-drop grain stirrer.

He's happy, however, with his **Deere** 140 lawn tractor. "Before the 140, I had a Deere 112 which I bought new and used for 8 years with no problems. The 140 is also working out great."

Roger Lee, Franklin, Minn.: "My best buys are my 10 **Schweiss** elevated calf stalls with Tenderfoot pads which I purchased from Schweiss Manufacturing, Fairfax, Minn.," reports Roger. "Our calves are kept in the stalls from birth to 30 days of age, at which time they're weaned. We freshen 100-plus Holsteins annually and, in the two years we've had the stalls, our death loss has been at zero, and the number of calves we'd had to treat can be counted on one hand."

"Also a best buy is our **Chrysler** cars. We bought our 1969 Dodge station wagon with a 383 cu. in. engine and it's still running strong after 167,000 mi. of service with no major repairs. In fact, the valve covers have never been removed. Our 1975 Chrysler Cordoba has 114,000 miles with the same results, and our son's 1970 Plymouth Barracuda has more than 80,000 miles."

"My worst buy is a 1978 **Honda** ATC 90. It was next to impossible to keep the engine and transmission operational at the same time. Dealer service was a rip-off which would result in a several hundred dollar repair bill annually. Needless to say, the ATC has been gathering dust. The dealer must have run out of suckers because he was forced to close recently."

W.C. White, St. Ansgar, Iowa: "I have a 1979 **Oldsmobile** diesel and

keeping it operating has been a big problem. The Blue Book deducts \$750 for 1978 and 1979 cars with diesel motors and some dealers will not take them in trade, which leaves me and others in a very bad spot."

Ben Theimer, Winfield, Kan.: "White was the only company that would offer us a demonstrator. The dealer said it would sell itself and it did," says Ben, pleased with his 2-155 tractor with a 478 cu. in. Hercules engine. "It has a massive cast frame with an 18-speed transmission that will shift three times in each of six gears on the go. It has unbelievable lugging power with several gears in the field working range. The cab has good visibility and the tractor is easy to maintain."

Howard L. Ross, Roseberry, Prince Edwards Island: He's had good luck with his **Massey Ferguson** 245 tractor. "It does everything you'd expect and then some. Very economical to operate. Good dealer, too."

Martin Wolters, Paul, Idaho: "This machine picks up and stacks 2-tie or 3-tie bales and stacks them in a neat 8 by 8 ft. stack, seven bales high. It'll double deck the stacks if desired and it'll retrieve the stack and load it on a truck. It's very well-constructed and built heavy. A great asset to the haying industry," concludes Martin, about his "best buy" **Freeman** bale wagon made by Freeman Manufacturing, Portland, Ore.

Terry Bryant, Miniota, Manitoba: "The Poulan chain saw I purchased was a vibrating piece of junk which would make your head ache if the saw ran long enough. I took it back to the dealer several times but he could not fix it and wouldn't take it back at any price on trade. At the time, the saw had used less than a gallon of gas. The dealer was poor but the saw was even poorer. I gave the saw to a friend to use for parts. Absolutely the worst new piece of equipment I have ever purchased."

"My new **Homelite** XLI chain saw is a best buy. Works great and dealer service is tops. Another best buy is a Leon 10-ft. dozer blade, which is really well-made and has stood up to some real tough use."

John Kiss, St. Paul, Alberta: "I bought it used in 1947 and have been using it ever since," says John, happy all these years with his 1942 **Allis Chalmers** WD tractor. "It still runs like a charm. There has never been a

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major breakdown in all the time I've owned it. It was rated at 37 and all 37 horses pull!"

Frank Nenninger, Laurens, N.Y.: Heading his "best buy" list is his **Deere** 3960 forage harvester. "A good, capable machine that's easy to change from corn to haylage. Like the electro-hydraulic controls."

Mark Kemper, Armstrong, B.C.: