

"Best" and "Worst" Buys

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Sid Williams, Kempton, Ind.: "We have stopped buying from dealers and go to farm sales instead," says Sid. "We bought lots of new equipment in the past but they want two arms and a leg now. When you buy parts from **International**, for example, they want you to personally pay off their billion dollar debt! For example, two years ago a seat cushion for an International 966 cost \$52. Today the same thing costs \$113.

"On the other hand, at a recent farm sale we bought an **IH 55W** wire hay baler for \$170 and it had \$40 worth of wire on it! We baled over 2,000 bales before we had to adjust it at all. We also purchased an **IH 4-row** rotary hoe for only \$140 and it was almost new."

Harry Voth, Bow Island, Alberta: He had trouble with his "Globelite maintenance-free battery. Within several months a hole wore through the wall of the battery because the walls were too thin. I bought a battery with thicker walls and haven't had any trouble since."

Jerry Burkhalter, Glennville, Ga.: "I finish baling when most people are just getting started," says Jerry, pleased with his "best buy" **Lely** hay tedder, which he says lets him rake and bale approximately three hours earlier than most rakes.

He's disappointed with his 2 h.p. **Campbell** air compressor. "I had to replace two motors on the compressor before it would pump for any length of time. I think the factory sent the first motor back without actually checking it out."

Randall Messer, Beaver Dam, Wis.: Randall says there are many benefits to his "best buy" **MiraHut** farrowing and nursery huts built by **Miraco Mfg.**, Grinnell, Iowa. "They're half the cost of a farrowing barn, the sow is more comfortable, and they cost less to operate than a barn. Plus, there have been no disease problems — the units can be tipped up for easy cleanup and, when tipped up, sunlight comes in to kill disease organisms."

Clinton Pottruff, Paris, Ont.: "Our cornfields are 'soil saved' in the fall and then disc'd twice in the spring. The **Deere 7000 Max Emerge** planter does an exceptionally uniform job of planting in this trashy and rough ground at almost 6 mph. Planting depth is consistent and the spacing is good."

Bruce Fraser, Lacombe, Alberta: "My best buy is white plastic in 1/8-in. thick 4 by 8-ft. sheets. Fastened over wood, it works great in hog pens. Easy to cut and clean, and pigs can't chew on it like wood because it's so smooth. I fastened it onto plywood for the gates. Now, I wish I'd also used it on the walls in place of asbestos board."

Bob Burns, Allison, Iowa: "We bought a new **4440 Deere** last June and like it real well," says Bob. "Has a quiet cab, good gear range, is small enough for jobs around the farm and

big enough for what I pull in the fields. Have had good company and dealer follow-through."

Scott Alldredge, Gruin, Ala.: "It cuts through tangled grass as fast as you can stay on the tractor and never plugs up. Does an excellent job and upkeep is less than for a sickle type-mower. The dealer was helpful and I've had no problems," reports Scott, pleased with **Vicon** disc-type 165 hay mower.

Doug Schmid, Carrington, N. Dak.: He's happy with his **Enduro** carbide tip circular saw blade manufactured by **Omark Industries**, 2765 National Way, Woodburn, Ore. 97071. "Although the company says this blade should be used on wood without nails, I use it to saw used dimension lumber to burn in my shop stove. After cutting six pickup loads of wood, and many nails, the blade finally lost a carbide tip. With an ordinary blade, I'm lucky if I can fill one load before it needs sharpening."

Frank Stefka, Comstock, Neb.: "I'm glad I took out \$500, 50,000-mile insurance. I couldn't afford to drive without it," says Frank, unhappy with his 1980 **Ford 4-wheel** drive, 3/4 ton pickup. "It's on its third transmission in less than 40,000 miles and that's going bad, too. It has had five heater switches and you still have to kick it to start the blower. I also had

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trouble with the air conditioner and the front wheels often won't lock in when you need them. The dealer is good but the company didn't have the farmer or rancher in mind when this pickup was built."

On the plus side, "I've had **Vermeer** balers since 1976, including 'D', 'G' and 'F' models. They've been the most trouble-free machines I've ever had on the ranch. I bale 2,500 to 3,000 bales a year and have found that the belts cause no problems and are much gentler with alfalfa than other types of balers. The Vermeer Company stands behind their products 100%. I was so pleased with the company that, when I had a chance to become a farmer dealer for them, I jumped at the opportunity."

Jack Gore, Larned, Kan.: He's had trouble with his 1980 **F350 Ford** pickup. "The 400 cu. in. engine in my F350 Supercab is absolutely worthless. It has poor power, gets poor gas mileage and the transmission is spaced too wide between 3rd and 4th gears, making it lousy for pulling trailers. It also rides terrible. The only

thing I like is the extra room in the Supercab."

Har J. Saathoff, Gibson City, Ill.: "I've had tractors of many colors but these are by far the best," says Harm, pleased with his "best buy" **Deere 4430** and **4420** tractors. "Easy to operate for long periods of time, they're top quality machines. No down time and excellent dealer service."

"Another best buy is our **T.R.S. 80 Radio Shack** computer. It's a great time saver and a money maker for us."

Eugene Weerts, Bancroft, S. Dak.: He's happy with his 48 by 72 by 16-ft. "Energy Performer" farm shop built by **Morton Buildings**. "We need a well-designed, well-built and well-insulated building to withstand South Dakota weather and Morton scores high in all three areas. We heat our shop very inexpensively with a 60,000 btu radiant heater. Our insulated door made by the **Overhead Door Co.**, helps make every repair day in the shop more productive and comfortable."

Joseph Overholt, Jesup, Ga.: He's disappointed with the "worst buy" **Chevrolet S-10** pickup. "At 1,300 miles, the transmission gave out and it was in the shop for three weeks. At 5,000 miles, both rear view mirrors had to be replaced and I waited a month for them. The air conditioner leaked water on the floor from day one."

Gordon Reamer, Consol, Sask.: He's had trouble with his **McCulloch 3000** watt stand-by generator. "It wouldn't put out the power it was supposed to and then burned out after only a few hours of use. I could get no service or adjustment from the company or dealer and now it is useless. I lost \$560 on the deal."

He likes his 500 **Versatile 4-wheel** tractor. "Runs well, pulls good and fuel consumption is relatively low. Dealer service is excellent."

Tim Huddleston, Snyder, Tex.: "My worst buy story happened about three years ago. I had a 1566 **International** tractor and at 900 hours it had already cost us \$15,000 in repairs and a near crop miss. **IH** wouldn't stand behind it. The dealer and **IH** don't have to worry about us anymore."

"My best buy ever is a 4640 **Deere** tractor. It has 3,400 hrs. on it. The only item it was ever in the shop for was a water pump kit modification that **Deere** did free 3 months ago."

Albert Meyer, Adrian, Tex.: "I used the drill last fall to plant 900 acres of wheat and 80 acres of rye. The drill's seed rate is easy to adjust and it makes furrows to hold rain. It pulls easy through the field at 7 mph and folds up for transport," says Albert, pleased with his **Crust Buster** drill.

Bruce M. Lovdahl, McGregor, N. Dak.: His "best buy" is his **Anderson** reel type rock picker. "My neighbor has the distributorship for this area of North Dakota and has sold these pickers for years. When I first used it I couldn't believe how well it cleared my rocky knolls while all I did was sit on the tractor. The reel is powered so you can drive at any ground speed you choose."

Ed Anderson, Stewardson, Ill.:

"My wife is pleased with her **Kitchenaid** mixer. It has just one beater but it seems as powerful as an electric drill. It appears to be a very durable machine and I'm sure it will last our lifetime," reports Ed.

Roy D. Wright, Newville, Penn.: He's happy with his **Silo-Matic** belt-type cattle feeder. "Just press a couple buttons and the feeder does the work for you. Like the fact that all the cattle get fed at the same time. Also pleased with its low maintenance."

Haven Rice, Jamestown, Ind.: "I bought a pair of **Jack Russel** terrier dogs after reading about them in **FARM SHOW** nearly two years ago," says Haven. "They are the most love-

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able, intelligent dogs I have ever seen. They not only hunt down and kill rats all over our farm, as they are bred to do, but they are also the best coon dogs I have ever seen. They'll tree foxes and groundhogs, too, but have too much sense to bother a skunk. There's no better companion or more useful pet."

Louis H. Ulizio, Wallingford, Conn.: "The special fuel adjuster lets you start with a rich fuel mixture and then lean it up. The injectors should last longer because carbon won't build up on them. This tractor is also very comfortable for a big man to operate — your elbows can rest on the fender tops, relieving strain on your back," says Louis, pleased with his "best buy" **International 584** tractor.

John E. Ocker, Chambersburg, Penn.: "It cuts in downed hay, no matter how thick or thin, and at any speed," says John, happy with his **Vicon** mower-conditioner. "We even use it to fluff up hay that has been rained on for faster drying."

Brad Olsen, Morrin, Alberta: "I bought a 1/3 hp. **Monarch** submersible automatic sump pump which has to be my worst buy," says Brad. "In less than 8 months the pump conked out. It was repaired on warranty with no questions asked but it took 8 to 10 weeks. Meanwhile, I had to improvise to keep our septic tank from overflowing. When I finally got the pump back, it only worked for 6 to 8 months before the pump conked out again. By this time, the pump was out of warranty and I've had no luck in getting any compensation from the company."

He lists both his **Deere 450** trail type hay mower and his **Deere 336** hay baler as "best buys". "I bought my mower in July of 1980 and have had no problems at all. In October of 1980 I bought my baler and, in the first month and a half I owned it, I custom-baled 45,000 bales with absolutely no problems. It never missed tying a single bale in the first 5,000