

Randomly selected farmers "tell it like it is" in nominating their "best" and "worst" buys.

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Farmers Nominate Best, Worst Buys

Warren E. Jones, Woodston, Kan.: "There were no results. I honestly believe that if a dog had urinated on the field it would have done as much good," says Warren, disappointed with **Agri Spon** soil inoculant.

Norris Lawson, Yorktown, Tex.: "It's disgraceful to put Henry Ford's name on such junk," says Norris, upset with his 1982 **Ford** pickup. "I was told it would get up to 15 mpg, but I've never been able to get more than 13½ mpg after 12,500 miles. Pulling a trailer, I get about 6½ mpg."

John J. Beitel, Stayton, Ore.: Heading his "worst buy" list are his **Micro-Max** rotary spray nozzles. "These rotary nozzles haven't lived up to expectations. We used them with Roundup and Basagran. They seem to be more affected by wind than conventional nozzles and, when there is much growth at all, they don't provide the necessary penetration."

Oland McCain, Laurel Hill, Fla.: "We've had very disappointing experiences with **Ford** hay equipment. It's built lighter and not as well as Deere or New Holland. Would not

right. The dealer did give us a tractor to use when ours was in for repairs."

John likes his **Honda** ATC 110 all-terrain bike and his 3,000 gal. **Husky** manure tank. "Even our 6-year-old can start it and drive it," he says about the bike. "It's handy to check fences, chase cows and check crops. The manure tank pulls easy and the orbit motor on the fan makes it real nice to spread with."

Kenneth F. Stuhr, Petersburg, Neb.: He's pleased with his **International** 605 cu. in. irrigation motor and a **Reinke** Alumigator III center pivot. "I hooked the 605 motor up to natural gas, started it and in two years have had no problems. It's never failed to start. The Alumigator, after initial startup problems, has performed great. It's equipped with Senninger 6° nozzles at 60 psi, which give even distribution with little drift.

"Another best buy is our 371 **Melroe Bobcat** bought in 1975. It has over 900 hours with just regular maintenance. It has done everything from loading manure and construction work, to digging underground plenums for Behlen bins. A really well-built machine."

Glenn Wollweber, Ford, Wash.: "Our next tractors will be Fords, too," says Glenn, pleased with his **Ford** 5000 and 3000 tractors. "We have had no trouble with either one and they use 20% less fuel than other makes. My neighbors can't believe how easy our Fords start in cold weather. They haven't needed any repairs."

Lorne Fuller, Calgary, Alta.: "I had just started to combine with my pto-driven pull-type combine when an internal shaft broke on the tractor. Exactly five weeks later, the dealer got the tractor fixed," says Lorne, disappointed with his **White** 135 tractor. "The company representative, the dealer and service people all had different excuses for the delay. I never brought the tractor home but traded it off for a **Case** 2390, which is my best buy. "It's a bit rough riding at times due to the short wheel base but the cab is quiet. Visibility is good except that it's hard to see the drawbar for hookups. Has performed every job well."

W. Lee Smith, Parker, Kan.: "My 1086 **International** tractor was delivered with no hydraulics and a bad noise in the back end. The dealer came and took it to his shop and separated it into three sections. They brought it back with the same noise and no hydraulics. Took it back to the shop and called the field serviceman in Kansas City. He came to the dealer's shop and found 2 loose bolts, an O-ring out, and metal in a relief valve in the back end. Then the throw-out bearing went out. In replacing it, they lost the freon out of the air conditioner and charged me \$50 to recharge it. Most of the work was under warranty but, since I bought the tractor, it has been in the shop 54 days with \$800 of expenses in less than 800 hours. Now that the bugs are out, the tractor runs very good. Most troubles were factory errors."

Douglas J. Johnson, Sidne, Mont.: "The harrow sections start jumping when working fields on an angle, and sometimes on level ground, and

recommend it to anyone," says Oland.

On the plus side, he's had good luck with his **Kuhn** disc mower and **Butler** Agri-building. "The mower cuts very clean through even thick coastal Bermuda grass, even when the grass is wet. Appears to be well engineered and built."

Leo Bottoms, Dumas, Ark.: "My **Hustler** rice levee sprayer would be my worst buy," says Leo. "The engine failed, we had repeated clutch-variable speed pulley failures and wheel drive chain breakage within the first year. The steering clutches are oversensitive to the point that you can't operate them smoothly enough to prevent overstress to the machine and operator alike. A hydrostatic drive system would make it a much nicer operating machine."

Heading his "best buy" list is his 4890 **Case** 4-wheel drive tractor. "Plenty of power, easy to handle, comfortable, and has plenty of hydraulic capacity to handle my 12 and 14 cu. yd. scrapers."

John Eisses, Stroud, Ont.: "This all happened with less than 500 hours on the tractor," says John, disappointed with his "worst buy" **Case** 2090 tractor. "It's nice to handle but the pto clutch went out twice. Then the transmission had to be taken apart, it needed a new battery and the electrical system wouldn't work