

"Best" and "Worst" Buys

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gives nothing but trouble. Drive chains come off, then it plugs up or you have to change bushings on the rods."

Sam says a 1975 Ford 1-ton pickup with a crew cab was one of his "best buys" ever. "When we traded it in, we had 240,000 miles on it. We replaced the rings and main bearings at 120,000 miles but after that it seemed to get better with age. It has lots of power in its 460 cu. in. engine. It also got 14 to 15 mpg at 70 to 75 mph and we always had a camper on it.

"We're also pleased with Del Air heat exchangers that mix cold air from outside with warm air exhausted from the building. When it's 40° below outside, the incoming air is at 48 to 50° above zero. We have 8 of these units in our hog operation and we are so well satisfied with them that we took our boilers out and sold them."

Wally Redfield, Morris, Minn.: "It now has 1,700 hours on it and has performed fantastically," says Wally, pleased with his 1977 Ford 642 combine. "The first two years of operation, our only downtime was one broken fan belt. Since then, we have had only a few small problems. It's easy on fuel, easy to adjust, has good capacity and is a real joy to operate.

C.S. Parks, Bangor, Penn.: "Since I started using this disk I haven't had to pick rocks," says Parks, pleased with his Taylorway 12½-ft. offset extra heavy disk. "I farm in an area where rocks seem to grow and plowing always turns them up. This disk is heavy enough to stand up to the abuse of real rocky ground, and does a good job."

John M. Gabriel, Belle Plaine, Sask.: "A tractor is only as good as the service you get with it and the dealer we bought this tractor from was only interested in selling," says John, about his "worst buy" Steiger ST 450 tractor. "In the 1½ years that we had this tractor we never had everything working at one time. We did all the warranty work ourselves and had to wait up to 6 weeks for parts."

He nominates his John Deere 8850 tractor as "best buy". "The tractor is easy to service, a pleasure to operate and fuel economy is good. We are a little disappointed in the ground speed selection between 5 and 6½ mph, but this Deere is a definite step up from our Steiger. Dealer service has been good."

Alan F. Turner, Cupar, Sask.: "Our worst buy was a Massey Ferguson 751 pto combine bought new in 1980. "This combine had bearings all over it that were dry and hard to get at. The flanges are all on the inside of the machine, making them difficult to change. The transport on the hitch could have been designed better by a 2-year-old and some farmer could get injured or killed with it. The only good thing about the combine was dealer service."

Fred Adrian, Binford, N. Dak.: "We have only broken a half dozen

sickle sections on 1,500 acres of quite rocky ground," says Fred, pleased with his 1981 114 New Holland swinger Haybine. "It has a very good floating head."

Louis F. Major, Newberry, Mich.: "This baler is a whopper!" says Louis, pleased with his New Holland 847 round baler. "We bought this baler brand new and baled 500 acres without a second of trouble or a single misbale."

On the negative side, he had trouble with his "medium size Gehl baler. We had nothing but trouble with it. The baler would not start bales and we spent more time pulling hay out of the front of the machine than we did baling."

Danny L. Young, Wolcottville, Ind.: He's happy with his Deere 8640 and 4640 tractors. "Both tractors have done everything I expected and more. I've had no problems with either. Deere has an excellent warranty program, especially to update their 4-wheel drives. They have taken care of previous 4-wheel drives I've owned, too."

Edmund F. Marek, Penelope, Tex.: "This is one of the best tractors I have owned in my 33 years of farming," says Edmund about his Deere 4640.

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"Handles real good, does not use any oil, has more power than the factory says and starts perfect in real cold weather. Plenty of weight for the power, too.

"Our worst buy was our 1076 Ben Pearson cotton stripper from the Ben Pearson Co., Pine Bluff, Ark. There are no dealers to get parts from, and no one knows how to fix the stripper. Ben Pearson did not stand behind the warranty. I called them over and over again but they never sent anyone who could fix the power steering."

Howard E. Sudam, Medora, Ind.: He had a bad experience with a new International 425 baler. "When my old baler wore out, no one seemed to have a good used one so our local IH dealer said he'd make me a deal I couldn't refuse on a new one. He said there was a cash rebate on the model plus a special marked down price. I never did get the cash rebate. When I asked why, the dealer denied he had offered one saying it wasn't in writing. This wasn't the worst of it, however, as the baler wouldn't work. It kept shearing pins on the flywheel because the needles would drop before they were supposed to. This happened so many times that the stop dogs finally wore through the ram and took the needles out. They keep trying to fix it but can't. I hired more

hay baled last year than I baled myself and I still have a new baler that won't work. In addition, I have to pay for it as though it were perfect."

Norman Mairs, Nestleton, Ont.: "Driving our 1977 Ford 150 ½ ton pickup was like trying to steer a jack rabbit. On some roads you needed two hands on the steering wheel. We had it checked several times but it made no difference. It was also heavy on gas, getting only about 12 to 14 miles per Canadian gallon."

Norman's happy, though, with his 1980 GMC ½ ton Grande Sierra diesel pickup. "A dream to drive and steer and I'm very pleased with it although it does not give the mileage of 23 to 24 miles per Canadian gallon that it was supposed to get."

Delbert Butts, Browntown, Wis.: "You can go right into freshly picked corn without chopping stalks and never have a plug up. Does a really good job of tilling," says Delbert about his "best buy" Glencoe Soil Saver.

Scott Peacock, Alliance, Alb.: "Our Case 4-wheel drive tractor was a real headache. Most of the problems were related to steering yokes located at the end of each axle. Each wheel is able to turn, giving it a crab-like steering which may be good for pto implements but isn't necessary for most types of field work. When a universal joint went out, the drive shaft cleaned house. Even the hitch busted off. Every time we had a problem, the dealer had an answer. But the only satisfaction we got was when we traded it off on a Versatile 895."

Scott lists two "best buys". "Our 8820 Deere combine and a 70-ft. by 10-in. Farm King auger are both good products. The 8820 gobbles up a 44-ft. double swath of chest-high wheat straw. A tremendous performer with capacity to match. Very few problems and the reversible feederhouse is a real back saver, not to mention safety. The Farm King auger has high capacity and couples directly behind a pto tractor so you don't have to unhook it. A hydraulic driven 10-ft. cross-auger feeds the main auger so even semi-trucks can be easily unloaded. A hydraulic scissor action undercarriage lifts the auger, empty or full, with ease."

Kurt Ewald, Unionville, Mich.: "Our best buys have all been Deere tractors with power shift transmissions. We've logged close to 20,000 hours without one transmission or clutch failure, including a 1968 4020 with close to 7,000 hrs. Our latest best buy was Deere's new 4850 with MFWD. The 15-speed power shift is smooth as silk. Efficiency with the front-wheel drive is excellent."

Donald M. Hoggarth, Sexsmith, Alb. "The worst new product I have bought is a new Gilmore Tatge 580 Tox-O-Wik grain dryer. I have had trouble starting the burner and keeping it lit ever since it came on the farm. The serviceman has been out five or six times but it still has the same problems. There is an air switch which lights the burner and an air line that brings air from the fan to activate the switch. The least bit of dirt from the fan will plug this air line

and the burner will go out. I have had to remove this line from the dryer and clean it three times with one batch of grain to keep the burner going, which is an awful nuisance. There is also quite a bit of vibration in the drive."

William DeVibration, Hazel Green, Wis.: His "best buys" are his Duralon all-season radial tires and his Rockwell 1-in. belt sander and grinder. "The tires are the best I have ever used in the winter. And, since I purchased the 1-in. belt sander, I haven't used my wheel grinder. It does a great job on knives, drill bits and lawn mower blades."

Garry Barton, Dix., Ill.: Heading his "worst buy" list is his 1982 Reliant K car by Plymouth. "The car leaked on the front and back floor and also in the trunk. The first 6 months we owned it, it spent 28 days in the shop. The carpet had to be replaced. The dealer gave us little satisfaction and the trunk still leaks. We also wrote the company but with no results."

Sidney Ebersole, Pioneer, Ohio: "International Harvester's 645 Vibra Chisel isn't strong enough to chisel bean stubble and it is impossible to

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control depth because the frame will flex. It is just plain junk!"

On the positive side, Sidney's pleased with his Glencoe Soil Saver. "We have had no trouble, depth control is good and all adjustments are easy to make. Our White 378 Danish tine cultivator is also a good solid machine."

Lon E. Moen, Ortonville, Minn.: "I'm well-pleased with my 8-row Max Emerge 7000 John Deere planter. It has good seed placement and causes no problems at all. My Feterl augers are also a big plus in my farming operation."

Ronald Hohl, Donnellson, Iowa: "One of my best purchases in the past year is an 8-in. 55-ft. bottom drive Mayrath grain auger. The auger really handles a lot of grain. It's equipped with a winch that raises and lowers it quickly, easily and safely. Despite its size, it's highly maneuverable and easy to move. It lowers fairly flat for storage. Service is excellent."

Deane W. Meinhardt, Kahoka, Mo.: "I learned about both of my best buys from FARM SHOW," reports Deane. "In 1978 I adapted a John Deere 653 row head to my M Gleaner combine, using the Bish head changer. They both have worked satisfactory and beyond my expectations. In 1980, I purchased a set of Clarence Trimpe's reworked cylinder bars (Junction U.S. 31 and 50, Seymour, Ind. 47274) and they have done everything that he said they would do and more."

Another good buy is Deane's Dikey John spray monitor and radar