

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

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Farmers Nominate Best, Worst Buys

Don Ready, Kimberley, Ontario: Don's **Belarus** 500, 65 hp. tractor is both his "best" and "worst buy". "The price was 1/2 that of a Deere. I like the simplicity of design, the tires are excellent and fuel consumption is very good. It uses about 1.5 gal. for disking and cultivating and just 1 gal. per hour for planting. Service is also good and, when we blew the engine, a new motor, starter, alternator, fuel injector and water pump were delivered to my door for \$2,500.

"On the negative side, the tractor has poor quality hydraulic lines and plastics. Excessive vibration broke an oil line which burned out an engine. The clutch and brakes are poor and the instruments have all broken."

Eugene Sellers, Trout Run, Penn.: "I had the opportunity to exchange the 413 cu. in. motor in my 1066 **International** tractor for a 466 cu. in. motor and it really made a beast out of it," says Eugene about his "best buy", noting that **International** uses the same block for a number of engines. "You can shift up and throttle back on just about any job now, and tillage

thousands of hours on it without any major breakdowns."

Steve is also pleased with his **Homelite** Super XL chainsaw. "I traded in my older Super XL for it. I've logged for quite a few years and cut wood for my own use, too. I'm pleased with the handling of my **Homelite** saw and its dependability. It starts easily and has no maintenance problems. I also have an older **XP 1000 Homelite** saw that has never given me problems."

Robert Shooter, Rowland, N.C.: "When we were looking for an 8-row cultivator for our row crops, we looked at a lot of different brands but decided we liked the **International** 183 **Vibratone** because of its design. We bought one and put it in the field but we started having trouble breaking guide fins. We called our dealer since it was still under warranty. He came out several times but could not find the problem. Finally, I checked through some cultivator manuals and found that the cultivator had been set-up wrong. I switched guide fins and gauge wheels and have had no problems since. The cultivator does a very good job and I am pleased with it now."

Robert Carpenter, Jr., Cortland, N.Y.: "Wet spots are no longer a problem. We wouldn't have gotten all our corn in last fall without it," reports Robert, pleased with his **International** 2+2 3588 tractor. "It handles well and its turning ability is just exceptional. It also has a comfortable cab and the service from **International** has been good.

"Another 'best buy' is our set of **Bush Hog** chisel plows. They save time and do a great job. You would never know our corn stalks hadn't been plowed by conventional methods."

On the "worst buy" side, Robert's had problems with his **Jeep** Cherokee and Jeep pickup. "They were being fixed more than they were here for us to use, even during the first year. They rusted out and the workmanship was poor. The Jeep truck is not able to keep up with farm work.

"They were being fixed more than they were here for us to use."

work is pure pleasure.

"I would caution anyone contemplating a similar 'transfusion' to do a complete job for the best results. We added an extra clutch plate and a heavier sprag clutch in the TA; extra springs in the engine clutch; installed a 1566 radiator, fan and fan shroud; and used an extra transmission oil cooler. Also, you should use the extra power to go faster rather than to pull heavier loads, if you want the grease and bearings transmitting the power to hold up. I now pull 6 16-in. plows anywhere at 7 1/2 mph and could go faster if it were desirable."

James R. Urch, Drumheller, Alberta: James has had good luck with his **Butler** 48 by 96-ft. Farmstead I metal building. "It is much stronger and better designed than other steel buildings and the local dealer helps out in every way," he reports.

"We're also very pleased with our **RCA** portable video camera and recorder. It lets us control the TV during the busy seasons and watch programs and movies when it rains or such. It brings us city benefits in rural areas.

Steve Vaadi, Jr., Lafargeville, N.Y.: "I have an old **Massey Harris** Super 101 **Twin Power** with a 6 cyl. Chrysler engine that I believe cannot be beat," says Steve. "It has been a tough reliable tractor. It has

"Our **Harvestore** Goliath unloader is another 'worst buy'. In just 14 months of use, we have had troubles with the electric motor, the electric plug, the ratchet wheel, and the main drive belt in the main hub, which dropped out inside the silo. It took two days to get it fixed. We have had **Harvestores** for 11 years and never had trouble before now. The dealership has taken care of problems with excellent service."

John Knippen, Middle Point, Ohio: "FARM SHOW magazine is always up to date. I enjoy it very much. In fact, it helped me make up my mind what planter to buy," says John, pleased with his "best buy" a **John**