

Best And Worst Buys

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used it to coat the metal roof on our double wide mobile home. Shortly after it had been applied, the roof still leaked. They came back and patched it up, which seemed to help. Last winter when the snow melted on the roof, the water ran through leaving water on the floor and damaging the ceiling tile. We called the dealer who told us he would be down to fix it. After three months, he still hadn't showed up so we put on a complete new roof."

Myron Novak, Westfield, Wis.: "My 'worst buy' is my **Menard** pole building. The problem is poor workmanship. The pole next to the overhead door settled 1½ in. immediately after completion, causing the roof to sag and the door to be crooked. The building was built off grade so that in order for the overhead door to close on the top, a special short unmatched panel had to be installed. They used nails instead of wood screws to attach the service door and on the overhead door they tied knots in the cable instead of using cable clamps. "In addition, there were constant roof leaks. We had no response from our dealer when we complained, although I got a response from another on the pretense of being interested in another Menard building. That dealer sent out two men to caulk every nail head on the brown roof with white caulk. It now looks like the chickens roosted up there. After four months it started to leak again and I can't get an answer from Menards."

On the positive side, Myron notes that "my 'best buy' had to be my subscription to FARM SHOW magazine. All the fuel saving tips and inventions alone make it literally worth its weight in gold. Not to mention the just plain interesting reading. The only trouble is that I can't keep my old copies because everyone else wants them. I really enjoy your publication."

Strigrow Farms, Frankfort, Ill.: "Big flotation tires carry it over the soft spots in the field and it unloads fast," they report, pleased with their 800 bu. auger wagon from **Kinze Manufacturing**, Williamsburg, Iowa. "The auger is long enough to hit the center of any truck. It shuts off the grain to clean out the auger so, that when you hydraulically fold the auger, very little, if any, grain is ever spilled."

Rodney 1. Liming, Royal Center, Ind.: "We're real happy with our **Port-A-Hut** hog shelters," reports Rodney. "They're 6 by 11 ft. in size and 4 ft. high. They're priced reasonably and are real rugged shelters that stand up to constant hog abuse. The only modification I've made has been to install wood runners. It's an excellent shed for the money."

Ed Anderson, Stewardson, Ill.: "I bought this auto new in 1978. It now has 55,000 miles on it but it still rides, handles and performs great. I don't know how they will be able to improve on it. I get good service, too," says Ed, happy with his 1979 **Chev-**

rolet Caprice.

Clyde A. Hubbard, Jr., Pana, Ill.: "One of the best buys I've ever made is the 15-ft. **Landall Tillall** tillage tool I bought early this year," reports Clyde. "It's actually 4 tools in one. It discs, cultivates, beats up the dirt and harrows it. I worked up a real good seedbed with just two trips over the field. Does a super level job and works equally well in plowed or unplowed ground. We had a very dry spring and it worked just great. I could never have held the moisture if I had used only a disc, as in other years. This past spring, the Tillall was the only tool I used, except I pulled my bean drill behind a **Cultimulcher.**"

Lawrence Carrico, Rochester, Ind.: "Practically all products fit into my 'worst buy' category," says Lawrence. "I wish all design engineers had to repair, maintain and overhaul the products they design. Then they might do it right and we would be able to purchase a product that wouldn't take a magician to fix."

Perry Walter, Woonsocket, S. Dak.: Perry's "worst buy" nomination is a truck tarp he bought from the **Goodyear Tarp Company.** "I bought the tarp and used it once. I put it over the truck box and, by the time I got home from town, the tarp, which was supposed to be untearable, was badly torn over the corners of the box."

Jack R. Walters, Columbus, Penn.: "This machine has been a great improvement over my previous **PT-7 Hesston** Haybine," says Jack, pleased with his **Hesston 1090** haybine. "It cuts any kind of hay, heavy or light, upright or down. So far, it has been a pleasure to use and it's proof a company can still build a worthwhile product that they can be proud of. We're also fortunate to have a dealer whose word is as good as gold or better."

Gary A. Jackson, Moweaqua, Ill.: Heading his "best buy" list is his 500 gal. **Century** spray tank carrier mounted on his field cultivator. "We mounted the tank carrier on the front of a **Deere** field cultivator and used a **Dickey-John** sprayer control system. It all worked very well. The carrier is built heavy. I like the tank carrier because you can do away with saddle tanks on the tractor and it does not add any weight to the field cultivator."

John R. Farrell, Scottsville, N.Y.: "This disk has ¼ in. blades and a cushion gang attachment. We haven't bent a blade in over 1,000 acres of stoney ground. The disk does a great job and is easy to adjust," says John about his **Deere 235**, 20-ft. wing-fold disk. "The only problems I've had are that the bolts for the cushion gang attachment kept breaking. A neighbor, while replacing a bolt, cut his arm on a very sharp piece of steel on the disk frame. After grinding away the sharp corners, and the dealer replacing the bolts with grade 8's, there have been no more problems."

Harry Franklin, Wakefield, Quebec: He's pleased with his **Maschio B155** Rotavator, made in Italy. "This machine takes a 5-ft. swath and, with just one pass over a field, it is ready for seeding. However, the feature that really sold me on it is that it'll cut up small shrubs, bushes and trees as thick as my wrist with no difficulty. I have alot of partially overgrown scrub pasture and, after using this machine for one month, has worked better than I ever dreamed. I've cleaned up much of my scrub pasture."

Russell Rose, Sleepy Eye, Minn.: "We are very pleased with our 1979 **Dodge W150** 4-wheel drive pickup," says Russell. "We get 15 mpg and use it on our hog trailer. The truck rides very smooth."

"There seems to be no limit to what it can pull."

"Our 4640 **Deere** tractor has to be our 'best buy' ever. There seems to be no limit to what it can pull. It's low on fuel consumption and we've never had anything go wrong with it in 1,500 hours."

F.R. Kral, Biggar, Sask.: His "best buys" include his **John Deere 4440** Powershift tractor, his **John Deere 7721** pto combine, and his **Versatile 400** 20-ft. self-propelled swather. "The tractor has the power I need. It's quiet and comfortable. The combine has the capacity I need, does an excellent job threshing and is extremely reliable. I like the ease of operation of the swather, and its capacity for work."

Bill Yerkes, Milanville, Penn.: "My 'worst buy' experience was the purchase of a new **Allis 175** tractor," reports Bill. "We felt we needed a larger tractor to replace our 'old faithful' **Allis Chalmers D-17.** We shopped around and bought the new **AC 175.** It turned out to be half the tractor the **D-17** was. It was clumsy, awkward, rough riding and fuel hungry. After eight months, we traded the **175** off for a **Kubota 7500** 4-wheel drive. This tractor is really a dream to be around. It handles well, rides well and is economical with fuel. It seems strange that all of these tractors were purchased from the same dealer who, by the way, gives great service."

"Another good buy is our **Partner S-50** chainsaw, which has only required a new chain in two seasons and cuts beautifully. When handling wood, we use another 'best buy' product — our **Farmi 3-pt.** winch. This is one of the handiest tools that we have. We use it both in the woods and out, handling everything from logs to stuck vehicles to down cattle in the barn. It seems a shame that all my best products are foreign made."

John E. Clark, Dover, Ohio: He's pleased with his 34-ft. **New Idea** grain auger, his 2-105 **White** tractor, and 508 **White** plow. "The auger runs smooth, it's solid and well-built, and

will auger grain like crazy. The tractor and plow have both performed very well, especially the plow. It works in almost any kind of soil condition."

"My 'worst buy' has to be my 5100 **White** planter. This year was the second season for it and a second season of aggravation for me. First season, the marker arms would not shorten up enough for four-row narrow using a tricycle front end tractor, so we had to modify it ourselves with no help from White. The press wheels are too close to the 7 in. band insecticide applicator. You cannot put any size seed in the planter and plant with any kind of consistency in spacing like White says you can. I've tried cutting air pressure, closing the feed gate, and using popcorn plates for planting field corn. Only half the cells on the popcorn plate will fill. I'll admit part of my problem is due to poor seed corn grading, but not all. This year in minimum tillage, the main drive chain for the seed had a habit of picking up corn stalks and changing sprockets for you. Instead of planting 26,000, I was planting 35,000 seeds per acre. On the left hand jack shaft for the fertilizer setting you cannot use the 25 tooth sprocket because the chain tightener will not touch and tighten the chain no matter where you position it. The inside cleaners for the fertilizer discs are too weak. I've had to replace all four both seasons. The indicator lever for the insecticide boxes are also too thin and weak."

Roy J. Smith, Simcoe, Ontario: "Having been predominantly a user of **International Harvester** products, I recently bought a 1086 tractor and an **Early Riser** planter. They are basically well-made, but quality control seems to be lacking. We've had a lot of down time because of small problems. The company seems to think they can throw things together and let the dealer and customer pay for the aggravation and down time. Pride of workmanship seems to be lacking in today's work force in many cases."

Dennis Esslinger, Bern, Kan.: "This grinder has the performance of a 7-in. grinder but is small and easy to handle," says Dennis, pleased with his 4-in. portable grinder made by **LaGrange Manufacturing**, Omaha, Neb. "The stones are exceptionally hard and don't wear down very fast. I have equipped this grinder with cut off blades so I don't need a cutoff saw. It has plenty of power."

On the minus side, Dennis had trouble with his **Makita** portable grinder. "It had no power and the wheels wore down too fast. You couldn't bear down on it and expect to get anything done. I had it only a short time when I sold it and bought the **La Grange.**"

"I would also like to nominate **FARM SHOW** as a 'best buy'. It is the best farm paper I receive. It has saved me thousands of dollars in machinery purchases. I read it from front to back."

"Another good purchase is a tire repair kit I first saw in **FARM SHOW.** It's made by the **Nealey Company** of Des Moines, Iowa. The kit, for 4-ply tires, costs just \$8.95 for 12 repairs. In town they charge \$5.00 or more to fix