

BUYING TIPS YOU CAN USE

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

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Farmers Nominate Best, Worst Buys

Richard J. Ferrell, Barclay, Md.: "I haven't made any 'worst buys' recently thanks to the 'tip off' system in your Best and Worst Buys," Richard told FARM SHOW. "When I'm in the market for something and it appears as a 'worst buy' in your magazine, I approach it with caution. You've saved me from making quite a few bad purchases."

Heading his "best buy" list is the **Hanson Industries** Straw Spreader (Box 248, Yellow Grass, Sask. SOG 5J0) which he read about in FARM SHOW. "Does a level job of spreading straw behind my combine, making it easier for us to plant no-till.

"We're also pleased with our **Johnson** 15-ft. disc harrow. This well-engineered harrow does an extremely level job with excellent penetration. Will work at higher than average speeds, too.

"Our **NECO** Python 67-ft., 8-in. grain auger also qualifies as a 'best buy'," adds Richard. "It has 40% fewer moving parts and works great filling our 48-ft. bin. I like the protective devices on it."

15½% in 14 days. I would never consider a natural air bin of any brand without a stirator.

"Another 'best buy' is my **Deutz** 72 hp tractor," says Harold. "In six years, I've averaged less than 1½ gallons diesel fuel per hour."

Gerald R. Holtz, Rib Lake, Wis.: "Our biomass furnace, built by **Dunn Energy Systems, Inc.**, has to be our 'worst buy,'" reports Gerald. "We paid \$5,000 for it and didn't get one full heating season out of it. They were out once to repair welds which pulled apart. Shortly after, the firebox cracked, allowing smoke to fill the barns. When the blower came on it fanned the fire, compounding the problem. Dunn has promised since March of 1981 to fix it for us but no one has shown up yet, even after many phone calls.

"Our 'best buy' has to be our **JL 306** skidding winch by **Farmi** of Finland," says Gerald. "It makes a good wood-handling machine out of our 520 John Deere."

Robert Marisch, Spalding, Neb.: "After reading your 'Owners Report On Best, Worst Planters' in your Vol. 6, No. 2 issue, I must make a few 'best buy' comments in connection with my **International** 500 Cyclo planter. After 15 years of no-till planting in which I use my Cyclo for planting on old row ridges, I feel very confident in my system. Here's how it works: 1. Apply anhydrous ammonia. 2. Harrow or chop stalks. 3. Plant corn, apply herbicide, insecticide and starter fertilizer all in one operation. 4. Cultivate twice. 5. Harvest.

"The system saves time, soil and water. I have almost no weed problems, no volunteer corn and no need for large expensive equipment."

William W. Wells, Rushville, Ill.: "You can add to your list of 'worst buys' the sparrow trap for farm buildings from **Last Perch** in Mitchellville, Iowa, which I read about in FARM SHOW," says William. "I've had it over a year now and so far it has cost me about \$5.00 per caught bird. I moved it to three different locations, hoping for better results but to no avail."

Arthur Gapp, Walhalla, N. D.: He likes his **John Deere** 21-ft. pull-type 580 swather. "I like the way it cuts and lays down a nice even swath that's easy to pick up. The windrows also dry off quickly when rained on."

Richard Ott, Cleghorn, Iowa: "I bought a new 265 **Massey Ferguson** tractor a couple years ago that has to be one of my 'worst buys'. It has

"I'd blame this tractor's problems on sloppy engineering and poor workmanship."

leaked hydraulic oil from day one; the torque slips on the high side; the friction brake on the throttle comes loose about once a month; the oil pressure line wore through in three places before it was a year old; the hydraulic control lever goes down

Donald Hale, Delevan, N.Y.: "It'll never work when you need it. It blows its own fuses," says Donald, upset with his model 25 **Winco** alternator.

As for his "best buy" **Gehl** 7200 flail chopper, Donald says, "It'll cut anything. Even wet hay after the heaviest rains won't plug it."

Jerald L. Smith, West Point, Miss.: "Deere products are over-priced and over-rated on power. But they have an outstanding dealer service network in this area and, when my 1979 **Deere** 2840 developed faulty hydraulic couplings, they stood behind their warranty," says Jerald, happy with his "best buy" tractor.

He says he doesn't have a "worst buy" because he hasn't bought any late model equipment recently. "We can't pay for machinery made by \$12 to \$20 per hour labor with 50 cent cattle and \$2.48 corn," he notes.

Harold Nelson, Lafayette, Minn.: "I bought a natural air drying corn bin with extra large fan and motor in 1978 and experienced less than satisfactory results the first three years — until I bought a "best buy" stirator built by **David Manufacturing Co.** in Mason City, Iowa. The machine is simple and trouble-free, and has an excellent stirring pattern. Last fall, with the stirator blending the bottom dry corn with the wet, I dried my corn down 10 points to