

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

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# Farmers Nominate Best, Worst Buys

**Dave Aikman, Spencer, Ohio:** "The dealer misrepresented this plow. It has no trash clearance and continuously plugged in cornstalks, with coulters coming loose and breaking. Trash coverage was also very poor." says Dave about his **John Deere 3600** 7-bottom plow.

He likes his 52-ft. **Hutchinson** 8-in. grain auger. "It's balanced perfectly and our dealer has all parts available when we need them."

**George Panasuk, Bainville, Mont.:** "This is supposedly **Hesston's** quick-tach head but, when we took the hay head off, we couldn't figure it out," says George, upset with the 21-ft. grain head for his 1981 **Hesston 6550** swather. "It took a **Hesston** serviceman all day to get it on. The grain head is absolutely no good. The worst machine I ever owned."

On the other hand, George likes his 875 **Versatile** 4-wheel drive. "With its hinged hood, hinged radiator screen, battery swing-out and oil and filter checks at ground level, it's easy to service. Good fuel economy."

through several more inches of rain in the fall and the hay is still very nice."

**Bill Wendlandt, Garden City, Minn.:** "My 'best buy' is the promotion and marketing I get with a one cent check-off per bushel of soybeans. The dollars sent to the Minnesota Soybean Research & Promotion Council have been a good investment. If we grow it, we should promote it," says Bill.

**Dewaine, Rayston, Elbert, Colo.:** He's pleased with his 1981 4440 **John Deere** tractor. "Like the way it handles in the field and the good vision from inside the cab. The hydraulic seat is extremely comfortable."

**James Arndorfer, Humeston, Iowa:** "It did a great job of getting under our hail damaged beans. The dividers worked so well that we never once had to unwrap the reel," says James, pleased with his "best buy" **John Deere 218** flex head.

**Keith Davidson, Chickasha, Okla.:** He's dissatisfied with his **Subaru "Brat"** pickup. "Runs good but gets just 21 to 25 mpg, compared to the 27 to 31 mpg my old one got."

On the plus side, "My **Ford 7700** tractor is easy on fuel, burning just 2.5 gal. per hour for light hay work up to 4 gal. per hour on heavy disking. Have had little trouble and the dealer gives good service."

**Jody Travis, Shepherd, Mich.:** "My 'best buy' is my **Honda 185** three-wheeler. It's great for checking cattle fences and chasing after tools. Starts quick with just one pull in the winter and gets good gas mileage. The only trouble I had was with the clutch and the dealer fixed that with no charge.

"Our 'worst buy' is our **Chevrolet 1978 Blazer**. When we bought it there were wheel bearings missing out of the front wheel. It gets about 7 mpg, starts hard in winter and rusted out after the second year. And now it uses oil!"

**Vernon Hokanson, Dundurn, Sask.:** "I traded in my duals for a pair of **Goodyear** radials, expecting to have a more comfortable ride. Unfortunately, they made the tractor almost impossible to ride on and were certainly no improvement," says Vernon.

**Ronald Day, Hammond, Ill.:** Ronald had trouble with Lexone herbicide from **Dupont**. "It didn't control what it is supposed to. The company came out and looked at all the fields but we haven't heard anything yet from them. Our dealer is still trying to get answers for us and other farmers in this area."

Ronald rates his **John Deere 4640** as a "best buy". "The seat in the 4640 is the best I've ever ridden in. The tractor has plenty of power and the quad range transmission has just the right speed for our tillage equipment. After 550 hours, we haven't had a breakdown.

"Another 'best buy' is a 13-ft. mulch-tiller from **John Deere**. It does a wonderful job in cornstalks. Our **John Deere** dealer has been great on service."

**S. Ridgely Morison, Delmar, Delaware:** "When I was looking for a grader blade for my 40 horsepower

**Dan Merkwan, Geddes, S. Dak.:** "My 'best buy' would have to be my **WL42 Westendorf** loader," says Dan. "I've got it mounted on a 4030 **John Deere** tractor with approximately 90 hp and it performs beautifully. In the three years I've had the loader, we've never had to repair it. It loads feed for cattle, hauls manure, and even digs rocks. The thing that sold me on the loader was the quick-tach two minute on/off feature and the good luck my neighbors had with theirs."

On the "worst buy" side, Dan nominates his **Massey Ferguson 1100** tractor. "The tractor was supposed to have 90 to 100 hp but it can't pull alongside a 75 hp tractor. In the last few years, we've put money in the rear-end, the hydraulic system, tires, the 3 pt. hitch, and the motor twice. The air conditioner never worked properly and it only has a little over 3,000 hours on it."

**Alfred Koekenhoff, Graettinger, Iowa:** "Performs just like the company says," reports Alfred about his **Owatonna 595** round baler. "Those steel rollers make the outside of the bale really solid, leaves the bale with a soft core so the bale can breathe. I had 14-ft. windrows of hay that were rained on for several days. One afternoon, I started tipping them and my son started baling one hour behind me. The hay was quite tough, but it cured well in the bale. The bales went