

Best And Worst Buys

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Norman Siems, Melvin, Ill.: "My 'best buy' was to install a twin cylinder electric hoist from **Stone Hydraulic Industries**, of Rockford, Ill., on my pickup. It turns a ¾ ton pickup into a true small truck. I have used it to haul so many different things in so many ways it would be futile to try to list them all. It even works as a handy portable ladder in isolated spots. The only drawback is that the amount you pull is limited unless a rigid hitch is installed. Because of the location of the fuel tanks on new models, one may have to use the type of hoist that slips into the existing bed. I would be concerned about the added weight for year around driving.

"The **Schultz** planter tiller from Waterloo, Iowa, is also a 'best buy,'" Norman continues. "They suggest that you work the ground once and then plant. It works beautifully. Fits on my Deere 7000 planter. Pulls easy. No problems after two years and is still ready to go. I had anticipated there would be problems in muddy pot holes that you could not ride up high enough to get out of, but I was wrong."

Norman has no "worst buys" to nominate but says he's reconsidering the benefits of drilled soybeans. "I have had three years experience with narrow beans and my yields have, in most cases, been greater than 38 in. rows. But weeds were a problem the first year and, although that problem seems to be resolved, I have been plagued by wet fields at harvest due to the heavy canopy that doesn't let the field dry as fast as rowed beans. The anxiety and problems make it a doubtful practice."

Robert S. Postans, Heath, Alberta: "My problems were minor because both companies stood behind their warranties," Robert told FARM SHOW, pleased with his **GMC 7000** series truck with a **Vermillion Manufacturing and Machine** grain box. "We purchased it almost a year ago. A hose coupler on the box broke and

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Vermillion gave us a new hose, hose coupler and replaced the hydraulic oil. The truck came with a faulty power steering hose clamp and no tank gauge in one of the saddle tanks. Both were fixed at no cost, including replacement power steering oil. The dealer also extended GMC's original 3-month warranty an extra 8 months."

Another good buy for Robert was

his **Versatile 45-ft., 8-in. dia.** pto-powered grain auger. "It works extremely well with no vibration, low noise and high capacity. Pulls easy on the road, lifts and lowers safely but slowly. The bad part is that it over-centers very easily and can quite easily lift a man off the ground when the bottom end is lifted too high and the fellow doesn't let go. The safety cage is useless as it doesn't fit grain auger hoppers, or under trucks or anything else. To top it off, no one person can move it, except perhaps on pavement. However, we've put well over 65,000 bushels of cereal grains through it with no maintenance except greasing and tightening belts."

Lester Wissmann, Lesburg, Mo.: "My **John Deere 36** square baler is my 'best buy'. I've never had a serious breakdown, and it continues to operate without any tying problems. I use regular or plastic twine, both of which work fine. Good dealer service.

"My 'worst buy' was an **Allis Chalmers 342** square baler. It wouldn't take the hay. I had to bale with a single windrow so the feeder wouldn't shear pins. Field representatives checked it but didn't think there was too much wrong. After baling 4,500 bales, I took a loss and traded it off."

Raymond Gibbs, Dodge Center, Minn.: He says his "worst buy" is "my **Dry Mor Bluebird** corn dryer. We used it for two years and are replacing it this year. I've never owned any machine with as many problems as it had. It would overdry and under-dry batches, and shut down many times a day. It was supposed to save 30% on fuel and increase capacity over our old **AB-12 Farm Fan** dryer but it didn't do either."

Raymond adds that his **John Deere 4440** tractors are "best buys". "We have two of them and they seem to be the right size for many jobs. They are very trouble free. Everybody likes to drive them."

Edwin H. Bredemeier, Steinauer, Neb.: "For 'best buy' I nominate my **Foster Bunchmaster** that trails behind my combine catching stalks, cobs and chaff to use as winterfeed for my cow-calf operation. The company representative stayed and showed me how to adjust it. The feed had enough protein in it that I didn't have to buy any. I got enough feed from two acres of 100 bu. milo to keep a cow 4½ months with no other feed. I only lost about 5% of my cutting ability during harvest and got about 18 tons of feed a day."

Bill McClurdy, Truro, Nova Scotia: "This mower will cut at speeds up to 12 mph and is exceptionally good in dense crops," says Bill, pleased with his **John Deere 1320** rotary mower conditioner. "The machine is also excellent for close cutting of fine crops. It has a trouble-free conditioning system that doesn't vibrate the whole machine as

do some other models. Maintenance time is almost nil since the knives are self-sharpening. A real plus machine for **John Deere.**"

Tom Schuffenecker, Oregon, Ohio: "In six months, I had all I wanted of **Massey Ferguson** tractors," reports Tom, upset with his **Massey 180D** tractor. "It started poor, had poor hydraulics, and a differential lock not worth having. I gave this tractor a try but there was no way it could compare to the four **John Deeres** I already own."

On the "best buy" side, Tom's pleased with his **New Idea 177** elevator. "I went through three used elevators before buying this one. It really takes the ear corn. Just open the door and let it go.

"My biggest gripe with most farm equipment is that it's poorly painted. The paint peels and there is often no primer. The paint on my **Killbros** gravity box and **New Idea** silage blower peeled the first year."

On the positive side, Loren likes his 130 hp. **Deutz** tractor and **Calumet**

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pump and 3250 gal. tank spreader. "We bought our 130-06 **Deutz** tractor used with 1300 hrs. It really does a job hauling the 3250 gal. tank on the road and in the field. I love the way it shifts gears. The **Calumet** pump really stirs the manure pond well and the spreader does an excellent job spreading it."

Douglas Shefelbine, Holmen, Wis.: "Over the past 30 years, we've transformed our hilly dairy farm into 50 acres of apple orchards, 10 acres of strawberries and one acre of raspberries. Our 'worst buy' concerns the failure of the state of Wisconsin to compensate landowners for the extensive damage to farmer's crops by wildlife, especially by the overpopulation of **White-Tail** deer. We are currently working with state legislators and farm groups on this problem and would be interested in the experiences of others with this problem," says Douglas.

Gene Schmidt, Smith Center, Kan.: "My bad experience was with a 1980 **Volkswagen Rabbit** diesel. The guarantee is one year or 20,000 miles. This Rabbit was 15 months old and had just turned over 20,344 miles when a valve broke, breaking the piston head, and bending the rod. The mechanic said a flaw in the valve caused it and that the company would probably stand for the parts. That was a big joke! It cost \$1,013 to get the car back and the company said it might have been a problem in service. In reality the car had actually been serviced more than required because I have always thought oil and filters were cheaper than repair work. I'm getting rid of this car and will never own another **Volkswagen.**"

On the plus side, Gene says his "best buy" is his new **John Deere**

8440. "The best **John Deere** I have owned yet. So far no trouble and it handles great."

Nancy Pease, Shelburne, Ontario: "This rototiller is belt driven and slight amounts of dust cause the belt to slip," reports Nancy about her "**Ford** rototiller. We had troubles starting it and troubles getting the supplier out to service it. The combination of a slipping belt and general weakness resulted in no drive power even on slight upward inclines."

Al Rod, Sublette, Ill.: "I drove it hard and there isn't one rattle. You just can't believe it!" says Al, pleased with his 1979 **Toyota** Corona. "I've put on 90,000 miles, replacing the front brakes twice and two sets of tires and tuning it up when needed. The compression after all those miles was still 150 in all four cylinders. I use gasohol and Baldwin filters and she runs like a sewing machine, getting 24 to 32 mpg. I liked it so well I bought a **Toyota** pickup, too."

Jerry Irous, Clarence, Iowa: Jerry's pleased with his **International 1480** Axial Flow combine. "The thing I like best is the grain quality. We had many compliments at the river terminal on our grain sample."

Dana Gruetzmacher, Kewanee, Wis.: "My **Better Bilt** manure pump works very good but the company's service is something else. They promised me October 1 delivery when I ordered it August 18. It was delivered November 23rd. I had ordered a 1,000 rpm pump and stressed that part of my order in two phone calls to the company. It was delivered with a 1,000 rpm shaft, but with 540 rpm gear box. **Better Bilt** promised to have a 1,000 rpm pump flown in to replace it in three days. After another phone call, it was finally replaced December 20."

Ralph Jones, Midland, S. Dak.: "This fall our custom grinder remarked on the high quality of our hay compared to other big round bales he ground in our area," says Ralph, pleased with his **Owatonna 595** round baler. "The sudan-sorghum in our area had too much moisture for conventional hard center round bales. OMC's soft center made the difference. Easy to operate, too."

Paul McKie, North Augusta, S.C.: "This planter comes closer to meeting manufacturer's claims than any other piece of equipment I have ever owned," reports Paul, pleased with his **International "Early Riser" 800** series planter. "Easily adjusted and maintains extremely uniform seed depth, even under varying soil conditions. Service has also been excellent."

"Another 'best buy' has been our '**Disk Mulcher**' from **Noble Manufacturing**. It does an outstanding job, even under adverse conditions."

Harry VanderPol, Alton, Iowa: "I'm not very proud of the transmission in my **Ford F150** pickup," says Harry about his "worst buy". "I've always liked Ford pickups but I've just recently had to pay over \$400 to rebuild the transmission. The mechanic told me himself that this particular transmission was too light duty to be in a pickup. I guess next time I'll get a ¾ ton but then I'll be sacrificing ride and comfort."