

Best And Worst Buys

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fectiveness of the spray material rather than helping it."

Lawrence Rezal, Valparaiso, Neb.: "The booms would bend, the cables holding them would break and folding them was a nightmare—you just got wet," says Lawrence about his Century weed sprayer. "I don't think much has been done for years to improve sprayer booms."

Lawrence is well pleased with his Mira Fount insulated "freeze-proof" cattle waterer. "It keeps the water from being too cold in winter and keeps it cool in summer. Also keeps the water clean and requires very little maintenance."

John Muller, Dashwood, Ontario: "I'm especially impressed with the service," says John, pleased with his Gleaner MZ combine. "The combine broke down around 6 p.m. I phoned the dealer and two guys came to work on it from 9 p.m. to 4 a.m. while I slept. The next morning I combined just as if nothing had happened. Very important, especially when you're rushing to take the corn off."

Ed Tschetter, Star City, Saskatchewan: "Our 'best buy' is the Ford 642 combine. We have four of them," says Ed. "They seem to outperform other machines their size. Dealer service is excellent. When I had a problem, they gave me another machine till it was fixed."

J.F. Leatherman, Healy, Kan.: His "worst buy" nomination goes to a used John Deere 6600 combine. "The day after we bought it one rear wheel fell off, ruining the hub bearing and spindle. Then, the engine wouldn't run at full rpm. Every day there was some kind of breakdown. A year or so later the rear axle broke in half. You never know which bearing will go out as they are sealed. You run them until they give out. Dealer service is good but it's a continual hassle guessing which bearing we will have to purchase and replace."

Walter Wittwer, Chowchilla, Calif.: "This combine does the cleanest job of any combine. Grain is clean enough to be able to use for seeding. Also, sends less out the back. Had some problems with combine sheaves, but excellent dealer backup," says Walter about his New Holland TR 85 combine.

"On the minus side, we've had trouble with our Case 4490 4-wheel drive tractor," he adds. "It steers hard and I've had nothing but trouble with the steering system. It also does not have the power it should have for a 4-wheel drive. Hard starting also bugs me. Only good thing is the dealer stands behind it."

Thomas W. Tate, Sublimity, Ore.: The herbicide Hoelon gets his "best buy" nomination. "We applied Hoelon at the recommended rate on a stand of Yamhill wheat that was heavily infested with rye grass standing at least 6 in. tall. The control was 100%. It even showed promise in

selective control of seedling highland bentgrass in a seedling stand of fescue for turf seed production."

Burton Isch, Kalispell, Mont.: He's most pleased with two products—his Massey Ferguson 760 combine and his Wil-Rich 24-ft. field cultivator. "The combine has lots of capacity and seems to be trouble-free. The cultivator is easy to adjust and does a wonderful job for us," says Burton.

Roger Minnis, Riceville, Iowa: Roger's upset with his 904 Allis Chalmers' Haybine. "No way could you just go to the field and cut hay. Always something to adjust or replace. It seemed the reel was made to throw the hay ahead of the sickle. The worst machine I ever had."

On the plus side, Roger notes that, "Our 4-wheel drive 6806 Deutz tractor equipped with a 42 Westendorf loader makes a perfect outfit for our feedlot. Dealer has been outstanding. Also, our CJ-20 Jeep pickup is the most trouble-free truck we've ever had."

Guy & Jodie Sanders, Orangedale, Nova Scotia: The Belarus 250 heads the Sanders' list of "worst buys". "It's been nothing but trouble. In the first week, the gears stuck twice and from then on we spent more time fixing the tractor than operating it. Its main fault was not starting. We traded it in for a second hand David Brown 1200, which we love. Both were from the same good dealer."

"We're also happy with our Gehl 1400 baler. We mainly use this baler for baling high moisture haylage. It makes excellent bales. We slip a plastic bag over them, seal them and there's our silage. This baler is easy to use, with an excellent operator's manual. After one short season, it looks good."

Ron Brassington, Paradise Valley, Alberta: "This drill seeds well and is easy to transport but the big problem has been trying to get the discs to stay on," says Ron about his Melroe "204" press drill. "The tightening nuts work loose in a few days so the discs fall off if they aren't tightened regularly. Our local dealer gave us high strength glue to put on them and that seemed to help. The company has offered no remedy."

Ron is pleased with his International 914 pull-type combine. "This is our second 914 and we're happy with the reliability of it. Easy to adjust and has the capacity to handle big swaths, not just in the cylinder but right through to the back."

Dennis Alderson, Independence, Ore.: "The drive train makes excessive noise when shifting gears, the front brakes are noisy and the doors rattle when driving on rough ground. Dealer service was very poor during the warranty period. On the plus side, the pickup gets good gas mileage for a full-size 4-wheel drive."

Dennis adds that his International

475 folding wing tandem disk has been a good machine. "A sturdy-built disk that does a nice level job in various soil conditions, and flexible enough to follow ground contours without sacrificing strength and weight. Easy to make adjustments and to fold wings."

Edmund Zelmer, Long Lake, S. Dak.: "They've made so many improvements on this machine over the old model 1033 that it's really trouble-free and makes a perfect stack," says Edmund about his New Holland 1037 bale wagon.

He's disappointed, though, with his Farmhand 7-wheel rake. "The frame is built too weak. It has broken in three different places already and we had to reinforce it. The dealer said that he hadn't had any complaints before, and didn't do anything about it."

David Minteer, Eldora, Iowa: David's not pleased with his buying membership in the Agri Farm Supply

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of Englewood, Colo. "Everything is for Colorado and, by the time you get it here, it costs more than you can buy it for at home. When I got into it, there was supposed to be a good price program on chemicals but the company doesn't even handle chemicals or fertilizers or half the things the salesman promised."

He's happy, though, with his Brent 450 Grain Train. "Even the elevator men like it. It's the best-built gravity wagon on the market. Made heavier everywhere than any other 450 bu. wagon I've seen. Trails great and even dumps 30% moisture corn without digging holes for the tires to drop in to make it steeper."

John M. Karhnak, Woodbridge, Va.: "We put 10,000 miles on our new 1980 Chevrolet Citation with none of the mechanical problems that often plague new cars. Has a V-6 with standard shift and gets around 21 mpg overall, 28 on the highway. Only trip to the dealer was to clean up some rough paint."

Ronald Auchtung, Van Dyne, Wis.: "Very low maintenance cost, does an excellent job of milking without causing any teat or udder irritation. We have yet to have any mastitis caused by the milkers," says Ron about his "best buy" America Nu-Pulse pipeline milk system.

Raymond Schermer, Maple Lake, Minn.: "It was supposed to condition the water and make it soft. But, without the regular water softener, the dishes were dirty and the water really hard," says Raymond, disappointed with Bon-Aqua, a magnet-type device that clamps onto water pipes.

His "best buys" include the Hanson ring drive silo unloader from Hanson Silo Co., and the Energy-Mate wood furnace. "Hanson had a couple men come out and start the

unloader out the first time we used it. It's dependable and works even in the coldest weather. The wood furnace, which is attached to our gas furnace, has its own automatic fan and has proved to be an efficient heat source."

Glenn Mathesius, Sheridan, Ill.: At the top of his "worst buy" list is a Tappan convectionaire 30-in. gas stove with self-cleaning oven. "The electronic ignitor failed. The burner valves leaked after a few months usage and burned off the control knobs. The oven would light erratically and sometimes not at all but the gas would go on. The self-cleaning door would not unlock up to 12 hours, on occasion, after cleaning. No satisfaction from the company. Junked the stove and bought a Caloric."

Kenneth King, Hutchinson, Kan.: "I've had no major bad purchases since the door-to-door salesman stopped coming," says Kenneth who nominates several "best buys". "Our John Deere Max Emerge performed great, especially for double-cropped milo into roto-tilled wheat ground. Also enjoyed cultivating my soybeans planted with it while the neighbors wondered what to do about the weeds in their solid-seeded soybeans."

"Another excellent purchase was a Vermont Castings 'Defiant' wood-burning stove. It heats the whole house with a minimal amount of wood, while cutting our electricity bill by \$100 per month."

Lyle LeCronier, Freeland, Mich.: "We had an extremely wet fall necessitating a new combine with 4-wheel drive," says Lyle, who bought a White 9700. "After equipping it with larger tires, it performed very well. The huge capacity, quiet operation, driver comfort, and prompt dealer correction of minor problems make this combine my nominee for 'best buy'."

Lyle's also happy with his Glencoe 249 Soil Finisher. "The manufacturer's claim that it will not plug if used following a Soil Saver are true. Chemicals incorporate well when sprayed into the airborne soil behind the discs. The soil finisher does a good job of soil preparation in one pass."

Larry Quist, Arco, Idaho: "My worst buy and most costly mistake was a Wade Rain water drive pivot. I started with two and sold one after the first year at a substantial loss. I still have no confidence in the other one. In fact, it scares me to plant a crop under it," says Larry. "Among other things, the water motors started wearing in two in less than 60 days."

"My opinion is that if the ground is level enough for one of these pivots to work on, it would flood irrigate easier and with less time than it takes to keep one of these pivots running. Granted, they cost a little less but the difference between them and another pivot can easily be lost in one crop. I would recommend to anyone buying one to buy it with a guarantee of a full refund after one year if they are not fully satisfied."

"The dealer and Wade Rain were totally uncooperative. They didn't want to hear about any problems or