

# Best And Worst Buys

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hind a 4 by 4 pickup and the combination sliding and swing-out rear door makes loading and unloading handy," says Loren about his "best buy" Kiefer Built 6-ft. by 16-ft. livestock trailer. "The low floor height is safer for the animals and eliminates the need for chutes."

On the minus side, he's disappointed with his Gleaner F2 combine. "We were plagued with little problems through the whole first season of use. Although the combine has some likable features, the quality of factory workmanship was poor, which was the cause of many breakdowns. I also feel the machine's capacity is somewhat overrated, especially when harvesting corn."

**Randy Watkins, Sunburg, Minn.:** "No questions about warranty were ever asked," Randy says, happy with the purchase of his TW 20 Ford tractor. "Dealer service was excellent on the few minor problems we had."

**Ralph B. Lowes, Brandon, Manitoba:** He's disappointed with the performance of Treffan, Eptam, Avadex, and Hoelon. They do not perform nearly as well as they are advertised to perform," says Ralph.

He has three "best buys". His F.N. Pneumatic Grain Conveyor: "It performed well; the only problem was that there was no operator's manual. When it did come 14 months later, it was inadequate." Vertec 5500 grain dryer: "Does an excellent job. It's quiet, trouble free and we get good dealer service." Deutz 130-06 tractor: "Good handling characteristics, economical and good dealer service."

"FARM SHOW Magazine is also one of my good buys," he adds.

**Jarrell R. Cagle, Rome, Ga.:** He's had problems with his Lely spray monitor. "The monitor box I received was faulty. The second monitor was one hauled around by an area representative for demonstrations, instead of a new one. The area rep never did get the monitor to work like the company claimed. After several different tries at getting it to work, I discarded it. The rep still has not returned a pressure gauge that was bad. It has been several months."

A good buy has been his John Deere 7100 Max-Emerge 6-row planter. "A good, trouble-free planter that plants fast and accurate. Had good dealer service."

**Glenn Metz, Tama, Iowa:** "Bought it last fall and have had good luck with it so far," says Glenn about his John Deere 510 baler. "Like the new features — the belts, counter, and sealed bearings."

**Cleo E. Denel, Norfolk, Neb.:** "Can't be beat. The best we have ever seen in no-till or trashy conditions," states Cleo about his Buffalo, all-flex cultivator from Fleischer Mfg., Columbus, Neb. It's better built than any cultivator I've ever seen, including major brands."

He's disappointed, however, with his Dickey John electronic monitor. "We had a 4-row Dickey John mechanical count monitor but when

we changed to a 6-row planter, we traded for a new 6-row electronic count monitor. The counter quit after about 10 acres. The dealer checked all leads but could not get it to work. We took it back after planting and are still waiting for a new one, or for them to fix the one we bought."

**Larry P. Cutler, Macon, Ill.:** "The Max-Emerge did a fine job putting the seed in at a uniform depth. Got the overall best population stand I've ever had," says Larry about his Deere 8-row planter, equipped with a Dickey John DJ35-8 monitor. "The peace of mind of knowing that the planter was planting, thanks to the monitor, was really nice."

**Wallace Gardner, Rushville, Ind.:** "My worst buy this year has been a Bob Cat 74-in. mower. It has two caster wheels in front and has a "V"-shaped leading edge which scalps. I was told in July the company would furnish a gauge wheel to prevent scalping. To prevent scalping, I added six rollers (three in front and three in back of the mower).

**Robert Shrigley, Hammondville, Ohio:** He's happy with the Gravely Super-8 lawn and garden tractor. "Its 8 hp give it plenty of garden and lawn power. You can ride on a unit that hooks on to it in seconds, or walk. Has a high-low ground speed lever plus a high-low unit drive that work together. There are attachments for all needs, including a roto-tiller, brush hot for up front, and many more."

**Bill and B.T. Costie, Auburn, N.Y.:** "Our first best buy is our Homelite Super XL chain saw. The saw is light, powerful and a pleasure to use. The optional Oregon bar and chain is a must for anyone who wants durability and a long lasting cutting edge."

"Our Homelite ST-100 string trimmer, bought new in May of '80 is our second best buy. Easy starting, excellent performance, and no hassle with electric cords."

"A third best buy is our Bainbridge metal cutting band saw. Works well both vertically and horizontally. It's 7-in. cutting width has enabled us to build a garden wagon and a wood splitter. It's also handy for repairs around the farm and for our neighbors' projects. Anyone with use for a welder has use for a band saw."

**Gary W. Burns, Mt. Pleasant, Iowa:** "My 1979 Case 2590 tractor has turned into a best buy. The only warranty work that had to be performed was a wiring harness which rubbed bare on the frame. At the 200-hr. check, it turned 206 hp on the dyno. Fuel consumption is also reasonable. Has lived up to all expectations."

**Richard Olney, Quincy, Mich.:** Richard's three "best buys" are his John Deere 7000 Max-Emerge planter, his Glencoe harrow tine cultivator, and his International 1486 tractor. "The planter is accurate in spacing and depth, even at a slow speed. The markers work good, it's easy to fill and makes a good seedbed with almost no preparation. I like the cultivator because you can travel at a

good speed even in rocks without breaking teeth. The tractor is easy to handle with lots of power. Like the brakes."

On the negative side, Richard notes that the International 400 Cyclo planter he had before the Deere "gave us problems. It had poor spacing and depth. You had to keep up the air pressure and, on some ground, that was hard to do. Also, the markers were always a bother, lifting the wrong way."

**Harry Lee Klever, Fullerton, N.Dak.:** "This is a good product simply because the person who built it was a farmer, and had to use it him-

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self," says Harry, pleased with his Jiffy self-roll truck tarp from Galvin Mfg., Minot, N. Dak.

On the other hand, he's upset with his John Deere 6600 combine. "The foot clutch goes out once a year. Every belt tightener has failed. Even the unloading auger went out that probably runs only 20 minutes a day. I feel the cause is too much cost cutting in the manufacturing."

**Robert Propson, Menasha, Wis.:** "The companies told us this bin would dry corn for one-half the cost of a continuous flow dryer. That's a joke from our experience," says Robert, upset with his M.F.S. drying bin with a Sukup stirring system. "The way it's designed, it leaves wet corn on the bin walls where it spoils. Both M.F.S. and Sukup have failed to do anything about it."

His "best buy" is a Farmrite 1,100 gal. sprayer with a Knowles tandem axle transport. "This is a good rig for field spraying. The transport is built solid, pulls easy and floats well over soft ground. The sprayer is also well-built."

**Delbert Horton, Jordan, N.Y.:** He's pleased with his Badger 16-ft. three-beater forage box with roof and tandem gear. "We bought it last fall to use for corn and haylage. Runs smoothly and pulls easily in the field. Especially like the walking beam tandems and the fact that the entire outfit is very well-built. Thinking seriously about buying another."

**E.J. Wood, Hillarney, Manitoba:** "My most satisfying product is my Versatile 150 4-wheel drive tractor with front-end loader and swather attachment," says Wood. "Have had only minor problems with the tractor and they've been corrected. Overall maneuverability of this machine and its attachments is wonderful."

**Clarence Fixter, Puslinch, Ontario:** Clarence is well pleased with Rock-O-Matic's model 57 stone picker. "It'll pick five to six yards of stones per hour and carry them out of the field. It's strong and well-built

and, although the cam rollers failed, the distributor promptly replaced them with better quality rollers."

**Norman B. Merrill, Gordon, Neb.:** "We just run-run-run with our Hesston 1014 center pivot swather-conditioner. Few problems and fine dealer service," says Norman about his "best buy".

On the minus side he reports that, "Our ¾ hp. Aeromotor submersible pump has been replaced twice. The plastic impeller breaks, then it freezes up. Dealer is trying to fix."

**Herman Fink, Delmont, S. Dak.:** "I nominate my John Deere 200 stack wagon as a best buy," says Herman. "The hinged paddles and the live chain tailgate really make this machine a joy to operate compared to older models. The hinged paddles seem to take rocks much better than the straight paddles did."

**Ethelbert Heck, Liebenenthal, Sask.:** Ethelbert's disappointed with the herbicide Lorox, which was used to control green foxtail. "We applied it as stated when the foxtail, or wild millet, was in the two-leaf stage, using 10 gal. of water per acre with it. It didn't even stunt the foxtail but it sure reddened the durum. We blew \$118 and probably three bushels per acre."

"We like our 2470 Case 4-wheel drive tractor though," continues Ethelbert. "Haven't had any trouble with it and it's extremely cheap on fuel. Just a pleasure to operate."

**Richard B. Sigle, Luray, Kan.:** Richard's happy with his Krause model 901 18-ft. flexible tandem disc. "It's easy to set. Does a perfect job on level ground or on our terraces. There's no side draft."

"Another best buy would be our New Holland 851 large round baler," adds Richard. "It makes a beautiful bale. Ties it just the way you want it and picks up every bit of hay. Easy to service, too. Seems that every piece of New Holland equipment is engineered with the farmer in mind. That's important when we're buying."

**James Ebenhok, Claremont, Minn.:** "If enough farmers with this same problem would get together, perhaps they could get a compromise settlement," says James, upset with an International 1066 tractor he bought new. "The sleeves deteriorated in 2,600 hours, ruining the engine because antifreeze ran in. The company blames it on water but the water in it happened to be the original water that was in the tractor when I purchased it. The sleeves were pitted around the seals and all deterioration was on the same side of every sleeve. I know several other farmers with the same problem and feel there is a manufacturing problem the company won't acknowledge. Very costly to repair the engine. I'd never buy a used 1066 — the engine is headed for trouble."

On the "best buy" side, James is happy with his New Holland 679 spreader. Its capacity and style fit my beef operation just perfect. Easy to load into. The gearbox did give out but the company warranty stood by it. Also like my new Westfield auger, made in Canada. Handles easily for a 51 ft. auger and runs smoothly."