

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

by Harold Johnson
Editor

Mark Newhall
Associate Editor

Farmers Nominate Best, Worst Buys

Steven E. Maki, Newfield, N.Y.: "This has to be one of the poorest excuses for roofing ever put on the market," says Steven about the Onduline roofing he bought. "When I talked to the dealer I'd bought it from, he said he didn't handle it anymore because he'd had too many complaints. My next thought was to talk to Agway, a farm co-op I belong to. They told me that since I didn't buy the material through them, I was on my own. Kind of makes you wonder if it is worthwhile to join farm co-ops anymore. As of yet, I haven't contacted Onduline, but am still trying."

About his "worst buy" 1979 Pontiac Sunbird, Steve says: "The auto industry is crying the blues, but I have no sympathy. I feel their problems were self-inflicted! If they made a product worth buying at a price the consumer could afford, they would have no problems. We've had nothing but problems with our Sunbird since day one. The front spring broke, along with the shocks, at 14,000 miles. Pontiac did furnish the spring

for good, even stands in all of them," says Robert. "I use a scatter shoe for such things as carrots, beets, radish, onions, parsley, turnips and cabbage. This is really a versatile machine."

Also on his "best buy" list is a 350 Universal tractor. "It's especially useful in the orchard in the fall. It's 3-pt. hitch action is uniform and gentle. Requires little maintenance—great for all types of work around the farm.

"We're pleased, too, with our FMC John Bean 3-pt. hitch orchard sprayer. We use it for spraying 40 acres of orchard. We added a detachable boom on the back of the machine to enable us to spray vegetables. The blower distributes the foliage and enables spray from the boom to cover both the tops and undersides of the leaves. Works real well. Boom can be easily removed."

Gene Ishmael, Flemingsburg, Ky.: Gene's "best buys" are his John Deere 700 grinder-mixer and his Boumatic milking system. "I like the hydraulic feeding auger on the grinder-mixer. Does a good job of grinding and with the flat bottom mixing tank there's no clogging problems. As for the milking equipment, it cut down our milking time and is easy to operate. Does a good job and is easily kept clean. The dealer gives good service."

Vernon Stinzi, Sleeman, Ont.: "My Massey Ferguson 1135 had 16 downtime-causing failures in two years. Then, at 1450 hours, it was out for four months requiring a complete new rear end, hydraulic pumps, and power shift. Three part time unlicensed mechanics did this last major repair and among other things, they forgot to tighten the bolts at center housing — the tractor could have split apart in the field. The mechanical deficiency necessitating this last major repair was known to MF when the new tractor was delivered, but neither I nor the dealer were advised.

"The 3-pt. hitch was out of commission for two years. In the last 18 months I've bought \$85,000 worth of new equipment without even looking at MF. But plaudits to New Holland for their 495 haybine and 851 baler, and Versatile's four-wheel drive utility tractor. It's a jewel."

Carl Berendt, Clarksburg, N.J.: He's pleased with his John Deere 4440 tractor and Deere 220 power flex disk harrow, bought new last year. "The tractor has a great cab and seat, as well as good power. I like the quad-range transmission and the good hydraulics. As for the harrow, it has covered 1,500 acres with only one bearing replaced."

Joseph Yoder, Sunbury, Penn.: He's happy with Duracraft Industrial Machines' bench grinder, but disappointed with the same company's bench drill press. "The grinder is wonderful, with all the power I need. It's a well-built machine," says Joseph. "The problem with the drill press is that when put on the lowest speed, it goes too fast for drilling steel. I don't even know where one would use the top speed. The slowest speed should be the fastest and work down from there."

as long as I replaced it myself, but no shocks. The car has had a rattle in the front end ever since the first day. The Pontiac dealer said to hold down on the brake lightly when it rattles, but he doesn't know how to correct it."

Dale R. Hallett, Carstairs, Alberta: Dale's disappointed with Lutalyse by Upjohn Chemical Co., the synthetic hormone for synchronized breeding in cows. "We followed directions very closely. The cows were all palpated to be certain they were cycling and injections of Lutalyse were made as per instructions. The cows were on lush pasture and in good condition, with mineral supplements. At the prescribed time, they were artificially inseminated two consecutive days by qualified technicians. The results: One calf out of 24. This kind of conception rate not only gave me a number of late calves, an added expense of about \$30 per cow, but the loss of time with no added return."

Dale nominates his Red-D-Rod wire stretcher as a "best buy". "It's light and compact for fast, easy fencing. Excellent for splicing wire in the center of a fence and for tightening wire to a corner post. I carry it all the time with me in the pickup."

Robert S. Eaton, Port Williams, Nova Scotia: "I grow 12 or 13 different vegetables and have been able to use my John Deere 71 Flexi-Planter