

# Best And Worst Buys

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poorly by the dealer," Mike says about his Allis Chalmers 330 Air Champ 6-row planter. "The markers didn't work right from the first day; the parallel linkage arms were so tight the units wouldn't flex; and the double disk opener scrapers were so tight it choked up. On the plus side, the monitor and the depth gauge wheels worked well."

Mike's happy with his 7010 Allis Chalmers tractor with power shift transmission. "This has to be one of the best transmissions on the market. The tractor's easy to plant with, has a quiet cab, comfortable controls, good vision, fuel economy is great and we've had no problems other than minor adjustments."

"We also like Blazer herbicide from Rohm & Haas. Does a good job on morning glories," he adds.

**Eugene Lucier, Good Thunder, Minn.:** "We're disappointed with an 8-cu. ft., 3 pt. hitch cement mixer from Tractor Supply," says Eugene. "The drive mechanism is too lightly built to handle the load required. After multiple annoying breakdowns, we've rebuilt it out of heavier materials."

On the plus side, Eugene is happy with his John Deere 90 skid loader. "The machine's big enough to use out in the dirt and gravel, yet small enough to use inside. It's been trouble-free."

**Harvey Douglas, Minnedosa, Manitoba:** "The gas mileage is as advertised — about 34 to 35 mph. I like the comfort of the car and the ride. Except for loose gravel, the car handles exceptionally well," says Harvey about his "best buy" 5-door 1980 Dodge Omni with 4-speed transmission.

**William Weiser, Burbank, Ohio:** "Before we bought this machine we always had trouble cutting downed hay. All we'd get was the tops of plants," says William, pleased with his "best buy" New Idea 279 Cut-Ditioner. "It has flail knives instead of a cutterbar and really gets down to pick up hay. It does pick up more stones, though, which makes it a little hard on the chopper knives."

**Lee Dadisman, Nevada, Iowa:** A Plymouth Horizon heads Lee's "best buy" list. "We've had this car for three months now and haven't had to take it back for any repairs or adjustments."

"Another good buy was our 27-ft. Wil-Rich field cultivator. I took it to the field right away and it did the leveling job it was supposed to do. No service needed."

**Burrel N. Harris, Kirksville, Mo.:** "My best buy has been a Hesston 1014 Hydro Swing windrower. We've cut over 1,000 acres of various crops with no problems other than broken sickle sections and guards. We bought a 12-ft. but would consider a 14-ft. next time," Burrel told FARM SHOW.

**Earl L. Martin, Lebanon, Pa.:** "This

product does a great job in preventing IBR in calves," reports Earl, about an antiserum vaccine from Colorado Serum Co. "I just inject 20 cc into calves the day they're born. This product has saved many calves for me."

"Another best buy is my Hesston 1090 mower-conditioner," adds Earl. "It's really built compared to other mower-conditioners. Does a good job and is trouble-free. Greatly improved over the older model."

**Robert Mallory, Jr., Warsaw, Va.:** "I was told by my local Southern States Coop dealer to use 2,4-D and Banvel on buttercups in my pasture," Robert relates. "I applied both according to his recommendations, but the treatment only slowed up the buttercups for about three days. Then they grew like wildfire. If I had doubled the rate it might have done some good, but I'm not sure. I would like to find something that would kill buttercups."

On the plus side, Robert's happy with his International Harvester 1440 combine. "It has much more capacity with less moving parts than the Gleaner M I traded in for it. Workmanship and design are certainly superior to anything I've had in the past."

**Lloyd W. Hahn, Sigourney, Iowa:** "I haven't mowed more than five acres without a breakdown of some kind. Sickles break or the lift won't operate. The dealer has tried to help but this is just a poorly designed machine," says Lloyd about his "worst buy" John Deere mower with a 9-ft. bar.

"We like our John Deere 336 baler with a thrower," Lloyd adds. "Have had no problems at all — it's always dependable. Dealer service is good." Also on Lloyd's "best buy" list are his New Idea 272 Cut-Ditioner and his White 7300 combine. "The Cut-Ditioner gives us trouble-free mowing with low upkeep. Our combine is simple and easy to work on. A dependable machine with good dealer service."

**Andy Myers, Dallastown, Penn.:** He's had problems with his John Deere 250 grain drill. "We can't seem to get the drill to sow the amount of grain we set it for. I set the drill for two bushels of oats and got four bushels instead. Also, the fertilizer doesn't hold out right. I had the dealer look at it and he couldn't find anything wrong. Drill seems sound otherwise."

"I'm very pleased with my 185 Allis-Chalmers tractor. Traded a same-size International unit. Handling and fuel economy are great, and the AC actually outperforms the Farmall. Only problem was dirt in the fuel tank, but the dealer fixed it the next day."

**Russell Wagner, Jr., Pleasantville, Ohio:** "This tractor is rated at 160 hp but we checked it and it's closer to 200 hp," reports Russell about his

"best buy" Ford TW30 tractor. "Has an outstanding cab, great visibility and is very dependable. I also have a 1966 4000 Ford and a 1972 9000 Ford and have had great service out of both. Dealer service is excellent."

**Marvin Cummings, Malcom, Iowa:** "This elevator has caused us nothing but grief and worse yet, almost a death," reports Marvin about his "600" Kewanee elevator. "We bought it new and had only used it

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three times when a piece on the cast iron spool broke, letting the elevator come crashing to the ground. In addition, the drive chain was put on backwards and we had to call the company to get any service out of it."

**Roger Rowles, Pleasantville, Ohio:** "Krause builds their equipment a little heavier than anybody else," says Roger, pleased with his Krause 26-ft. disk with "rock flex" feature, and his Krause 26-ft. field cultivator. "We ran this disk over 2,000 acres and had no problems. Leaves the ground level even though we don't pull a harrow behind it. Built heavy. The field cultivator is just as tough."

**Scott F. Rankin, Dodge City, Kan.:** "My dad surely picked a winner when he started power farming with John Deere in 1928. I've stayed with that line of implements throughout my farming life and, while one or two purchases were not up to what I expected, I would still rate them 'fair'. I couldn't downgrade the John Deere line in any way," says Scott, who adds that "I really like FARM SHOW, too."

**Frank B. Walton, Tipton, Iowa:** "I'm 86 years old and not interested in buying machinery, but it seems to me there is a lot of bum machinery on the market now. Our worst buy ever was one of those little low-built Allis Chalmers corn pickers. When you picked corn it would bring in everything but the roots. The company soon quit making it and built the best picker available. Lemons generally don't last long or the company goes out of business."

**Keith L. Pence, Somerville, Ohio:** "I'd like to nominate my new Ford 352 4-row corn planter as my worst buy ever," Keith told FARM SHOW. "On the first day in the field, it took me five hours to plant four acres. Chains would not stay on the seed or fertilizer drives, disk markers and openers fell off, and the seed drive shaft broke. Dealer service was poor, as it took seven days to get a replacement shaft. This is the worst designed piece of machinery I've ever seen. It skipped rows and did everything but work right."

**Joe Hay, Bangor, Mich.:** Joe's "worst buy" nomination goes to his "Ford power washer. The third time

we used it, the handle broke. Then it stopped and we had to take it apart to be able to push the reset. The next time we used it the pump developed a noise. Went back and told the dealer and he laughed and said, 'Yup, those things are no good. You ought to buy a better one.'"

On the brighter side, Joe's pleased with his New Holland grinder-mixer. "They built it with the farmer in mind. Easy to run and service, and runs smooth and quiet. Best of all, the dealer won't forget who you are after the sale is made."

**Lauren Scranton, Hicksville, Ohio:** "Equipment manufacturers are turning out shoddy, inferior products, as every issue of your magazine points out. Farmers, farm organizations and dealers of farm equipment had better stop crabbing about the problem and start demanding better quality from those who make their living supplying the farmer with astronomically priced equipment that does not do the job."

"I have three pieces of equipment, which although they are doing the job now, have involved headaches and down hours that never should have been. My Gleaner F2 combine does a good job of getting the crop cleaned up and out of the field, has good visibility, and is easy to handle, but the first day I had it out the wobble box shaft broke. At 200 hours, I had straw walker problems due to crankshafts not matching. My dealer gave fast service and I understand the wobble box problem is universal."

"We also have a Glencoe 320 pull-type field cultivator that does a good job now, but on the first round in the field, it penetrated 5 in. deep on one side and didn't scratch the ground on the other. This was caused by poor alignment on the raising shaft and left wheel assembly. It took four weeks to get new parts to correct the problem. I assembled the new raising shaft myself and found the new wheel assembly no better than the original so the dealer and I cut the weld and repositioned the original. It now works fine."

"I didn't even get my Yetter 3400 rotary hoe to the field before I had to rebuild the U-bolt pivot assembly which evidently was broken in assembly or shipping. Another two and one-half hours shot."

"For the price we pay for farm equipment, these problems should be worked out by the designers, factory workers, inspectors and dealers before the machines ever reach the field," Lauren concludes.

**John Lemmermann, Helena, Ohio:** "We used this piece of equipment on more than 600 acres of cropland last year and found that following fall tillage, one pass in the spring provides an excellent seedbed. The best part is that this piece of equipment is handled by the same dealer that keeps our New Holland TR 70 combine and Ford tractors in top shape," says John about his "best buy" Kongskilde, Triple K 21-ft. field cultivator.