

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

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# Farmers Nominate Best, Worst Buys

Alan L. Sloan, New Boston, Ill.: "We tried, both in cornstalk ground and in plowed ground, to disc without ridging with no success. We even had the dealer who sold us the disc try to operate it so it wouldn't ridge, but to no avail. We finally traded it in on another implement," says Alan, disappointed with his 12-ft. Wilbeck offset disc.

On the positive side, he nominates two "best buys" — his Kewanee 1000 series flex-wing disc and Deere's 6-row 7000 planter. "This disc does a better job cutting through trash and leveling the ground than any disc I've ever owned. Only problem is the scrapers, which leave a little to be desired. As for the planter, after getting the bugs out the first day, it has done a superb job of seed placement and depth control."

David Rietveld, Kouts, Ind.: "We're disappointed in the performance of the air conditioner units in our Case 1070 and 1370 tractors. Takes two to three service calls a year to keep them going," says David.

TN20 tractor: "Does everything I wanted — and more."

Paul E. Hile, Camden, Ind.: "We had terrible service. Never got any satisfaction," Paul reports about his "worst buy" nomination, his Massey Ferguson 1105 tractor. "Never would start in winter. Had it overhauled at 1,200 hrs. and it ended up in the shop more than at home. Finally, traded it off to get rid of it."

M. Pressman, Grosse Isle, Manitoba: We lost dozens of teeth, regardless of how often and how tight we cranked them up. Harrows refused to stay up in transport due to hydraulic leaks. Wouldn't trail straight on the road or in the field," says Pressman, disappointed with his Versatile 80-ft. hydraulic harrow.

On the other hand, he says his Steiger ST-251 Cougar tractor with Cummins 855 constant power engine is "the Rolls Royce of tractors. It's extremely powerful, pulling 41½ ft. of International vibra chisels at 7 mph in our heavy soils. The tractor's fueled up to 310 hp. and can be fueled up to 350 hp., so it has excellent growth capacity. Quiet, comfortable, with excellent fuel economy and visibility front and rear, high transport speed, smooth steering and generally excellent engineering."

Saul Pressman, Rosser, Manitoba: "Seems like we spent more time welding broken welds than we did cultivating. The welding was really amateurish," Saul reports about his Case heavy-duty 25-ft. cultivator.

He's been pleased, though, with his 1977 Gleaner L2 combine with pickup, straight header, and sunflower attachment. "Does a super job in small grains, flax and sunflowers, with tremendous capacity. In 40 bu. wheat, using the 24-ft. header, we can travel 5 to 6 mph. Electronic controls in the cab are top-notch, along with monitors. Unfortunately, dealer service has not been on the same level."

Ralph Myers, Vandergrift, Penn.: "I wouldn't try to raise vegetables without them," says Ralph about his FMC one-row sweet corn picker and Holland transplanter. "The picker doesn't miss an ear unless the corn is on the ground. Used it two seasons with no trouble at all. The transplanter does a 95% job in transplanting potted plants."

"I bought the last of the International 1066 series," Ralph adds in explaining his disappointment with the tractor. "The rear end broke in the first six months because, they said, a shaft wasn't heat-treated. It's leaked hydraulic and transmission oil ever since I bought it. To fix it, first they put new seals in. Next, they put in a whole new housing. Finally, they put in new seals again. All of this with only 1,000 hrs. on it."

LeRoy Venvertloh, Quincy, Ill.: "We've been buying John Deere since 1938 and are happy with everything but their 220 disc and harrow," says LeRoy. "After only one season, the cylinder pins are worn out and the cylinder hoses are rotten. The main frame wear plate breaks and doesn't make a good seedbed. The Deere harrow on the back will not allow the disc to get within 2 ft. of the fence. It

"We're also disappointed in our local Case Company Store. Seems as though the personal touch is gone. Not enough dealer incentive."

On the plus side, David nominates the following "best buys":

Lilliston Tillager: "Once in the fall and once over again in the spring and we're ready to plant. Works great for incorporating left-over corn trash to help bacteria growth and to put oxygen back in where it's needed."

Long Nu-Way "Traveling Gun" irrigation system: "Works good in getting to the odd shapes and corners our center pivots miss. Excellent dealer assistance."

Erickson Skid Loader: "The smoothest operating skid loader we've ever owned. Economical and efficient 4-cyl. engine design."

Duetz 6806 tractor: "Handles like a dream, not to mention a 50% reduction in fuel consumption with this air-cooled diesel."

Paul R. Kittelson, Clark, S. Dak.: "It tops a utility tractor in my book," says Paul, pleased with his Case 990 tractor. "Bought it new in 1975 and had to replace a water pump at 700 hrs. But now, at 2,900 hrs., have had no further problems other than a leaking seal on the power steering. Economical on fuel and easy to start on the coldest winter mornings." He's also well pleased with his Ford