

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

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Farmers Nominate Best, Worst Buys

Verdell Olson, Fertile, Minn.: "My problems started when they drove it in the yard," says Verdell, whose "worst buy" nomination goes to his 7720 Deere combine. "There was anti-freeze running in the cab and diesel fuel spraying around the engine. After two or three rounds, the straw walker monitor quit and didn't work for the rest of grain harvest, and the hour meter didn't work until sometime in corn and sunflower harvest. The air conditioning fan had to be started with a stick or some other tool. A power steering line was assembled next to a belt and later made a real mess on that side of the machine. On top of this, a 6601 didn't lose much ground to it — they probably should have added 100 in., rather than 20, to the walkers.

"I did like the reversing feeder house, the hydrostatic drive and the swing-out auger. John Deere said they'd fix the other problems but that doesn't get the crop off, or pay the custom operator I had to hire."

On the plus side, Verdell notes

Leslie's also happy with his International 620 plow, calling it, "the 'best buy' plow on the market."

Robert Damann, Canandigua, N.Y.: He's disappointed with his Gleaner F2 corn and soybean combine. "Due to poor workmanship on the hydrostatic, it kept blowing O-rings. We couldn't get 100 hrs. on it, so we called the dealer. He was accommodating and the warranty took care of the expense, but not our frustration."

On the positive side, Robert says his new International 4-row corn header "kept everything full so we could keep going before mud and snow got the best of us. We mounted it on our 815 combine."

Norbert Kern, Birdseye, Ind.: "Too bad American industry can't compete in manufacturing equipment," says Norbert, happy with his West German-made New Idea dry fertilizer spreader, Model 109. "I set it to 17 tons of fertilizer at 490 lbs. per acre. Ended up with only about 30 lbs. left over. For all practical purposes, this is 100% accuracy."

Mervin Leid, Ephrata, Pa.: "Udder health is exceptionally good and mastitis no longer a problem since we made the change to the Bodmin Nu-Pulse milkers," says Mervin. "They'll pay for themselves many times over with less early culling such as is caused by other machines with higher vacuum levels. Vacuum level is now 9½ in. at the teat end."

He adds that "my FARM SHOW has also proved to be a very good investment."

Bob Bishop, Cobb., Wisc.: "Our hay ground is covered with stones about the size of a fist. They caused nothing but trouble in sickle repairs and adjustment in our previous machine," reports Bob, happy with his "best buy" New Holland 489 Haybine. "We've covered 500 acres with the 489, traveling between 5 and 7 mph, and have replaced only 7 or 8 sections and one guard. The unique header design allows this machine to float over anything and still cut clean at high speed."

"Another 'best buy' is our 8-row International 3-pt. mounted rotary hoe," he told FARM SHOW. "With more than 900 acres behind it, we've lost one cotter pin and had one mounting link break. Nothing else. The machine is simple in design with no bearings to fail. Instead, it has boxings similar to those on our last machine, which lasted 20 years. We cover a lot of ground in a hurry with this machine."

Sherman Doucette, Wagner, Mont.: "I've wondered how companies can sell equipment like this," states Sherman, disappointed with his McKee round baler. "The belts shrank and had to be replaced; The pickup was not built properly and in constant need of repair. I traded it off on another make at considerable loss."

On the plus side, Sherman is happy with his Hesston Stak-Processor: "A very good machine for feeding round bales."

Herman Vincent, Jet, Okla.: Herman nominates his 1070 Case tractor for "worst buy". "The clutch went

that, "Everyone wants to test-drive my best-buy Deere 8440. I'm a little disappointed that the horses seem to be on the order of Shetlands, but I haven't compared another tractor to it on the same implement. Also, the reverse is too fast for backing up to machinery."

Myron Schulz, Jr., Burlington, Ia.: "I've read "best buy" reports for Nachur's fertilizer in earlier issues of FARM SHOW. They must have been written by Nachur's salesman because I used, sold and tested Nachur's fertilizer for five years and not one time during those five years did it ever do as well as regular fertilizer," says Myron. "I stopped selling and using it."

Myron's also disappointed with "two L.B. White heaters in my new pig nursery. Two motors burned out and the pilot lights kept going out. I filed with the company for repayment. After 12 months and numerous calls, still no results."

Myron adds that his "best buy" is his 6-row Deere 7000 Max-Emerge planter.

Leslie Parker, Jr., Ionia, Ia.: For it's class, it's one of the best tractors on the market. Handles well, has a comfortable cab and goes through anything," says Leslie of his "best buy" International model 3588 2 plus 2 tractor.