

Best And Worst Buys

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Dealer service was 100%, though.

"Another good buy was our John Deere 428 hydraulic folding rotary hoe. It's a fine machine that's well-constructed. Really gets in the ground. No problems."

Elmer H. Freidel, Emmetsburg, Ia.: "My 'best buy' this year was a New Idea 244 manure spreader with hydraulic endgate," says Elmer. "The endgate does an excellent job of holding a completely full load of sloppy manure. The spreader also does a fine job of shredding and spreading frozen chunks evenly."

Daryl Brubaker, Olar S.C.: Daryl has mixed feelings about his "worst buy" Surge V.S.O. milker detacher. "We like the job the VSO does — it removes the milker on time and doesn't over-milk or malfunction in any way. The problem is that it's made out of plastic that's not heavy enough to take any knocks at all. We replace a bottom about every two to three months on our six units just from ordinary use."

Heading his "best buy" list is a Love flexible floating cutterbar attachment for his Deere 4400 combine. "Really gets down under my beans and floats better than I expected. Maintenance was real low on the 250 acres of beans we cut this year. Well worth the money invested."

Burton W. Bartz, Princeton, Minn.: "Bought it for harvest this fall and it really impressed me. No problems to report," Burton told FARM SHOW about his "best buy" New Idea Superpicker with 12 roll husking bed.

On the minus side, he's unhappy with his Fiberstore bulk feed bin. "We bought the bin because they promised it would handle ground feed. It bridged terribly though, and also had condensation on the inside, which dripped and made things worse. The company stood behind their product, however, and gave us our money back without much hassle."

Peter A. Walhof, Edgerton, Minn.: He's pleased with his 4240 John Deere tractor. "Excellent performance from the machine and good dealer service."

"Another good John Deere buy was our 7000 Max-Emerge planter. Even depth of planting and spacing. A good investment."

Jack Barnes, Courtenay, N. Dak.: "This is our fourth Versatile tractor and each has given excellent service," says Jack, happy with his Versatile 875 4-wheel drive. "Really pleased with performance in the field and quietness of the cab."

Rusmar Farms Inc., Roberts, Wis.: They nominate their Valley irrigation center pivot as a "best buy." "This is a towable, 160 acre unit. We pull it across the road and reset it in just three hours. Tows easily."

"We're also pleased with our 1370 Case tractor. Has good power, a quiet cab and service has been good. No problems."

Daniel H. Bender, Harrisonburg, Va.: "Most of their 'name brand' products can be bought from local sources for less dollars," says Daniel who's disappointed with Farmers Purchasing Group, Topeka, Kan.

He's also disappointed with his "Flo-mor bottom grain unloader. It's a good idea but the manufacturing was lousy. Had to re-drill holes, weld collars that didn't line up, and the chain brackets were incorrectly attached. Their distributor in Pennsyl-

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vania could have cared less. But it does work."

Heading his "best buy" list is his Vermeer model F baler. "Makes a beautiful, tight, weather resistant bale. Well-built and has required little maintenance through the first 2,000 bales."

He's also happy with his John Deere 6600 combine. "They had the operator in mind when they built this machine. Convenient to service, and easy to adjust. Overall, it's mechanically well-built and smooth running."

Glen Holmstrom, North Branch, Minn.: He's pleased with his Massey Ferguson 550 combine. "This machine was really put together right at the factory. The electric header height control and the newly designed non-wrap pickup reel is a real plus over the previous 510's design. After 800 acres our only problem has been a broken bearing bracket. When it broke, our dealer drove to the nearest warehouse, picked up the bracket and had us going the next morning."

Orval Elting, Davenport, Neb.: Orval's upset with his "worst buy" Butler steel grain building. "It was Butler's best commercial building. When I bought it, the steel paneling was to be 26 ga. but turned out to be 29 ga. End wall girders were 6 in. short and had to be patched. The sidewall doors have no track covers so water that runs off the roof runs on top of the doors and ends up in the building. Poor concrete job and erection. Have five other steel buildings and Butler was the most expensive. Called Butler twice to look at the building but got no help from them."

"My best buy is a Neuro grain vacuum," adds Orval. "Makes grain handling easy and fast with no dust and no cracked grain."

Dale Lindstrom, Laurens, Ia.: "We had trouble keeping the pto shaft locked onto the tractor pto until I tore it up and replaced it." Dale told FARM SHOW about his Roto Grind tub grinder. "The unit's electric gov-

ernor burned up and several roller shafts that carry the tub broke. In addition, have owned the machine two years and still have not received the ear corn grinding attachment."

"After several phone calls, a factory representative came. He checked the machine but wouldn't take care of warranty work unless I went through the dealer. The dealer refuses to do anything."

Glenn Kinneberg, Spring Grove, Minn.: "We're impressed with the ease and speed of fenceline feeding compared with taking silage out of upright silos," says Glenn, who installed his "best buy" Crest cement bunker silo and feed bunks in his new beef feedlot. "And for a good, long-lasting product, you can't beat our Schuler feed cart. Five years old and not one cent in repairs."

"Another best buy was the purchase of a Makita Model 9505B hand-held disc grinder. Beats the emery wheel," adds Glenn.

Francis J. Kukowski, Georgetown, Minn.: "I bought a new 1370 Case tractor in Sept. 1974 and had more trouble with it in two years than with all other tractors put together in 10 years. In 1977, it was broken down a total of 10 weeks during the summer. Finally traded it off for a 4440 John Deere," reports Francis.

His "best buys" include his Deere 4440 tractor, and his Dahlan 39-ft. cultivator with liquid chemical attachment.

Ron Leatherman, Wooster, Ohio: "They sold us an irrigation set-up for our liquid manure system and promised a pump that would work in our system," says Ron, disappointed with service from Rain Control of Hudson, Mich., and his Gorman-Rupp pump. "The pump would not chop up the grass and wood chips in the manure. Rain Control refused to take back the pump or make a reasonable trade."

On the other hand, Ron's pleased with his Metabo right angle grinder! "Light weight and high speed makes easy work on nearly any kind of grinding in most any position."

Neal Knip, De Motte, Ind.: Neal's happy with Milwaukee polishers and grinders. "These are industrial strength small shop tools built to stand up to lots of use. The guarantee is good, and so is the service, when needed."

"By the same token," continues Neal, "we bought a Wen grinder that lasted one hour. We exchanged it for another that lasted one-half hour. We sent it in for repair and it didn't even run when it came back, so we tossed it in the scrap pile. It was a cheaper grinder but in the end, it was a lot more expensive. Bargain drill bits and other shop tools are no bargain."

Ashley C-60 Automatic Wood Heater: This stove has cut our heating oil bill to practically nothing," reports an unnamed FARM SHOW reader. "We set our conventional furnace at 65° and the only time it comes on is early in the morning if the temperature drops well below zero. You never have to light the stove because it holds its fire overnight. Just pile on more wood."

"This round baler is probably no better than any other round baler. It's the bales themselves I like," continues the reader, adding New Holland's 851 big round baler to his "best buy" list. "It's a great way to make hay, saving tremendous amounts of labor over conventional methods, and gives me a chance to enjoy my summer much more."

Foster Davis, Underhill, Ver.: "Brought my milk production up 25 lbs. per milking," says Foster about his Bodmin Nu-Pulse "one line" milking system, which he read about in FARM SHOW. "Milks much more evenly than the milker I had before. Cold weather doesn't bother it at all."

Another "best buy" is his Atlantic wood stove with automatic thermostat control. "Gives out twice as much heat as our old stove and uses half as much wood. Fires all night on one fill."

Vincent Mattson, Hallock, Minn.: Heading his "best buy" list is his Versatile 835 tractor. "I don't see how you could improve it in any way," Mattson told FARM SHOW.

Lawrence Hoesel, New Salem, N. Dak.: "My best purchase was my subscription to FARM SHOW," says Lawrence.

Loyal Tank, Potter, Neb.: "FARM SHOW's best and worst buys section certainly brings out the fact that there

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are lemons in any given piece of machinery and equipment, and lemon dealerships. Reading about the lemons reminded me of a Buick Regal I bought in 1977.

"From day one, the car rode and sounded like a lumber wagon. It had a bad vibration in the automatic transmission. The dealer did nothing. He suggested I drive it for 3 months to see if I could get used to it, or the noise might go away. I finally took the car to another dealer and he took care of the problem, which included a new torque converter on the transmission, plus a new catalytic converter. Traded it for a new Lesabre V-6, works great."

John Ball, Hutchinson, Minn.: "My worst buy was a Wobble Drive from Year-A-Round Cab Corp. The principle was fine — it replaced the pitman drive on a Love bar, which kept the sickle in register as the bar flexed, and did not shake the platform. The problem was that the belt and pulleys were the right size for a 7-ft. mower, but nowhere big enough to drive a 20-ft. combine sickle. The belts often slipped, stopping the sickle, when cutting bean rows lengthwise, and it always stopped when cutting rows crosswise. That was with the belt as tight as possible, and ground speed at ¾ mph."

On the other hand, John's happy with his Deere 7700 Combine, and his