

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

by Harold M. Johnson
Editor

Farmers Nominate Best, Worst Buys

Richard L. Brown, Appleton, Minn.: "Walt Disney is not dead. He is alive and made the scrapers for this disk," states Richard, upset with his 25-ft. John Deere 230 wing fold, 25 ft. power flex disk. "Most of the right hand scrapers have broken off once or twice, and one of the left hand. The dealer says I must be doing something wrong but I talked to two of my neighbors that have the same problem."

On the plus side, Richard nominates his Deere 7100 Max-Emerge 12-row planter as his "best buy". "I planted 1,200 acres with it last year and the seed placement and stand was perfect. We used it for sunflowers, too, planting large seed. The finger pickup was perfect."

Wiley B. Hopper, Attalla, Ala.: "Oddly enough, both my good and bad buys were from the same company," reports Wiley, who's "best buy" is his XL-12 Homelite chain saw. "It's a rugged little saw that has caused almost no trouble. Never would have bought it except for the

open it and I would have to beat on it with a sledge hammer. One day, that wouldn't even free it so I brought it back. The company should at least test equipment this far north before they try to sell it to farmers who have to use machinery every day in below freezing temperatures."

On the positive side, Gary says "It's hard to believe how much work this machine has saved us," about his Farmhand hydraulic bale accumulator and fork. "We had 90 acres of hay and didn't touch a bale. We load them on racks, unload them again and stack them in the shed, all with the loader. Seldom breaks down and isn't hard to repair."

Gordon Stumvoll, Coleharbor, N. Dak.: "Handles well and I haven't had mechanical problems, but it's a gutless wonder," says Gordon about his "worst buy" F-600 Ford truck. "The engine just doesn't have any power. Complaining to my dealer and writing letters to the factory brought no results."

"On the other hand, I've got nothing but good things to say about my Deere 4630 tractor. In over 3,000 hrs., I've had only minor problems and especially like the clean, quiet cab. Dealer service has been good."

John Heinz, Alexandria, S. Dak.: His "best buy" is a Profit Center oxygen limiting bottom unload silo. "Have had no trouble with the bottom unloader, which is fast. Like the ground controls for the filling doors, and best of all, the quality of haylage is excellent."

Wayne Torgerson, Jackson, Minn.: Wayne likes his new International 3588 2 + 2 tractor. "The 4-wheel drive went through tough wet fall conditions when 2-wheel drive tractors couldn't move. Excellent handling and good cab visibility."

He's disappointed, though, with "EDDCO aluminum house siding. The insulation board backing was not glued sufficiently on the first 2,000 sq. ft., it was terrible to install and did not joint properly. The sheets were dirty with glue on the front and scuffed. We felt we did not receive the quality product we paid for."

James Hertel, Van Wert, Ohio: He's pleased with his Deere 4440 tractor. "Considerably more power than our 4430 and features big improvements in hydraulics and cold weather starting. Also appreciate the cab comforts, especially the new hydraulic cushioned seat, a big plus over a conventional seat for smoothing out bumps."

Merlyn Rennich, Harrisburg, S. Dak.: "The quality of workmanship and materials is excellent," Merlyn reports about his Patz manure handling equipment, including: The model 100 slurry pump, the model 400 gutter cleaner, agitator model 277 and the 3200 tank spreader with model 40 soil injectors. "Especially like the tank spreader, which handles easily and has the safety of 4-wheel brakes. Service is good."

"We're also pleased with our 2-105 and 2-85 White tractors," adds Merlyn. "They've done a good job for us and dealer service is excellent."

He's had trouble, though, with his 10-ton New Idea 224 manure

insistence of my brother and brother-in-law, who both owned one."

On the other hand, he had a bad experience "with a Homelite 150 chain saw. Very seldom would it cut one load of wood without malfunctioning in some way."

Ed Drennen, Mt. Sterling, Ky.: He's happy with his 7-ft. Moore "no-till or conventional" Uni-Drill. "Has 4 3/4-in. spacing, is easy to calibrate and has very accurate seed metering. Well constructed with low maintenance and long life."

Dennis Schroeder, Woonsocket, S. Dak.: "Lets me make more efficient use of my tractor horsepower," says Dennis, happy with his Deere 2800 hydraulically adjustable plow. "I can pull six 16's in heavy gumbo and switch to six 20's in lighter stubble ground. Does an excellent job of finishing dead furrows, and along fences where you can adjust it on the go. Am also pleased with the Deere 4440, which I bought at the same time. They make a good pair."

Gary S. Brinks, Garvin, Minn.: "After 10 days of freezing weather, I brought it back and got a used one with the old-style lid," says Gary, about his "worst buy" Hawk Bilt 2195 roll-top tank spreader. "The roll top lid would freeze up so tight the hydraulics on the tractor wouldn't