

Best And Worst Buys

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Gerald R. Gorius, Worsley, Alta.: "We had several "best buys" and FARM SHOW magazine is at the top of the list. Best farm paper yet.

"Another good buy is our Case 1070 tractor with standard transmission. Have had no major problems — knock on wood! At 2,000 hours, it runs like new on normal maintenance. Seldom have to add any oil."

Gerald's also happy with his 14-ft. Krause Rock Flex 661 tandem disc. "Does a perfect job without ridging," he says.

Gordon W. Herman, Hastings, Minn.: "It killed the germination in our corn and cost us 42 bu. to the acre

"Cost us 42 bu. per acre on 600 acres."

on 600 acres," relates Gordon about "Land-O-Lakes 6-20-6 liquid fertilizer with trace minerals. Have used liquid fertilizer since 1955 with no trouble until last year, when we used added trace mineral they recommended."

On the plus side, he's pleased with his International 1460 combine. "Top performance and job. Very few problems on 1,000 acres. Service good."

James Harvey, Monticello, Utah: "I really got 'nothing for something' when I signed a contract with Modular Steel Structures, Inc. of Kansas City, Mo. for a steel building and paid them \$3,500 down," says James about his "worst buy" experience. "They later refused to deliver the building for the agreed price (they wanted another \$2,200) and refused to refund my money. The moral of this story might be to only do business with dealers close to home.

"The 'best buy' I made last year was a Honda F500 tiller. For all-around performance, handle-ability, easy servicing and smooth running, this machine takes the prize. I've had two other model tillers — a Wards and a Troy-Bilt — and this Honda makes them both look amateurish. My wife loves it."

John C. Carrington, Swansea, S.C.: "This is the only piece of equipment I ever bought with only a brochure to go by," reports John about his "best buy" Tyler LFS-S stainless steel lime and fertilizer spreader. "This is one spreader that is built for easy service and long life. Spreads two bushels of wheat or one ton of lime per acre equally well. I looked at three other brands and the Tyler was the best-built and least expensive of them all."

John's also happy with his "Vermeer 605F round baler. Only had about 3 hrs. of down time in baling 2500 tons of hay last year. It will bale any hay dry enough to safely bale. Starts the roll very well and makes uniform, tight bales. A great improvement over any previous round baler."

On the minus side, John is disappointed with the quality of American made tires. "I believe that, since the government adopted load range standards, tire companies have used government minimum requirements as their maximum performance standards. Tire quality, as a result, has been reduced," says John, noting that he's upset with all American-made tires, and trailer tires in particular. "We bought a three axle gooseneck equipment trailer five years ago with eight ply Seiberling tires on it. Those tires have worn out over the past two years and have been replaced by Seiberling, Hercules and Farm Bureau 8-ply or load range "D" tires. I've had blowouts with all three brands."

Franklin C. Coppersmith, What Cheer, Iowa: His "best buys" are his IH 1460 Axial Flow combine and his Glencoe Soil Saver. "This combine works nearly perfect," says Franklin. "Its flexible table cuts soybeans close on uneven ground, and capacity of the machine is good, even on hillsides. The cab is large and quiet. Combining was a pleasure with this machine. The IH corn head cut the stalks so we didn't have to shred or disc ahead of the Glencoe Soil Saver, which is well-made. It saves both time and fuel."

Lynne Purfeerst, Isanti, Minn.: "I haven't bought anything new for several years, except for FARM SHOW magazine, and that sure is excellent."

Duane Dieken, Clara City, Minn.: He's happy with Better Built's liquid manure spreader. "It's built heavy and strong with a large pump that loads and unloads fast. The injector system almost eliminates all the odor in the field."

Duane also has had good results with his Black & Decker 4½ in. heavy duty angle grinder. "Its small size makes it easy to get into tight places to sharpen sickle sections, without removing the sickle bar. It's also light, so you can use it for a longer period of time without getting tired."

Otto R. Trampe, Swanville, Minn.: "I bought four Bou-Matic "Little Champ" milker detachers before I built my new barn in the summer of 1978. They were the first detacher designed to carry with the milker unit in a tie-stall barn, and these had been used for four days by another dairyman, so they were used.

"I used one detacher for milking. It took the milker off at the right time, but let it drop under the cow. It wouldn't pick it up. I talked to my local Bou Matic dealer, and he said he'd stop out to help. That was in September of 1978, and I haven't seen him yet. In the meantime, I've decided that the detachers are cumbersome and are best off hanging on my milkhouse wall."

Otto's pleased, however, with his Norling Brothers 18 by 65 ft. concrete stave silo, and its "Feed Easy" silo unloader. "I use the silo for corn silage. There's no spoilage. I like the big doors and it's well-constructed of

quality materials. The silo unloader has an electric, self-leveling system that really works. I had some trouble with it when it was new. Norling Brothers came out several times to fix it, and finally replaced the whole leveling system. That fixed it. The unloader is rugged, dependable and aggressive."

Walter Bode, Danvers, Ill.: He's had good luck with his FS Grain wagon. "Will hold all of 375 bu. of corn and I like the double compartments with double side-doors for unloading. The heavy 12-ton running gear and big tires keep it from sinking in soft ground, and it takes the rough ground. Has a quick hitch tongue for easy hookups."

LeRoy Hight, Schleswig, Iowa: He's happy with his Wheelhorse riding lawn mower. "Mowed with it four hours at a time for one season, and have had no major problems."

He's also been pleased with his White 2-85 tractor. "Tractor is good on fuel consumption, has a quiet cab, and have had no problems except for the air conditioning."

Duane Studer, Roanoke, Ill.: He's happy with his Kewanee 1000 series flex wing disc. "It's a well-made, all-around disc for use in cutting cornstalks in the fall, and/or incorporating chemicals in the spring."

George Inczauskis, Grant Park, Ill.: "I read about the International 720 plow in FARM SHOW about a year ago and, after looking at the new design, decided to buy one," says George about his "best buy". "Now, I run my plow right after combining without disking or chopping stalks. Sure is hard to plug this plow."

Mark Miksch, Washington, Iowa: At the top of his "worst buy" list is a 50cc Dial-O-Matic syringe. "This new syringe is fine except for the poly-carb barrel. It cracked while I was replacing a needle. It's easy to clean but I wouldn't own one without owning a spare barrel."

"I'm extremely happy with its ruggedness and operating ease," says Mark of his "best buy" Calumet 2250 Liquid manure spreader. "With the 6 in. side port and hydraulic endgate, it offers a lot of service and requires little maintenance."

Jerry Kemery, Blockton, Iowa: Jerry's well pleased with his International 1086 tractor. "We've had very little trouble with this tractor except that we had to adjust the transmission brake twice before it would shift right. I like the two-door convenience, not having to look around posts, pipes and mufflers, and the cab comfort. Engine has plenty of power and dealer service has been excellent."

On the negative side, Jerry's had trouble with his Glencoe chisel plow. "Most of our trouble was because of hard and dry ground, but, due to poor welding, the shank clamps came apart before the shear bolts broke. We also straightened out 3 or 4 shanks. I feel manufacturing companies should stress more quality and less quantity."

Ralph Leymaster, Cedar Falls, Iowa: "It's easy to move from building to building and goes down the alley in our confinement building for

finishing hogs. We like the 2-way gate on each end," says Ralph about his portable hog scale from the Smidley Co., Britt, Iowa.

Ralph's also pleased with a protein weigh scale which he purchased from Kane Mfg., Des Moines, Iowa. "We mounted it below an auger on an 8-ton bulk bin for soybean meal. Extremely happy with its performance and accuracy."

John Lyon, Mundelein, Ill.: "Last spring, I applied Dyanap to kill broadleaf weeds. Instead of killing weeds, it acted like a broadleaf weed fertilizer. Worst herbicide I ever used."

"International sure goofed when they quit making pickups."

"International sure goofed when they quit making pickups," adds John, who is well pleased with his IH model 100 six-cylinder pickup. "I've driven this truck in hard service, pulling heavy equipment from field to field with never a moment's trouble. I have over 75,000 trouble-free miles on the truck. A great buy."

James Kaiser, Little Falls, Minn.: His "best buy" is an Eberhardt Silopress silage system. "Well-built and the silage comes out of the bags as good, if not better, than feed out of a sealed structure. The Silopress system takes a little more work and management but the savings and versatility more than make up for it."

Lyle DeVries, Shannon, Ill.: At the top of his "best buy" list are his John Deere 4440 tractor, and his Mathews Co. 9E Rotary Scythe. "After one year and 500 hours of use, the only repair needed on the 4440 was a 28 cent gasket to stop a small fuel leak. Cab is quiet and the seat is very comfortable."

"The Rotary Scythe works great in hay and has few moving parts. Had no breakdowns last year except for a weld that came loose on the lift mechanism. Our warranty covered that."

Lyle's upset, however, with his White 8600 combine. "We bought the combine after the harvest season in 1976 so we have used it three years now and have had numerous breakdowns each year. Last year, we ran about 1,000 acres of corn and soybeans through the machine and had only 2 or 3 days that we didn't have a breakdown. Our total repair bill was about \$2800 last season, with no single repair over \$250."