

Best And Worst Buys

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weed sprayer with 300 gal. tank and 42-ft. booms. "The price was the first good factor — one third less than the competition," says Herman.

W.R. Freymiller, Bowman, N. Dak. "Good dependable power for much less than the cost of a new machine," he says about the used Deere 5020 tractor he bought.

On the negative side, he's been disappointed with his 1974 Chevrolet 1/2 ton pickup. "In the first 10,000 miles both exhaust manifolds cracked. Also lost the coupling on the outside shaft for 4-wheel drive lock-in. It's hard shifting into and out of 4-wheel drive, the 4-barrel carburetor won't work, has no passing gear, miserable gas mileage, chrome strips won't stay on and a very bad tailgate."

Wilbert Ypparila, Newell, S. Dak.: He's happy with his Dodge 150 power wagon. "I've used this pickup for two tough winters and am real pleased with its performance. I use it to pull a 6 by 20-ft. gooseneck trailer and have had no trouble."

Russell L. Schafer, Middletown, Ill.: Russell's disappointed with his 1976 Ford F250 pickup. "Engine has no power and every 5,000 miles or so the universal joints go out on the drive shaft. Dealer service and attitude has been terrible. My family and I have purchased eight new cars and trucks from this dealer since 1972 but this is the last."

Dee Keeton, Kingston, Okla.: "What more could I ask?" says Dee about his "best buy" John Deere 4440 tractor. "Tremendous lugging power and doesn't use oil. Good service on every little minor thing that has gone wrong."

Ag-Team's all-cut disk also rates as one of Dee's best buys. "It's the most massive, heaviest, best built disk I've ever owned. Does an excellent job of cutting up surface trash and leveling in soft broken ground. However, it takes at least a 4440 to handle it."

"This unit has given good service with a minimum of repair," says Dee about his "best buy" New Holland big round baler. "Other round balers use belts which break but we've had no trouble with chain breakage. Our sandy soil is hard on chains but with proper maintenance, they give good service."

Other "best buys" on Dee's list are his Dodge 3/4-ton power wagon pickups and his 1979 Volkswagen Rabbit hatchback. "We have two Dodge trucks and they're the best, toughest 4-wheel drive vehicles I've ever owned. Unlike some others, they haven't nickled and dimed me to death. They don't use oil, have plenty of power and carry a big load."

"We bought the Rabbit when we sold the family car because of high gas prices. After testing major brands of economy cars, we settled on the Rabbit because it had the most room. Gets over 30 mpg any way you drive it, doesn't use oil, is easy to drive and

comfortable for two adults and three big kids. Our gas bill went from \$100 a month to \$25. We wanted a Rabbit diesel, but the waiting list was too long."

On the negative side, Dee notes that "my worst recent purchase was a

"Best 4-wheel drives — they haven't nickled and dimed me to death."

Vicon power harrow. This tool has been nothing but trouble."

Albert Reeme, Dennison, Minn.: He's pleased with Convoy parasynthetic motor oil; a parasynthetic lithium grease; and 80-140W Molly gear lubricant, all handled by Conklin Products. "Conklins Convoy motor oil is a 25,000 mile oil that improves cold weather starting and performs well at high operating temperature. Greatly reduces friction, increases gas mileage and cuts oil consumption. Also like the lithium grease and Molly gear lubricant. Both improve all around vehicle performance."

R. Dale Wilson, Bellevue, Ohio: "This otherwise well-built unit could be improved with better insulation and a heating element that works," says Dale about his Pride of the Ranch livestock waterer. "It's made heavy with cast iron cups and a cast iron cover over the float. But during the first year of use, the insulation fell off and I've had considerable trouble with the heating unit."

On the plus side, Dale rates the Case Company's Anti-Seize lubricating compound a "best buy". "Can be used for threading, tapping, sealing. I used it on a water pump pumping sulfur water. After 1 1/2 years, the pump came apart with ease. Good product for many uses."

Steve Valeriano, Bernville, Penn.: Heading his "best buy" list is Aatrix "Nine-O" herbicide in pelleted form. "Dissolves as soon as it contacts water and doesn't settle out when it sits. Costs just a little more than powder and less than liquids."

Steve's also been pleased with his 4230 Deere tractor, and his New Holland 273 baler and thrower. "I've owned several brands of tractors but none as convenient and comfortable to work with as the 4230. And the baler is a real workhorse, and trouble free."

David E. Siebels, Scotch Grove, Iowa: "Has given me no trouble after two summers of use," says David about his John Deere 210 lawn and garden tractor. "The 38-in. mower does an even job of moving over rough terrain. Has lived up to everything I was told."

"Also, my Bush-Hog barge box and

10-ton gear has been a good buy. Stands up to the loads we put on with no trouble. Very pleased."

Robert T. Fritz, Garrett, Penn.: His International 435 baler is his "best buy", and he says he especially likes the service. "Although we live close to other dealers, the International people are great — and they're 50 miles away!"

Duane B. Miller, Glenburn, N. Dak.: "Eliminates a second truck in the field and transfers a load in about 20 min.," says Duane about his Anderson 225 bu. gravity flow grain box. "Compared to a truck, the price is quite reasonable. Real satisfied."

He's also pleased with his Leon 707 Quick-Tach loader. "We use it for rockpicking and push a lot of snow with it."

On the minus side, he's had trouble with his 4-wheel drive Ford pickup. "Works alright and has good gas mileage, but I've replaced the carburetor and 3 or 4 seals in the transfer case in the first 20,000 miles. Also, the seat covers are torn and cracked in the seams."

Clair Moore, DOLLIVER, Iowa: "I bought a diesel pickup to get better mileage," says Clair about his "worst buy" 1978 Chevrolet diesel 1/2-ton pickup. "I traded in a 1976 6-cylinder, 1/2-ton that was giving about 13 mpg. The best mileage I've gotten on the diesel is 17 and the lowest 9, with the average around 12 mpg. Now the speedometer is broken and one rear wheel is leaking grease."

On the plus side, he's happy with his Deere 7100 Max-Emerge 8-row planter. "Could hardly believe this machine planted at such an even depth. Planted the same depth in loose peat soil as in more compact soil."

Norman Wattleworth, Greenup, Ill.: Heading his list of "best buys" is his Deere 4430 tractor. "Like the quietness of the cab," he says. "We've had very little trouble in the 800 hours we've used it. Good dealer service."

"Also like the Lincoln 250 AC or DC arc welder," he adds. "Especially like the ease of striking an arc without having the rods sticking."

Norman says he doesn't have any "worst buys" but he is disappointed with the mileage he's getting on his 1978 Oldsmobile diesel. "Gets 23 to 24 mpg on long trips and 20 to 21 on short trips. It was supposed to get 24 to 29 mpg. Outside of this, it gives good service and uses no oil after 15,000 miles."

Henry T. Heinz, Hemingford, Neb.: "Runs so quiet it sounds like a sewing machine," states Henry about his Farmhand 8-ton manure spreader, model 450. "It's hauled more than 500 big 8-ton loads in the two years we've owned it, with no breakdowns. Only problem is that it has a tendency to shear pins on the slip clutch when loaded with wet manure, and then it's hard to get it started again without having to pitch off some of the manure."

Lee Schaunaman, Warner, S. Dak.: "We're having trouble with our 50 by 100 ft. Marvel Brute steel quonset building. It's a fine building but leaks like a sieve," reports Lee. "We've put

several gallons of tar sealer around the base, but even with less than .05 inch of rain, the water still runs in. Some of the tin wasn't cut right in the corners from the factory either, and we're betting snow will blow in this winter."

"The salesman we bought from quit selling for Brute and we can't get hold of the builder who put it up. The factory in Jamestown, N.D., has given us the run around. For the \$26,000 plus we have invested in the building, labor and concrete, it is a joke. Definitely our worst buy."

Edgar Meister, Chadron, Neb.: Edgar's pleased with his 4800 Hesston square baler. "It's pto-driven and makes 4 by 4 by 8-ft. bales that weigh about a ton," he says. "It had a few bugs but is sure a change in handling hay and will easily make 20 tons per hour. We have the accumulator, which drops two bales in one place, and Hesston's stacking attachment for our truck bed. We also have their feeder wagon."

Also on Edgar's "best buy" list is an apronless Orbit manure spreader which he read about in FARM SHOW. "Our man who uses it compares our John Deere spreader to a Volkswagen, and this new Orbit to a Cadillac. It uses a hydraulic endgate to push the load to the beater, with no apron. It's made in Goodhue, Minn., by O'Reilly Mfg."

Ed Mitch, Cut Bank, Mont.: Ed's a farm equipment dealer and feels it would be unfair to comment, good or bad, on machinery but says, "I sure like FARM SHOW's Best and Worst Buys' report. I hope some of the man-

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ufacturers pay attention to the complaints. As dealers, we get tired of manufacturers that take a "don't care" attitude and won't answer letters or return phone calls."

Bobby McCampbell, Knoxville, Tenn.: Heading his "best buy" list is his 350 Ford pickup bought in the spring of 1978. "With an automatic transmission and 460 cu. in. engine, it pulls a gooseneck trailer with ease. Has nearly 40,000 miles on it and still drives better than a car, even though most of the mileage was made pulling trailers. Very little spent for upkeep."

Ron LaDuke, Oneida, Ill.: "I really enjoyed combining beans and actually had fun running the machine! It may even encourage me to plant more beans next year," says Ron about his "best buy" Deere 4-row 454 bean header. "Didn't have one problem in 300 acres and I know it saved more than enough beans to pay for itself. With no reel to watch, it sure made a difference in driver fatigue, especially at night. Extremely pleased."

Don R. Teague, Bovina, Tex.: "This company has a reputation for good service 24 hours a day, 7 days a week