

"Best" and "Worst" Buys

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Steve Kuhlman, Lake Benton, Minn.: Steve says his Sioux "Loc Block" 1000 corn crib "is one of the poorest I've bought. The door frames are made too light with not enough bracing. Six months after being filled, they started to sag and pull away from the frames, coming apart like a zipper. The crib is held together with more than 250 Loc blocks that are not made strong enough to hold heavy ear corn."

Delwin Kellerman, Oshkosh, Wis.: "I bought it for its fast change from fill to feed and found it's everything they say it is and more. Service, if needed, is good," says Delwin about his "best buy" Big Jim silo unloader from Jamesway. He's also pleased with his New Holland 791 manure spreader. "The hydraulic tailgate is great for holding liquids in and getting to the field with a full load."

Delbert Will, Irwin, Iowa: "I've had it for a year with never a minute of trouble," says Delbert about his "best buy" John Deere 4440 diesel tractor with Power Shift transmission. "Has plenty of power, shift on-the-go, lots of traction, and best of all, a wonderfully quiet cab."

Lawrence Paul Corbin, Shelbina, Mo.: He nominates his 1978 Dodge half-ton pickup with a Mitsubishi diesel engine as a best buy. "We bought it in December of 1978 and, in spite of the most snow and cold that I can remember in my 38 years, this pickup has given excellent service. Minor problems received prompt service."

Lloyd A. Heisner, Esmond, Ill.: Lloyd nominates his Badger automatic barn cleaner as one of his "worst buys". "The field man and our contractor installed the system with a blueprint from Badger but when it went into use, things didn't work right. After lots of time and phone calls, all we have are more things that need to be changed but at our expense. We've had the company out and they say the barn cleaner works great, yet we've had to replace six micro switches at our own expense. We have to keep it going."

On the plus side, Lloyd says having his barn floors grooved was "one of the best things I ever did for my dairy cattle. A good idea for cattle in confinement."

Gary Fredrickson, Hutchinson, Minn.: "I'd have to call this both my best and worst buy of 1978," says Gary about Amoco trace element foliar fertilizer. "We used it on both corn and alfalfa, and had generally good results. But it contains ammonia as a carrier and burned the corn quite badly. It recovered, though, and showed a yield increase over non-treated corn. Alfalfa wasn't so touchy."

Spencer Hughes, LeSueur, Minn.: His nomination for "best buy" is a Balzer 440 bu. spreader. "We've hauled 10 ton of sweet corn silage with it mounted on an old army truck, and had no problems. Also used it for hauling chopped pea vines which it

unloaded evenly and without slugs, putting it through a blower."

On the negative side, Spencer is disappointed with "Ralgro — a growth stimulant injected in the ear of feeder cattle. First of all, you have to squeeze the cattle into a headgate or squeeze chute to inject it," he explains. "I have a good chute with its own floor, but the cattle hit it so hard when given Ralgro they move it forward 6 ft. This gives you an idea of how much stress it puts on the cattle. You lose all you gain because of this stress, and then go through the same thing again every 90 days."

Ronald S. Krueger, Colfax, Wis.: Ronald's happy with his new Gehl 72C flail chopper which replaced an older Gehl model he purchased 10 years ago. "The old Gehl did a fine job and needed few repairs. The new one is easy to handle and doesn't demand a lot of power to run. Especially like the regreasable bearings, which are much better than the old machine's sealed bearings."

Donald H. Humbert, Clyde, N.Y.: FARM SHOW heads Donald's list of best buys. "It's truly a farm magazine for all farmers coast to coast. We enjoy every issue."

"Another one of our most satisfying purchases is a John Deere 70 skid steer loader. We bought it to clean heifer pens but it has taken over lots of other back-breaking jobs around our farm. Small enough to get into tight corners but powerful enough to do a big job."

Another "best buy" on Donald's list is his electric Ubler silage cart. "Takes many miles out of feeding cows, winter and summer. Being electric, we have no worries about sparks around hay and straw."

Leonard A. Kroll, Sioux City, Iowa: "Superior product and workmanship at a competitive price," is how he describes his 19-ft. Steffen combination grain and livestock box,

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and B-B-P 990 truck hoist. "Steffen Body Inc. mounted the box and hoist on our '76 Chevy C65. The box will haul any load the truck can carry and the hoist will dump any load the box can hold."

Laurence E. McCall, Mesa, Wash.: "We now have a policy of not buying anything from unknown phone salesmen," says Laurence after a bad experience with "a high-pressure salesman from Alpine Chemicals. I bought two gallons of so-called concentrated engine cleaning compound, partially to see if these telephone salesmen have anything to offer. The compound, which cost

more than \$16 a gallon, works no better than common laundry detergent."

His "best buy" is "Schaeffer's Moly roller chain lube. This aerosol lengthens the life of roller chains, lubricating them and plating wear surfaces with molybdenum for extreme wear resistance. It's also an excellent penetrant. To loosen frozen nuts, for example, just apply heat to the nut, followed by a couple squirts of the chain lube. The product boils into the rusted threads to loosen and lubricate. Works great."

Another product he likes is Detex, a paste from Weil Service Products Corp. which detects water in fuel. "Just put a little on a clean rod and insert into your fuel storage tank, tractor fuel tank or any kind of petroleum product, to detect moisture. The paste is a dull green that turns bright purple in the presence of water. Can give you the exact depth of any water present."

Richard Slaybough, Biglerville, Penn.: "This is the first piece of John Deere equipment I've ever owned," says Richard, about his Deere 7000 corn planter. "We had a perfect stand and the best depth control, but the main drive ratchet gear twisted to pieces the first 12 acres and we couldn't get parts from our local dealer." Richard adds that he's well pleased with his Krause field disc. "It has the best cutting and levelness of any disc. Heavy and ruggedly built."

Richard adds that his Lely Roterra gets his nomination as a "worst buy." "The salesman never returned once problems started. It's the most expensive machine we own for repairs and maintenance. The salesman misrepresented it for our area, which has a lot of stony ground."

Ronald Rich, Kokomo, Ind.: "Does the most complete job of seedbed preparation of any tool I've seen," reports Ronald about his Vicon pto-powered harrow. "Does especially well on flat-plowed soils and, in most cases, once-over is adequate. On heavy, clay soil, no wet soil is brought up as with a disc or field cultivator. Ruggedly built, few moving parts and not affected by rocks."

Robert Bromander, Ulen, Minn.: He's pleased with his 40 by 60 all-steel grain storage building from Cuckler. "It's top quality and construction by Edson Construction was excellent. I've got my 1978 wheat crop in there now."

David Hawker, Frederick, Md.: His "best buy" nomination goes to his 519 New Holland manure spreader. "Works real well — even shredded two feed buckets which we'd placed in the machine before loading and forgot about."

Bill Fullerton, Enon Valley, Penn.: Bill's two "best buys" are the Fahr Centipede hay tedder and a Deutz 3006 tractor. "I thought the tedder was just an overpriced toy at first but now I wouldn't make hay without it. Not only speeds up the drying process considerably, but even rakes when put onto the optional gearbox."

"The Deutz 3006 has amazing power for a supposedly small tractor, and fuel economy is unbelievable. We have an older 7206 Deutz that we're just as pleased with. Both are

comfortable, easy to run and exceptional values for the money."

Bill is disappointed, however, with his "DeLaval Challenger feeder. The unit works fine now but we've had far too much trouble with it, considering the high price tag. No complaints about service. I'm just disappointed with DeLaval and wouldn't purchase one of these units if I were doing it again."

Larry W. Koester, Raymondville, Texas: "I can still feel human at the end of the day," reports Larry, who's happy with the comfort and maneuverability of his John Deere 9910 hydrostatic cotton picker. "An excellent machine. Meets all my expectations for speed and efficiency, along with comfort that lets you work long hours. However, service time is

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longer than I was led to believe and dealer prep was not what one expects with a machine of this price."

On the negative side, he notes that his "Saylor-Beall air compressor with 3-hp Briggs & Stratton motor" has caused problems. "The air compressor itself is fine, but the no-load start valve, and pressure kick-out valve, have given trouble from day one. Vibration from the one-belt drive has broken the 3/8 in. inlet pipe off the 20-gal. tank twice. Needless to say, my blood pressure has been high longer than the air in the compressor."

Larry adds that, "I'm saving my legs with a DMI Surveyor for measuring land. Thanks to FARM SHOW for telling me about it."

Robert C. Haag, Orient, Iowa: He's happy with his Deere 510 big baler. "I've put a lot of hay through this baler and it works like a dream. Especially like the automatic shutoff that shuts off the pickup when you have a full bale, and the hydraulic twine wrap."

"My Grain-O-Vator 10-in auger is another best buy," adds Robert. "Has great capacity for augering wet corn and, with the hydraulic lift, is much easier and faster to move from bin to bin."

Robert is disappointed with "Dyanap herbicide by Uniroyal. I sprayed Dyanap on my soybeans only to find it sets your beans back more than the weeds. I ended up walking the beans because the Dyanap wouldn't work."

"I'm also disappointed with my Palco cattle corral. The first time I used it, a calf hit one of the panels and bent it badly. For what it cost, it should be built out of heavier material. It does have a good, heavy loading chute and carrier."

John McDowell, Jr., Shamrock, Texas: He's well pleased with his John Deere 400 Roto-Hoe. "It saved