

BUYING TIPS YOU CAN USE

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

August C. Pepper, Delavan, Wis.: August's happy with his Lester machine shed. "I think the 2 by 12 and 2 by 10 roof rafters, along with the double-knee braces, makes the roof stand a good deal more snow load than other buildings. I also like the 2 by 6 side rails and roof purlins. Besides the heavy-duty construction, the crew erecting the building was helpful and did an excellent job."

Gary Domnick, Morris, Minn.: "This must be the poorest piece of equipment ever painted green," says Gary about his "worst buy" John Deere Model 3800 forage harvester. "Within the first 10 minutes of operation, one bearing got hot and had to be replaced. The next day the balls in another bearing crushed and fell apart. Three other bearings went during the first 200 acres. Needless to say, I've had two John Deere choppers — the first and the last."

On the plus side, Gary's well pleased with Arts-Way manufacturing's Model 400 digital Electronic Scale by Weigh-Tronix. "I had this

though it handles and performs well. Averages 13 miles per gallon where the one I drove before got about 18. Service is poor. The dealer doesn't want to be bothered and leads me to believe he cannot help."

Joseph Brokish, Dodgeville, Wis.: "My best buy has been Na-Churs liquid fertilizer," reports Joseph. "It's a non-polluting food grade material that we use with great results on corn and direct-seeded alfalfa. We also get good service from our NaChurs representative. He helps make sure that everything is done properly and checks throughout the growing season and at harvest time."

On the negative side, Joseph reports poor results with "Eco-Grow carp and seaweed fertilizer. I carefully followed all the instructions but in three days my alfalfa was dead. I could get no help from the company until I contacted the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Plant and Industry Division. Then the company wrote me but gave no satisfaction."

"My second worst buy was when I purchased some seed corn and also a vacation trip from Lowe Seed Co. Then the person who was going to do my work became very ill and I had to cancel my trip. Lowe Seed Co. said I'd get all my money refunded. They refunded part, and their travel agency several calls and was told that I would get all of my money back. This has not happened."

Leslie L. Campbell, Havre, Mont.: He's happy with his Lincoln arc welder. "It's small enough to fit in the back of our fuel pickup so it's always ready to weld in the field. We also use it as a generator. We really appreciate its good service, especially when it's 20° below and the power goes off."

LeRoy D. Cooper, Kanawha, Iowa: He's happy with his M & W continuous flow pto-driven grain dryer. "It dried about 200,000 bu. of grain for us with only one minor repair last year. We're happy with the quality of grain and the speed of drying. Workmanship and performance are good for the money spent."

On the other hand, LeRoy is "very unhappy" with his Dual loader "that has been nothing but a headache. It continues to blow seals in the cylinders, then runs that garbage through the hydraulic system of my tractor. I've taken it apart three times to clean what seem to be cheap seals made from car tires."

Don R. Luddington, Ephrata, Wash.: Don nominates a John Deere 110 disc as his "worst buy". "I lost track of the number of wheel and gang bearings I replaced, after the second set all around," he explained. "The scrapers were so weak they bent down and cut the spools after hitting a rock. The dealer wouldn't help but, because we complained, a factory representative for John Deere came to the farm and explained that it looked like the disc wasn't made for rough terrain, a fact not indicated in their literature."

Don's "best buy" is an IH 490 disc. "I bought this to replace my "worst buy" disc. It has smooth action on hilly terrain, and where most equip-

scale mounted on a new Harsh mixer wagon and I've never seen a scale I like better," he reports. "You can program the nutrients in the load without leaving the tractor seat by aiming the control box toward your loader. In a year of use — in rain and snow and with temperatures ranging from 30° below zero to 90° — it's never failed."

Rob Riviere, Ripley, Tenn.: He's pleased with his Sprayrite Spraysickle, a 40-row recirculating sprayer. "Using Roundup, we get very effective control against johnsongrass," he reports.

He's not so happy, however, with his Noble 15-ft. cultivator and a 20-ft. King cultivator. "Both brands were inadequate. The spring teeth broke repeatedly and both frames were too light and failed."

Hjortur Hjartarson, Ethridge, Mont.: "I bought a Leon 13-ft. dozer blade and mounted it on my 800 Versatile tractor," reports Hjortur. "The blade has just the right curve for both dirt and snow, and stands abuse well, except for a few bolts that jar loose. I'd like to hear from someone who's had a Leon hydraulic tilt and angle blade."

On the minus side, he's disappointed with his 1979 Chevrolet ½ ton pickup with a 250 cu. in. engine and 3-speed transmission. "It's not getting the gas mileage it should, al-