

# "Best" and "Worst" Buys

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keep the nipples open, like they said they would, even at temperatures of 25° below zero and colder."

**Larence F. Powers, Marissa, Ill.:** "A product that greatly concerns me is Attrex for corn," says Lawrence, who's been using it for several years. "When we started using it, it killed all weeds and grasses at 1½ lbs. per acre. We work our ground the same now but use up to 2¼ lbs. per acre of the same material, and it's just not as consistent. It seems to be a weaker product."

Lawrence adds that his "best buy" is a 1070 Case tractor he bought last year. "Case has always had good, sound engines and this is no exception. It's economical to run and the cab is clean and quiet. I have to keep the air conditioning on low because it really puts out. I like the power shift transmission."

**David Erickson, Grantsburg, Wis.:** "A couple years ago I bought two H & S forage boxes and they've been great," reports David. "They're smooth-running and we haven't had a bit of trouble. I also bought an H & S 350 manure spreader and recommend that, too."

**Calvin W. Voigt, Forest City, Iowa:** "This variety was extremely susceptible to stalk rot and the corn borers loved it, too. From 30 to 70% of the stalks were broken off, or they had dropped ears, by harvest time," says Calvin, who reports that he is disappointed with Crow's high lysine HL 220 seed corn. "It began to lodge and drop ears shortly after silking, even though several other varieties raised on the same type of soil and the same management were only slightly affected."

His "best buy" is a Scan-O-Preg II pregnancy tester for sheep. "It's an easy-to-operate tester, every bit as accurate as the company claims."

**John Morgan, Saltville, Va.:** "It goes where you point it," says John about his 1978 4-wheel drive International Scout Terra pickup. "Its 345 cu. in. V-8 engine and automatic transmission handle any kind of terrain. Starts easily in all kinds of weather and dealer service has been good."

On the other hand, John's had trouble with his 1976 4-wheel drive Dodge pickup. "It ran like a 4 cylinder and ate gas like a 16 cylinder — when it ran, that is. It wouldn't start when temperatures fell to around 20°. The output shaft to front drive shaft twisted off at about 14,000 miles. On the plus side, it had the most comfortable seat and cab of any pickup I've ever driven."

**James Autry, Fayetteville, N.C.:** "The tractor has more shop hours than it does field hours," reports James about his John Deere 8430. "It's a pleasure to operate but has had one problem after another. We've had an awful lot of hydraulic problems and transmission trouble, as well as fuel pressure problems."

On the plus side, James likes his IH

490 disc harrow. "We've been well-pleased with the way it flexes to the contour of the land. Seems to pull easier than comparable size discs with rigid frames."

**Clarence Benson, Lansing, N.Y.:** Clarence likes his 150 White articulated tractor. "The traction is terrific and the cab is the most comfortable and quiet I've ever owned. Really designed with the operator in mind."

**A. J. Cavin, Sigourney, Iowa:** He rates FARM SHOW one of his "best buys". "Your Best and Worst Buys section really tells the story like farmers tell each other. I'd wager the machinery makers and dealers read every word of it."

He adds, however, that "I believe a lot of troubles stem from farmers not really studying the operator's manual. Most servicemen will gladly explain the function of a machine if you ask."

**Ben Manz, Paulding, Ohio:** He's pleased with feed levelers on his Ley caged layer feed cart. "We had the factory install the new auger and feed levelers on the electric feed cart I'd already bought, and they do an excellent job. They're a real feed-saver, and do an unbelievably accurate job. Well-engineered and perform better than I was led to expect. I recommend them."

**John R. Flater, Atalissa, Iowa:** He's pleased with his Richland machine

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shed. "The best thing is that birds can't get in there and paint your machinery with droppings. There's no place for birds to roost or hide. We haven't had any birds in there the six years we've owned it. And there's no problem with heavy snow loads because it has good strong trusses. It has a 14-ft. drive-in door for our combine and two smaller ones for cars. We store machinery and seed corn in the shed."

**Edwin Schoreder, Watertown, Wis.:** "I'm using a live bacteria product to coat all corn and grain seeds. It's called Agri-Serum, made by Farmers Manufacturing Co. in Corsey, Ill.," says Edwin. "It promotes a large root system, giving healthy plants. Costs only \$1.25 per acre but I wouldn't plant a kernel without it." Edwin's also happy with his electric Mix Mill. "If it ever wears out, which I doubt, I'll get another one just like it," he says. "I can mix and grind four different ingredients, and use the ¼ speed proportioner for

medication or mineral. It stops automatically when the feeders are full, and when we run out of an ingredient. I can set the timer for 5 min. or 2½ hours."

**Bud Jones, Roundup, Mont.:** He's unhappy with his IH 140 Roll-Over plow. "One bottom is out of line and the trips will not hold. We have 5 of the 8 bottoms bolted solid. I got the plow last summer and the company still hasn't come through with a solution."

**John F. Horton, Dairy, Ore.:** "It's the first time we ever found anything that really whips Canada thistles," says John, who's pleased with performance of Roundup herbicide."

**Crayton Bouchie, Blunt, S. Dak.:** "It's just an outstanding loader," says Crayton about his John Deere 158 loader. "I've used it for hauling dirt, manure, silage, rocks, sand, and more. We've had no breakdowns whatsoever."

Crayton nominates as his "worst buy" his 1978 Chevrolet 4-wheel drive pickup. "First off, we had trouble with it not starting and finally discovered a faulty starter coil," he reports. "Then it started burning a quart of oil every 400 miles and got steadily worse. Finally, after burning a quart every 150 miles, I got it overhauled. Luckily I had the extra three-year, or 36,000 mile warranty, so Chevrolet is paying for everything."

**David Zigler, Veedersburg, Ind.:** "I like the overall appearance, power, controls and quiet cab on my John Deere 4440 tractor. Also, it's nice to know your wife enjoys driving it as well as yourself."

**Calvin Wegner, Beasley, Texas:** "I bought a John Blue fertilizer attachment to fit on my hipers. It enables me to fertilize and hip my land in one operation. Otherwise, I'd have to run two tractors instead of one. Saves labor, fuel and time."

On the minus side, Calvin says, "I don't believe I'll ever own another Ford. When the air conditioner went out on my F-100 pickup, the dealer charged me over \$400 to fix it and messed up the heater in the process. It also weaved on the road and couldn't be fixed. Burned a quart of oil every 250 miles with less than 38,000 miles on it."

**J. P. Barlow, Smithfield Va.:** The John Deere 7100 planter is the best corn and soybean planter I've ever used. Equipped with the V-wing attachment, it'll do a good job of planting in rough and cloddy land."

**Dale Updahl, Manfred, N. Dak.:** He's unhappy with his John Deere 300 stack wagon. "It sucked up too much dirt, and you couldn't see when it was full from the cab of our tractor."

On the other hand, he says his 4440 John Deere diesel tractor "has a quiet cab, is nice and easy to handle."

**Clayton Berg, Hendrum, Minn.:** He rates his John Deere model 230 tandem disc a "best buy". "It's a lot heavier than the one I had. Just what I need on my sunflower ground."

**Charles Haase, Johnstown, Neb.:** "Our John Deere grinder-mixer model 700 does a much better job of grinding than the old 400, and a far superior mixing job that's just as

good as the ads claim. The only problem is that the optional electronic scale is not yet complete after two months. Very slow in getting it to us."

**Dan Colby, Tiskilwa, Ill.:** "It's one of the few machines I've ever spent that much money for and thought I got my money's worth," says Dan, who's pleased with his IH 1440 rotary combine. "Turned out to be every-

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thing they said it was. I'm especially pleased with the quality of the grain and how quiet the cab is."

**James R. Berg, Colby, Kan.:** "If the truck chassis was as good as the box I would have no complaints," says James about his Harsh 14-ft. feeder box. "It mixes the feed so that every handful I pick out of the bunk is the same. There's a scale right on it."

He says his "worst buy" is his "1975 LN 600 Ford truck. We've put four different engines in this truck since buying it in April of 1975. We also had to put a new different transmission in it."

**Lyle D. Nepodal, Academy, S. Dak.:** "Our Lahman 'one-minute' chain stack mover has done everything we want it to do. We can move twice as many stacks as with our old cable mover and never have to leave the tractor seat. We had a few troubles with the mover at first but the company and our dealer stood behind their product and got it fixed."

Lyle adds that he's also pleased with his Owatonna 424 grinder mixer mill. "It grinds fast and has few moving parts, for less maintenance."

**Mark Ploger, Kinsley, Kan.:** Heading his list of "best buys" is his 1977 850 Versatile tractor. "The Versatile covers almost twice as much ground in an hour as our 4520 John Deere on three gallons less fuel, with each tractor pulling equipment matched to its respective horsepower. It's performed way beyond my expectations."

On the other hand, Mark's had problems with his pickup. "I guess Jeeps are just what they advertise them to be — recreational vehicles," he says about his 1979 Jeep ¾-ton pickup. "The workmanship on it is poor. The doors don't fit tight or close properly, the windshield wipers quit working and a seal was quit in the rear end, to name a few things. The first time I drove it, I noticed that it rode awfully rough. The dealer told us balancing the tires would smooth this out, but after some checking, we found the front drive shaft to be bent. But the biggest drawback is the catalytic converter, which is on all '79 pickups. The Jeep sits low enough to the ground that I won't be able to drive it in stubble fields or any dry grass pastures without setting them on fire."