

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

Daniel Wolf, Stewartstown, Pa.: "Fraudulent schemes and do-nothing products are over-abundant. It seems to be open season on farmers, but I'm learning how to duck," says Daniel. "In the past year, I bought colored water labeled soil conditioner, a Milwaukee tool that was made in Japan, and a membership in a group-purchasing co-op that couldn't get the things I wanted. I've learned that if it seems too good to be true, it probably is."

On the plus side, Daniel is happy with Roundup herbicide. "I planted soybeans in a field where Canada thistle was practically the only vegetative cover. Spraying followed immediately using Roundup plus residual herbicides. The thistles died and the beans yielded about 45 bu. per acre."

Verlynn LeVan, Elgin, Minn.: "Three years ago, we purchased a Wil-Rich 25-ft. chisel plow. We were continually breaking teeth. I contacted the company and they are now

was a bill for the cost of the parts — we did the labor. The IH monitor never did work. When we sold it after planting 1,400 acres, we lost 80% of what we'd paid for it. Couldn't find a dealer to trade for it and scalpers told us there was no place to go with it. We bought a Deere Max Emerge with a Whetherell carrier and it's just like heaven, compared to the Cyclo."

Ed McCause, Oregon, Ill.: "My worst buy, by far, was a Tye drill for drilling soybeans. On uneven ground, there's no possible way that it can avoid planting beans at all depths, from several inches deep to on the surface. It cost me a crop to learn."

Ed nominates two best buys: "One is a John Deere Max-Emerge planter

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which does a fine job of placing the seed at an even depth. It also has the unique ability to keep the coulters clean and keep them turning in trash due to the wiping action of the gauge wheels. My other best buy is a Kinze grain cart. Although we had some problems with the discharge auger drive lugs tearing out, it allows us to dump on the go and increased harvest speed almost 50%, using large flotation tires, which are essential."

Raymond Swenson, Brooks, Minn.: "The longer I drive it, the more satisfied I am," says Raymond about his "best buy" Volkswagen Rabbit diesel car. "Good quality body, excellent road handling, comfortable seats and fantastic economy. We've averaged 42½ miles per gallon in over 50,000 miles of driving and have gotten as high as 53 mpg on a trip."

Raymond offers this word of caution to anyone buying merchandise over the phone: "Be sure it's what they say it is before you pay. I had trouble when I bought a floor model drill press from an over-zealous Los Angeles telephone salesman. It took months to get the accessories he had described but, because I refused to pay until they were in my hands, it all turned out okay."

Vernon Block, Weiner, Ark.: "The bills were prompt but their monthly pest service was very irregular," says Vernon about Orkin Exterminating Service, Jonesboro, Ark. "We were billed for service that was never performed and it took several long distance phone calls to straighten it out. I finally cancelled the service."

At the top of his list of "best buys" is a Lister H.R.3 well power unit. "It's economical to run and is air-cooled so there's no radiator to cause problems. Only trouble was with the electrical system, which my dealer promptly fixed."

Leroy Sveeggen, Alcester, S.D.: "The Versatile 55-ft. 8-in. bottom drive auger must be one of the simplest, most trouble-free, best balanced and easiest to position augers on the

going to replace all the teeth free of charge. This indicates the company is willing to guarantee a quality machine."

Also on Verlynn's "best buy" list is Deere's 6600 combine: "We used this machine for seven harvests and did nothing other than replace some chains and belts. We replaced it last year with a new 7700, only because we needed the extra capacity. We hope this new one will perform as well as the older one."

Albert E. Prestin, Wenona, Ill.: "If a 4-row planter needs one blower unit, how many does an 8-row model need?" asks Albert who is disappointed with the IH Cyclo planter he bought. "It's a miserable design. They went from moving the seed 14 in. from the plate to the ground on the old 56 series, to 13½ ft. from the drum to the outside rows with the Cyclo."

"In two seasons, we didn't have a bean field without skips where it plugged. In corn, it planted the smalls too heavy and the pointed kernels not heavy enough, besides a lot of skips. The outside rows plugged every day so we had to take the planter to the shop to blow it out with compressed air. When one chain came off, the other chain kept driving, causing the shaft and holders to self-destruct. No parts were available. The wheel bearing went out and the only help I got from the dealer