

# "Best" and "Worst" Buys

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Deere 8300 grain drill. "The first day, the hitch tore off and we've been working on it ever since. Then, we wanted to haul it on a 10 ft. implement trailer but found it was just as wide sideways as it was pulling behind a tractor. The way it's designed, it would take an hour to pull out the tongue."

On the plus side, Reuben's well pleased with his Hinkler 32-ft. folding field cultivator. "We've been over 2,600 acres with minimal maintenance — one hydraulic line broke, and we had to put tubes in the tubeless tires. The cultivator folds flat to 16 ft., 6 in. with no overhang, so it moves well on the road. Pulls great behind our 4-wheel drive or big 2-wheel drive tractors."

**Belden Kapelle, Arlington, S. Dak.:** "Thanks to FARM SHOW, we now have the dog we've always wanted. We saw your story last spring about Great Pyrenees dogs and contacted the fellow mentioned in the article. In November, we went out and bought one. We really enjoy your magazine."

**Gilbert Beye, Haverhill, Iowa:** "I consider it one of my best buys ever," says Gilbert about NaChurs liquid fertilizer. "My corn and beans popped right through and I had bigger root systems and healthier plants than ever. The product is easy to handle and doesn't corrode, freezer or settle out."

**Mark Germann, Morganville, Kan.:** He nominates Prowl herbicide as his worst buy. "We applied it according to directions and had plenty of moisture to activate it but it ran out of power before the crop even got started. Weeds came through it like wildfire and we found Treflan worked better by far."

On the positive side, Mark nominates his Vermeer 605F Big Round Baler as a best buy. "It's the best baler I've ever had, even if it is a little tricky to learn to run and get uniform bales. Makes nice hard bales in most crops. Bearings are easy to get to and all one size. The hydraulics make it easy to change tension on the belts. Its faults are that it's hard to see the bale in the chamber, and the endgate opens too fast."

**David C. Barton, Raymond, Miss.:** "I always thought it was the nature of combines to break down constantly because that's what happened with the first two I owned. But I've had only three hours down time in two seasons with my Deere 4400 combine. It does an excellent job in soybeans and takes weeds well without choking. Very little crop loss."

**Loren L. Miller, Edinburgh, Ind.:** "One clutch disc disintegrated in the first 900 miles and Chevrolet would not pay for it until I had written the Better Business Bureau," says Loren about a 2½ ton C-65 truck he bought in 1978. "The truck has a faulty transmission and won't go into gear without dragging. The company says

that's normal. The two-speed shifter went out three times because a seal was left out by the factory. Had to pay for that myself."

**Thomas W. Rhodes, Horseheads, N.Y.:** "It's practically trouble-free. Speeds up silo filling and eliminates troublesome self-unloading silage wagons," says Thomas about his best recent purchase — a Gehl Hydro-Tilt Dump Wagon, model 9000.

"I'm also very pleased with my Knight LA-9 Little Auggie feeder wagon. Runs very well and maintenance is very easy on it."

Thomas is disappointed with his Case 970 tractor. "Most frustrating thing about these otherwise good tractors is the power shift, which is extremely difficult to shift between ranges, especially when cold. Our dealer gives excellent service, but when the shifting problem was checked, he said this was normal for that particular model."

**Thomas Rakow, Marathon, Wis.:** He's enthusiastic about his White 281 offset disc. "I'm very well pleased with this machine. Saved me many hours of tillage work with cornstalks versus a moldboard plow. I pull it 6 mph at an 8 in. depth with a 100 hp tractor."

Commenting on his Kasten 12-ton tandem running gear he notes that, "I backed up and hit a small pile of dirt about 12 in. high with the right rear wheel and the reach bent. The dealer replaced it without charge."

**Duane Darling, Muleshoe, Texas:** Duane likes his Wylie recycling sprayer. "I used it on several hundred acres of cotton to kill Johnsongrass above the cotton and it was relatively trouble-free. I added small gauge wheels to protect the catch boxes from hitting the ground when working in small cotton. The screening could be better — a lot of weed seed found its way into the system and had to be cleaned out."

**Wayne Lane, Elizabeth, Colo.:** "Our new Deere 7700 combine this year was our third new John Deere in four years. As with the others, we have had excellent service from the machine and fantastic help from dealers all along our custom harvest route. I'm sure we'll continue to buy Deere combines."

"One of the worst buys I ever made was a 1978 3/4-ton Ford pickup with a 400 CID engine. It was never completely put together at the factory. The front end was loose and the clutch was never properly adjusted. The dealer never did a pre-delivery prep and never had time to fix the wrongs. This was the eleventh Ford I've owned in 10 years but now I'm looking at Chevrolet."

**A.K. Ellis, Wilson, N.C.:** He says his Brown Harding 4-row Super-Seeder is "the finest tool I've ever bought. It's for no-till planting of corn and beans. Has a coulters for cutting through rye cover, followed by a

sub-soiler, a spider wheel to fill in the slot, two small coulters to build up a bed of your choice, an International 495 unit planter and finally a spray boom to apply your herbicide and nitrogen. It is built to stand any treatment you give it."

**Carl Dewert, Hope, Ind.:** "International Harvester parts service needs overhauling. No matter how critical the repair, it still comes by mule train," says Carl. He's disappointed with "the Posi-Depth wheel attachment for the IH 500 planter. It was our worst buy. It just does not work. These wheels did nothing for the job of planting but drag up stalks, dirt, etc."

On the plus side, Carl notes that "our purchase of an IH 1460 combine has definitely been our best. It has been very satisfactory and has been almost as good as all the propaganda we had read in various farm publica-

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tions. Very easy to service and repair. It seems the engineers have finally realized a machine occasionally needs repair and have designed it with this in mind."

**James Brooks, Siler City, N.C.:** "This cutter is a tough, heavy-built machine. It chops your crop uniform whether it's corn or small grain," says James of his 890 New Holland silage cutter.

**Gayle Henrich, Remsen, Iowa:** He's happy with his "best buy" Hotsy hot water high pressure washer (Model 610). "I had two cold water high pressure washers before using the Hotsy and there is no comparison. The hot, soapy water will eat through any kind of crude material, whether it's manure in the farrowing house, or grease and oil caked on machinery. Its extra cost is offset by the time you save, and you can keep everything much cleaner."

**Ray Malone, Newberry, Ind.:** "This chopper is ruggedly built for high horsepower tractors. Has high output and is easy to maintain. Exceptionally good hydraulic knife grinder. Also, dealer preparation before delivery was superb," says Ray of his "best buy" Gehl 800 forage chopper with corn and hay heads.

Also on his "best buy" list is a Capco model 400 automatic self-catch headgate with a Model 400 LC chute and squeeze, and a 100-head portable corral. "I am well pleased with this combination cattle-handling facility because of greatly increased efficiency and lower labor in working cattle on five different farms. It's far more economical than

having a permanent corral on each farm. The automatic self-catch headgate is almost foolproof."

**Tom Tasset, Spearville, Kan.:** "The Valley water drive system should have been tested a lot more at the factory before it hit the market. Our system is going on its 6th year and we are very unhappy with the workmanship and construction. Last summer, we replaced two of the 20 steel wheels. As of now, 9 are cracked or broken. We cannot get Valmont Industries to come to an agreement to replace these wheels. We firmly believe that it is not our responsibility to have to repair or replace these steel wheels to cover their mistake of building the wheel out of too light metal."

**Bob Gustin, Anderson, Ind.:** "The Hinkler floating cutting bar with wobble box drive has proved to be my best purchase during the past 12 months. I cut 700 acres of beans with no trouble. The cutting bar can glide over the ground and float over rocks, reducing operator fatigue. The bar gets so close to the ground it saves 5 to 10 bu. per acre. And the wobble box drive reduces vibrations for smoother, almost maintenance-free operation."

On the negative side, Bob says he's disappointed with "two Easy Flow gravity-bed wagons. I can't keep the wheel lug bolts tight on the one wagon, and on the second, while going down a smooth road, the wagon's hub broke in half."

**Earl Martin, Lebanon, Pa.:** He's excited about "Agri-SC liquid product. It's sprayed on fields where there are wet spots and, in a short time, they are dried up. It softens the hardpan underneath so the water can go down. I've dried up spots in a short time that had stayed wet most of the summer."

Earl also likes his Gehl 99 silage blower. "It's the best blower I have ever seen work. It can take silage away as fast as you can unload it from the wagon."

"I have had some trouble with my Massey Ferguson 124 baler. The bales get tight in the chamber and then the twine breaks. The dealer's worked on it but it seems the only time it works is when the hay or straw is exceptionally dry."

**Earl F. Spencer, Palatine Bridge, New York:** "We installed our Patz 366 manure stacker and it worked perfect the very first time — no adjustments, no modifications. Have a lot of Patz equipment, but still am impressed with quality of materials, heft of stock, bearings and simple design that works."

**John Nauerth, Lakefield, Minn.:** "These boxes will handle 32% wet ear corn and any other hard to move material with absolutely no clogging or bridging," he says about Dezen and Rahn (Waupum, Wis.) power gravity boxes with a bottom conveyor. He first read about them in FARM SHOW. "Just open the door and stand back. I hauled 10,000 bu. of wet corn and 2000 bu. beans with no problems. Boxes are built heavy for heavy material."