

"Best" and "Worst" Buys

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is adaptable for haylage chopping and wet ear corn grinding," says Roger.

He adds that "one of our best buys of the year is 60 by 105 ft. Circle straight wall metal frame machine shed. Delivered on a semi-trailer, all material was of excellent quality and easy to assemble ourselves. One bay section is 30 ft. wide and is used for a drive-through shop. For doors in this shop area, we selected 24 and 26 ft. Wilson Aluminum bi-folds made at Walworth, Wis. They're simple, open to a 13 ft., 6 in. height, well insulated and reasonably priced.

An all-time "best buy" on the Rising Sun Farm was purchased more than 60 years ago: "We have a 1917 IH 10-20 Mogul tractor in running order that Dad started farming with," Roger told FARM SHOW.

Dick Schmidt, Plaza, Wa.: "We traded our older Deere 6602 combine for a new one and, by equipping it with a 77A series watchdog monitor, got a team that in many cases two combines couldn't match. It not only monitors most of the major combine functions for slowdown or belt slippage and warns the operator of hot bearings, belts or pulleys, but at the same time gives him a digital readout of grain loss. Here in the rolling hills of the Palouse Country, we raise peas, lentils, barley and wheat. Changing from one crop to another is sometimes a daily occurrence. This monitor helps us do that in a matter of minutes — and on-the-go right from the operator's seat. When we're through harvesting, we slip our Watchdog monitor out of the combine and into the tractor cab. A few seconds job and we're ready to start seeding with our 'little miracle box' tending the chores of the three grain drills."

Lapp Brothers, Cochranville, Pa.: Heading their "best buy" list is a new International Axial Flow combine ("it's a pleasure to operate") and an International 4 WD tractor ("has a quiet cab and plenty of power to handle heavy equipment, such as a 26 ft. Krause Rock-Flex disk, which has been another good buy for us").

On the negative side, the Lapp Brothers note that "the wetting agent Wex has been a problem. Clogs up the sprayer and doesn't do what the dealer says it will do."

Larry Strole, Broo, Ind.: He's happy with his 22 ft. Kewanee 1000 series disk harrow ("Very well made and does everything Kewanee and my dealer said it would") but unhappy with his 11,100 bu. Chief grain tank: "Very sloppy work done by the dealer. They installed bent panels and put the door in wrong. Because of this, the bin leaks like a sieve when it rains. We have another bin 3 years old exactly like this one, but put up by a different dealer that is performing very well".

Earl Aeker, Piedmont, Ala.: "It really holds the ground. Floats over rocks and ridges real good. Gets more

beans than a rigid cutter bar," says Earl of his "best buy" Deere 4400 combine with flexible cutter bar platform.

Donald H. Meierhofer, Minonk, Ill.: "I'm very well satisfied with the service and clean grain samples from my New Holland TR-70 combine. The Cat 3208 engine could use a lit-

"We use a Deere header on our TR-70 combine. Works great."

tle more power when unloading heavy corn on the go. We bought a Bish Header Adapter Kit, which allows us to use a John Deere 6-row corn and row crop header on the TR-70. Works great."

Herb Hall, Prophetstown, Ill.: He says his Deere 6-row soybean header "saved the day" a year ago this fall. "Like many others, we got caught by the early snows with part of our crop still standing. With our new 6-row Deere soybean header, we were able to combine beans in the snow. The snouts actually pulled beans out of the snow, giving us a good quality, marketable product, with little or no loss."

Herb is disappointed with his "JayKee goosneck trailer with grain box. At the factory, they put the wrong axles under the chassis, thus weakening the trailer. To date we have broken two axles. The dealer has admitted that the wrong axles were used and that all the axles should be replaced. However, neither he nor JayKee has ever made any kind of arrangement to replace these axles."

Michael Doherty, Dunningham, Ca.: "In my estimation, Stauffer knows they have a captive market," says Michael, who is disappointed with "Stauffer's Ordran rice water grass control chemical. Purchased more material this year. Application rate was increased from 30 to 40 lbs. per acre — and no drop in price of the material. Control was lousy."

Charles Archibald, Pine Tree Ranch Co., Gillette, Wyo.: "This machine has required less adjustment or repair than any machine I ever bought. The company should be commended on their quality control," says Charles of his "best buy" Hesston model 6200 windrower. His only complaint is that "the grease fittings are almost inaccessible".

Charles nominates his Dodge D200 pickup as a worst buy. "It was poorly constructed and warranty work was not done. It has been impossible to keep this engine turned. In the past,

our pickups have run over 100,000 miles. This one is shot at 45,000. After buying and driving Dodges for 50 years, this family is going to Ford."

Gerald Ohs, Harrison, Mont.: "We are happy with our Hesston 60A Stak-Wagon. It allows us to move down large windrows, made with our 14 ft. swather, at a ground speed of 6.8 mph. In ideal conditions, we have stacked up to 20 tons per hour. Another big plus is that it requires very little maintenance — with one exception. We had the wheels crack between the lugs bolts. This we fixed by reinforcing the wheels with 1/4 in. plates."

Gerald adds that "we are a little disappointed with the strength of the frame on our Bearcat mulcher — packer. To strengthen it, we have welded in many gussets and continue to weld weak spots. We do appreciate the job this machine does, however, especially on fresh-plowed hay ground."

James Hughes, Charles City, Iowa: He's well pleased with Bladex Plus Lasso, applied in 20 gal. of 28% liquid nitrogen fertilizer. "This was custom applied in a driving rainstorm that started while we were filling the Big A. It gave 99% weed control on all labeled weeds. The check strip we left had a high weed population. However, one field that we combined in the snow had lots of volunteer beans in it. I understand that Shell could have a bean label for beans if they wanted to spend several million dollars to get the label changed through EPA."

Bill Ogier, Alpena, Ark.: "It never has run right. No power — kinda lopes down the road and feels like you're riding a horse. Just after the warranty was up, the front wheel bearings went out. About 1000 miles later, the rear spring broke. No dealer response," says Bill of his "worst buy" Ford LTD car with a 400 engine.

Bill adds that his Vermeer round baler (Model 504) "is one of the simplest built and easiest to operate machines I've ever run".

Lyle Fischer, Blanchardville, Wis.: "I don't have a worst buy but my gripe is with machines not being field ready when offered for sale to farmers. On our baler, a hydraulic coupler came loose and we lost 5 gal. of oil from the kicker. We bought new saddle tanks and a crop sprayer. We had trouble calibrating the sprayer, then discovered that it was impossible to calibrate because of a filter which had been installed backwards at the factory."

Lyle is well pleased with his Deere 336 baler with kicker, noting that "it really eats hay, yet runs quiet. Has a wide pickup for wide windrows".

Glenn Kurts, Oregon, Mo.: Here's what Glenn likes about his "best buy" Noble Cultivator-Tiller. "I'd recommend this machine to anyone for cultivating row crops, especially when the plants are small. Lets you start cultivating early before weeds, volunteer corn, etc., has rooted very much. We hard surface our shovels and use 4 in. shovels next to the row, then 7 in. We purchased the machine for level cultivating of beans in 1977

but used it this year in place of a rotary hoe. It done wonders. We then follow up with our regular cultivator to throw dirt into the corn."

Alden Irish, Belt, Mont.: "It's excellent for brazing aluminum irrigation pipe. It's also the best cutting torch set-up I've seen in 12 years of teaching welding," says Alden of his "best buy" propane cutting torch and brazing tip. "It's manufactured by Quad States Equipment Co., with offices in Great Falls, Mont., and Cody, Wyo. Cost was \$339, plus \$50 for a 20 lb. propane bottle. By using propane instead of acetylene, you can save about 90% of your acetylene gas costs."

Leonard Juhnke, Sedgewick, Kan.: He's unhappy with his New Holland TR70 combine: "Motor, radiator and all cooler screens constantly plugged with chaff. Hydrostatic drive would not pull or propel the machine. Hydraulics would not function due to overheating. Header platform would not feed wheat. Main shaft bearings failed at 246 hours. Four drive belts broke in the first 246 hours. Other constant trouble. The dealer gave the best service he could."

George Huber, Herreid, S. Dak.: "I've baled more than 2,500 bales and haven't had any trouble," says George of his "best buy" New Holland 850 round baler.

He's unhappy, however, with his 655 Massey Ferguson 18 ft. swather. "We have breakdowns daily. The sealed bearings go out because of lack of grease. Sickle head dropped off. Very poor welding. Sway bar bracket cracked because the metal is half as thick as it should be. Platform is bowed quite badly — needs more support. It's made of too light metal. Tension springs for the platform bolts break off. Vibrates excessively at 3/4 speed and faster. On the plus side, I am happy with the hydrostatic drive."

Fred Schlinder, Baertron, Kan.: "After using a baler of another make, which was a lot older, it is such a pleasure to be able to bale at the same speed that I can swath the hay," says Fred of his Deere 346 baler.

Jimmie Smith, Elliott, Iowa: He nominates an International 400 8-row planter, equipped with a Cyclo II monitor, as his best buy: "I was really impressed with the planter because of its single hopper and speed. But I was really surprised with the Cyclo II monitor. It takes all of the worry out of planting. This was my first 8-row planter and my first air planter so I was somewhat apprehensive. But, after the first day, the worry was over. Also, my dealer bent over backwards helping me get started."

Jimmie adds that "one of my worst buys was a Tiller Rod. I planted in trashy conditions and had a lot of trouble with it dragging trash. Also, I didn't have much luck with the positive depth wheels and covering blades on the International planter. Trash built up in front of the insecticide banding attachment, causing the packer wheels to drag. I traded the wheels back to the dealer for covering disks and solved the problem."