

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

"We were given a real snow job by a fast talking salesman. Not only was it more expensive, but we had a 50 bu. to the acre drop in yield on 1,250 acres," says Harry Johnston, of Johnston Farms, Inc., Clearwater, Neb., who nominates "Na-Churs fertilizer" as one of his worst buys. "Not only was the product poor but the company seemed indifferent. We had some left over which we used this year. These seemed to be our poorest fields."

Harry also is unhappy with "a 4366 International 4WD tractor that has had an awful lot go wrong with it. International refused to give any help even though it had only 330 hrs. on it when the 1 year warranty was up. We also have a 275 Owatonna windrower that is in its third season — about 1600 acres so far. We have had some kind of breakdown every 2 or 3 days, usually costing \$50 or more at a time."

On the plus side, Harry lists two "best buys" — Sutan herbicide ("This is the first year we have used

plow ("Really a pleasure to use. Doesn't choke up even up under the worst conditions and is truly one-stop plowing") but disappointed with his International 4568 and 4366 tractors: "The 4568 started out fine for the first year, then it started coming apart. It lost power until we had to slow down almost 2 mph to pull the same load. International can't find any reason why — blames it on my operator. Changed the pump and it didn't make any difference. Original clutch lasted 1200 hrs. and then the throw-out bearing fell apart. Cost \$1,500 to replace and the second clutch lasted 200 hours. Cost \$1,400 to replace it again. Drawbar broke in two during the first year. Tractor is rated at 300 hp. and has 10 forward speeds of which only 1 is usable — 4th gear at 5½ mph.

"Now, let me tell you about my second worst buy — an IHC 4366 tractor. This machine hasn't lost any power — it never had enough to begin with. This tractor also had 3 clutches put in, as well as one drive shaft which snapped in two. Like the 4568, the drawbar also broke and had to be replaced. Other than these few minor repairs, about 4 weeks of downtime in 2 years and \$6,000 in repairs, these have been real bargains! I hope IHC doesn't mind if I never own another one."

Frank Thomas, Danville, Ind.: He's "sold" on his New Holland Haybine. "Has made us money. It's a joy to run and well made."

John Anstet, Kokomo, Ind.: "Be sure to use it early in the season and with lots of water," advises John who says Basagran applied post-emergence has done an excellent job of controlling broadleaf weeds in his soybean fields.

John adds that "the biggest hunk of junk I bought in recent years is a Flow EZ wagon model 300. The running gear was okay but the gravity bed was made by a separate welding company. A 16 year old boy could have done a better job of welding. I had to spend two days finishing the work. If a dog would wet on the thing it would all have rusted, the paint was so thin."

Eldon Getz, Wolcott, Ind.: "The auger was a complete failure. Barely moved corn. It cost \$500 and when I returned it I only got \$300 back. Was a big job to mount but never worked," says Eldon of his "hydraulic-driven 10 in. auger from R & R Mfg. Co."

Eldon is well pleased with his Deere 7000 planter and rotary hoe. "I got an excellent stand. It's a toolbar so I added extra rows and plant beans in 18-in. rows. Rotary hoe works good."

Bernard Spencer, Madras, Ore.: Here's how he sizes up his Bermuda King planter and digger: "They have done everything the dealer said they would do. All in all, I'm very satisfied. I have used these two machines for two seasons and have had very few problems with either machine."

LeRoy Longtin, Mantera, Ill.: He's happy with Basagran ("Did a real good job on my bean fields") and his Deere 653 row crop head for soybeans ("It did a good job picking up beans and with no need to watch. Made combining so much easier").

it. We applied it at the minimum recommended rate and had amazing results") and a White air planter ("We have used it 2 years and are well satisfied").

Here's how other randomly selected FARM SHOW readers throughout the entire United States size up their "best" and "worst" buys:

Doyle Emery, Macy, Ind.: "Nothing but trouble since we've had it," he says of his Sukup Stirway, a grain stirring device. "Sail switches won't work, gears and augers break, belts burn up, pullies won't stay on motors, and flexible couplings break."

Doyle, who farms in partnership with his son David, also faults the plow-down attachment on their Better-Bilt liquid manure spreader: "It's made out of soft steel and instead of shearing the pin, it bends or breaks."

On the plus side, Doyle is happy with his Harvestore 2080 for shelled corn ("You get the same quality of corn out for feed as goes in. The savings by not having to dry will pay for it in about 7 years") and his Deere model 230, 22-ft. disk ("It's heavy enough to cut what you run over and gets the job done fast").

James McElroy, Morganfield, Ky.: He's pleased with his International 10 bottom, 18-in. automatic reset