

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

"Your 'best and worst buy.' section is great," says Jerry Williams, Elwood, Ind., who nominates his subscription to FARM SHOW as one of the best buys he's made in the past 12 months. "Really enjoy seeing and reading about new products and ideas before most of them are available locally."

Also on Jerry's "best buy" list is his Deere 7000 planter: "It has paid for itself in two years. They cost a lot but are worth it."

Deere's popular Max-Emerge planter showed up as a "best buy" from about a dozen of 60 randomly selected readers who submitted best and worst buy nominations for this issue of FARM SHOW.

Brian Kloopping, Shannon, Fla.: Its simple design, easy filling, low maintenance and excellent planting accuracy have made it everything I expected it to be. I've had no operating problems and the dealer was helpful in getting the planter set," says Brian of his Deere 7000 Max-Emerge planter. He also lists a disk anhydrous ammonia applicator,

Deere Max-Emerge planters, we've found it's the most accurate depth planter to date." On the negative side, Glenn notes that "a Stanton 5-16 in. bottom moldboard plow was the worst buy by far we ever made. We only plowed 400 acres before the main tube bent. Also, the bottom standards were of inferior strength steel which bent very easily."

Other randomly selected FARM SHOW readers who listed Deere's Max-Emerge planter as a "best buy" included Lewis Byers, Ostrander, Ohio ("it does what the company says it will do"); J. D. Downey, Wabash, Ind. (the seed is placed the same depth in clay soil as in black soil, which has always been a problem for us"); and Oliver Pruitt, Monrovia, Ind. ("gave me the most uniform depth control of any planter that I have ever used. . . . Also did very well on no-till soybeans planted in wheat stubble").

Robin Ginder, Denver, Penn.: "It really works like they say it does," says Robin of his Kutrieb waste oil heater, a "best buy" he learned about in one of his first issues of FARM SHOW. Marketed through distributors by Lenan Enterprises, Box 94, Milton, Wis., it's rated at 85,000 btu's and burns waste crank case oil which Robin had been throwing away.

Other recent purchases on his "best buy" list include, "a 5440 self-propelled Deere 4WD harvester, a Jamesway silo unloader made by Butler Mfg., and square milker inflations made by Independent Buyers Ass'n".

Robin listed a "Honda Civic" as his worst buy, citing "bad gas mileage . . . transmission trouble . . . too far to go for service."

Raymond Schoen, Ft. Smith, Ark.: "Most down time I've had with a new combine but I'm still happy with it," says Raymond of his TR-70 New Holland combine. "Had trouble with bearings going out, the final drive had to be repaired the first day in the field, and the header clutch slipped too much." On the plus side, Raymond notes that the new "rotary" offers "the best threshing and cleaning ability of any combine on the market. No cracked seed. Every seed dealer should have one."

A Case 2670 tractor, and a 4430 Deere tractor also earned "best buy" nominations from Raymond.

Charles Leuck, Harlan, Iowa: He notes that his 1086 International tractor "runs and performs good, but the shift is in a terrible place. Shifts so hard that one of my hired men said he'd have to practice weight lifting before going to the field to shift that tractor out of park."

Charles registered disappointment with his "FM4 Deere cultivator. You can't see anything the way the frame is built. Could see better and do a better job with a rear mount. And, the cultivator is impossible to set to do a good job."

On the plus side, Charles notes that his Deere 7700 combine "works beautiful. It's comfortable and just no problems at all."

Geston Womack, Cedartown, Ga.: "I appreciate the opportunity to

which he first read about in FARM SHOW, as a "best buy". "The applicator, made by Harlan Mfg., Harlan, Iowa, is simple in design, practically maintenance free and saves one trip across the field," Brian points out. "I use an electric shut-off on it which is distributed by Fertilizer Dealer Supply, of Philo, Ill. This shut-off sure saves my arm, and avoids all the sticking troubles with mechanical-type control valves."

Forrest Ice, Cache, Ill.: "In my opinion, it's the best planter ever designed," says Forrest of his Deere 7100 planter. "Planted 1500 acres with absolutely no trouble. Lets you plant the way you want to in practically all conditions."

On the negative side, Forrest faults his "Hiniker floating cutting bar. Spent too much time trying to get it to work right. After four trips from the dealer and a lot of work ourselves, we finally got it working right. It still doesn't seem to do very well in muddy conditions."

Ronald Guilander, Kane, Ill.: He's happy with his 12 row, 30 in. Deere 7000 planter ("I like the accuracy of the planter — it does what you tell it to do") but unhappy with his Deere 100 Stack Wagon ("had trouble making the stacks stay together — about the best I could do was 70% good, uniform stacks").

Glenn Terrell, G & I Farms, Plainview, Tex.: "Since buying two 8-row