

## BUYING TIPS YOU CAN USE

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

"I first heard about this attachment a year ago. It's fantastic," says Paul Conkright, Jones, Mich., who equipped his Gleaner K combine with a \$9 chaff leveler attachment for the cleaning shoe. It consists of two 2½ by 30 in. strap irons fastened to the front of the cleaning shoe sides and permits full speed harvesting on side hills.

"It seems impossible that such a simple, low cost device could let the operator go from a crawling speed to full-speed, full-capacity harvesting on side hills without throwing over any grain," says Paul, one of approximately 50 randomly selected readers who nominated "best" and "worst" buys for this issue of FARM SHOW. (For more details on the new low-cost side hill attachment, see your Allis Chalmers dealer.)

"It did everything the company said it would," says Joseph Baert, of Baert Brothers, Geneva, Ill. His "best buy" nomination is a Tebben automatic reset chisel plow (11 shank model) which he read about in FARM SHOW. "You don't have to stop and replace shank bolts every time you hit a rock. Each shank is sprung independently. When it hits a stone or obstruction, it raises over, then goes right back into the soil. You don't even have to stop to reset the shanks."

"My advice to all farmers is to try and then buy, rather than buy and try," says Bill McGarter, Galata, Mont. He's disappointed with Farmers Group Purchasing, Topeka, Kan. "They advertised and had a picture of a \$25,000 quarter section pivot irrigation system — freight prepaid, set up and guaranteed for one year but no name on it. Wrote four letters to them and the last one was certified with a return receipt but never received a word from them."

"Not until I placed an ad in the Des Moines (Iowa) Sunday Register did they pay any attention to me," says Jerome Schiefen, Hudson, S. Dak., swine producer who nominated a Tasco farrowing house, purchased four years ago, as "my worst buy. The building was promised in May and finally arrived in late July. The company then forgot about me."

Schiefen says he wrote and called the company to complain about ventilation and other problems "but they were either out or wouldn't return my calls or answer my letters. I decided the only way to get anything done

was to run the ad."

In the advertisement, addressed to "Tasco Owners", Schiefen outlined his problems ("ventilation system doesn't work, doors don't fit, slats are coming apart and large cracks are appearing in the corners and roof line") and suggested that "maybe if all of us that are having problems get together the company will fix their buildings."

Soon after the advertisement appeared, says Schiefen, "the company sent out a representative to inspect the building. He offered to trade buildings but I would have to pay out more money."

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The dispute still hadn't been resolved to Schiefen's satisfaction in mid-April. He placed an advertisement in the April 16, 1978 issue of the Des Moines Sunday Register offering his "Tasco farrowing house with nursery" for sale. "Will solve over production problems. Have lost over 500 pigs with pneumonia the last four winters," the ad pointed out.

Here are other "best" and "worst" buys nominated by randomly-selected FARM SHOW readers:

**New pest management program:** "I was very pleased with the pest management program that was started in our county last spring by the Agricultural Extension Service," reports Donald Hostetler, West Liberty, Ohio. "A pest scout is trained for two weeks in April at Ohio State University. Starting the first of May, he makes a weekly check of each field of hay and corn that you have in the program. Cost is \$1 per acre for the season. A report is given to the farmer each week. If and when treatment is needed, the right material to use is recommended. This was very helpful last year when weevils attacked the first cutting of alfalfa, and leafhoppers the second. Also, a soil sample is taken in the fall and pesticide recommendations are made for the next year's crop."

**Hydraulic spray boom levelers:** "I sure would advise getting hydraulic boom levelers to do a nice, even job of spraying," says Oren Dale Miller, Kalona, Iowa, who nominated his new 12 row Demco sprayer with flood jet nozzles and hydraulic boom levelers as a "best buy". Also on his list was a Vicon 6-wheel rake: "This rake makes the fluffiest windrows we ever saw. If you have hay knocked into the ground from a hard rain, it will get its share where other rakes won't. It also handles chopped stubble and corn stalks. My only complaint is that the rake wheels are open and, on a windy day, the hay climbs up over the wheels. My plans are to close up the centers."