

BUYING TIPS YOU CAN USE

We asked randomly selected farmers to "tell it like it is" in nominating their "best" and "worst" buys in the past 12 months.

by Harold M. Johnson
Editor

Farmers Nominate Best, Worst Buys

Tractors were mentioned most frequently in this issue's FARM SHOW survey of "best" and "worst" buys.

Here's what randomly selected readers from throughout the U.S. like or don't like about their tractors and other recently-purchased inputs:

"This tractor is one of the few new pieces of equipment we have bought in the last few years that really exceeded our expectations," says Harry Tuma, Cut Bank, Mont., of his new Steiger Turbo Tiger. "Our down time has been almost nil." Also high on Harry's "best buy" list is a Harley rock picker, manufactured at Clarissa, Minn. He's disappointed, however, in Goodyear innertubes used in his Steiger tractor and a '76 Chevrolet pickup, pointing out that "the seams on the tubes are faulty. Even though they give an adjustment on the tubes, it doesn't begin to help pay for the chloride in the tires, or the service calls."

A new Case 2670 tractor earned a "best buy" vote from Dick Rasmussen, Ostrander, Minn. "The best thing I like about it is that it has so

only tractor I have ever had that has power to spare. Operator convenience on all controls is excellent. New glass cab is the quietest I have been in. Probably the most impressive thing about this tractor is that it is big enough to pull 20 ft. implements and uses less than 8 gal. of fuel per hour."

Don Reynolds, Farnhamville, Iowa: He's well pleased with his Massey Ferguson 1155 tractor, with M and W turbo, but doesn't like the way it rides: "The turbo is real nice and makes the tractor 180 hp. The spring mounting under the seat is very poor. I've ordered an air base to put under the seat. It was in the Charter Issue of FARM SHOW. I called the company and found a dealer near us."

Vernon Virgin, Lebanon, Ill.: "We examined specs on several 4-wheel drives and chose Allis Chalmers (model 7580) because of dealer availability and price. Most pleased with first 100 hrs. performance and the dealer's cooperation when problems did develop."

Vernon registered strong disappointment with his "Big Dooley" Chevrolet series 30 truck with crew cab and 454 motor: "Chevrolet truck division does not help solve engineering problems involved with poor performance and oil consumption of the 454 cu. in. engine. They give the impression I'm the only one having the problem. I know better."

Earl Youngblut, LaPorte City, Iowa: He's happy with his 8630 Deere tractor ("performance has been very good to this point; costs are high but dealer service and warranty very good") but faults Deere for a series of problems with a newly-purchased, 1977 model 7700 combine: "In less than one hour field time, it lost all the hydraulic oil. Very disappointing. Wiring is still poor. Seat still needs improving in regards to leg rest height and accessibility to service the area below."

Albert Meyer, Jr., Gaylord, Minn.: "It has given good performance and has a very good cab and is easy to service," says Albert of his "best buy" Deere 8630 tractor, purchased in 1975. "I bought it from a dealer that gives good service and from a company that stands behind their products."

He thinks his IH 700 plow (nine 18-in bottoms) "could have some improvements to it. The land wheel should be in a better place to give the plow better stability. If I were to buy a new plow, I'd get the 800 flex frame plow instead."

Larry Dykstra, Bigelow, Minn.: He's well pleased with his new International 1086 tractor. "I really like the quiet ride in the cab and good visibility. I get the best of service out of my dealer." He's also happy with his new IH V-chisel subsoiler with automatic reset. "Does a nice job and there are no shear pins with the automatic reset," he points out.

Bob Clements, Boonville, Ind.: "I have an International Harvester 2-wheel drive 1066 diesel tractor. Even though I bought this tractor three years ago, it has been a headache from the beginning. It uses two quarts of oil in an 8-hour run; it's

much power we never found all of it. You could keep putting the 2670 in higher gears and still pull the implement. It is very quiet, comfortable, has good vision and handles extremely well. Last but not least, it's a lot cheaper than J.D., which I used to have."

Ronald Whitlock, Carrollton, Ill., says his Deere 4230 diesel tractor, purchased new in '74, "has a good motor, transmission and final drives but it has the worst hydraulics I've ever seen. It's been in our dealer's shop about five months out of the last three years just for hydraulic trouble. And it's still not right," reports Ronald, who adds that his new Deere 7000 planter (8 30-in rows) is "the best corn planter I've ever seen. We got a beautiful stand of corn with it this year. The soybean metering units leave a lot to be desired, however. They are not very accurate. Too much guesswork and scratching and digging."

Here's how other randomly selected readers size up their recent tractor purchases:

Randy Hobbs, Princeton, Mo.: "My Massey Ferguson 2800 is the best tractor I've ever owned. This is the