

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

We're flattered that FARM SHOW showed up in our most recent reader survey of "best" and "worst" buys.

"It's one of the best investments I've made in purchasing farm magazines," reports Ron Spencer, Claremont, S.Dak. We sent Ron and other randomly selected readers throughout the U.S. a survey questionnaire, asking them to "tell it like it is" in nominating their "best" and "worst" buys in the last 12 months or so. This special report is based on the responses we had received as this issue went to press.

In addition to FARM SHOW, Ron — who admits to being "strictly a John Deere man" — nominated a 1070 Case tractor as one of his "best" buys. "The reason I bought the Case is that there weren't any John Deeres to purchase at the time. The Case is a very good tractor in regards to the cab and operating controls. The cab is very clean and quiet, and the air conditioning system is great. The tractor is easy to service and adjust," explains Ron, who also cited a few features he doesn't like: "The rear wheels are a headache to change to different widths and the hydraulic system is difficult to hook up."

As in previous surveys, the importance of buying from a dependable dealer came through loud and clear: "It's been longer than 12 months

this advice: "When purchasing a tractor, buy it from a dealer who gives it a good checkup before delivery."

Marion is well pleased with a Rock-N-Box from the Hiniker Co., Mankato, Minn.: "It mounts on the front of the tractor and is handy to haul things in. Because of the way it's hinged, I can put a rock in it that's heavier than I can lift. Just swing the box into transport position and go. Pull a rope and it dumps."

Norman Culverwell, Craig, Colo., says his new Stieger Cougar is "the ultimate in a farm tractor. It's comfortable, quiet and the caterpillar en-

"It's been longer than 12 months but the lemon taste lingers on."

gine has a sufficient amount of power for any job."

Norman notes that he's unhappy with his Allis Chalmers hillside combine which, he says, "gave problems from the minute it was put to work. The block man was called several times but never showed up. Most problems were related to the hydraulic system." Norman also faults his Melroe plow, noting that "it broke up and wore out all over. The manufacturer claimed the dealer didn't have it adjusted properly. The dealer did several repairs and lots of welding on pieces that should have been replaced by the factory."

"Pearce Equipment at Clay City has taken good care of the service," says Stanley Greathouse, Johnsonville, Ill., who nominates his Case 1370 tractor as his "best" buy: "I've used this tractor one year and have been happy with performance and horsepower. It has a good cab, heater and air conditioner."

Dealers were directly responsible for "best" and "worst" buys nominated by William Allegar, Benton, Pa. He's happy with the dealer he dealt with in buying his Ford 5000 tractor: "Had a few problems with it but the dealer was very cooperative. Fuel economy is very good and I'll be back for further business." William is unhappy with after-the-sale service he got from the dealer who sold him a new IH 400 Cyclo air planter: "It developed a hydraulic oil leak when lifting the planter. Dealer didn't want to know me after I paid cash for the machine."

That same make and model planter was one of the "best buys" Sackreiter Farm, St. Charles, Minn., has made: "We planted over 300 acres of corn in a few short days and everything worked like a clock after a few minor adjustments," says Leon Sackreiter of their new IH 400 Cyclo 8-row air planter. "The Dickey-john monitor was well worth the extra investment."

Leon notes that a Gehl 2500 skid loader, purchased 8 months ago, "works very well when everything

but the lemon taste lingers on," laments Marion Frank, Loudonville, Ohio. He went back to the selling dealer several times to have warranty work done on his IH 674 tractor. When it was in for repair of a leaking rear axle seal, he had the mechanic check the carburetor. "I didn't think the engine sounded right at idle. I thought the mechanic should hunt until he found the trouble but he didn't. It was still under warranty at the time. I ran it a while longer with that odd sound, and no oil pressure showing on the gauge at idle. Finally I became tired of the sound and took it to another dealer who I thought might have a better mechanic. It's back from that dealer and has oil pressure at idle, a new oil pump, new short block and new pistons. When they tore it down, they found a crack in the number 2 cylinder wall. This crack vented through the crankcase, then out the breather tube. Warranty didn't take care of this as I had the tractor too many months. The hour meter after the overhaul showed 585 hours," explains Marion, who offers