

Farmers Nominate Best & Worst Buys

the dealer and they promptly fixed it. I'd recommend Kubota tractors to anyone."

Calvin Graber, Graber Jerseys, Inc., Parker, S. Dak.: Calvin says his 2000 **Sudenga** cleated belt elevator, mounted on a soybean seed trailer, is his "worst buy". "In the spring of 2000 we spent a lot of money on a Demco gravity wagon equipped with the Sudenga belt conveyor to handle bulk soybean seed. The belt conveyor has been a huge disappointment. It's extremely heavy, and the mounting brackets for it are a joke. I had to spend many, many hours fixing and replacing links, brackets and safety chains so that I could restrain the elevator for safe transport.

"During the height of planting season, while I was traveling slowly down a local highway, the poorly designed Sudenga linkage and mounting pan crashed onto the road. The dealer I bought it from replaced the mounting pan (it looked like a high school shop project) and made up some better mounting brackets so I could finish planting.

"To make matters worse, the elevator grinds and cracks the seed. It's equipped with an extendable spout that could also use some improvement."

On the "best buy" side, he lists his 1996 **Case-IH Steiger 9370 4-WD tractor**. "We bought the tractor used in 1997 with 450 hours on it. It's equipped with a high horsepower Cummins N14 diesel engine and a 12-speed powershift transmission. This tractor has exceeded our expectations for power, comfort, and style.

"Our **Case-IH 4300 48 1/2-ft. field cultivator** is also a best buy. It's equipped with knock-off shovels and a four-rank Noble drag on back. The only problem was a flat tire or two."

Robert A. Lecaptain, Maribel, Wis.: Robert likes his **Drill Doctor** drill sharpener. "It does a good job of sharpening drill bits up to 3/4 inch in diameter. When I had some problems with the chuck turning hard, the company not only replaced the chuck but the entire machine, claiming that the plastic used on some models absorbs water and swells up, causing the problem."

Robert isn't as impressed with his 2001 **Chevrolet Impala**. "I took delivery one day toward the end of June. It was a hot day and the air conditioner wasn't working right. On my second trip to the garage they discovered that the air conditioner was low on freon. When I speed up on the highway, the air conditioner shifts down. I have to drive more than 40 miles before it shifts back up at about 60 mph. The dealer can't find anything wrong and says I'll just have to get used to it. This winter I had to drive 15 to 20 miles before I could get warm air into the car. My feet were always cold.

"Another problem is the electric adjustable bench seat - I still haven't figured out how to adjust the seat for comfort. It rides like an empty lumber wagon and is hard on my back."

La Rue F. Whitmoyer, Muncy, Penn.: He's the satisfied owner of a 1990 **Deere 2355 4-WD tractor** equipped with a Deere 245 front-end loader. "This tractor has a cab, air conditioning, and a heater so it's comfortable to use all year long. I use it with a 3-pt. bale wrapper to wrap round bales. I use a bale hugger on front of the tractor to move bales to the side of the field. During the winter I haul the bales to a feedlot which is often muddy and icy. I also use this tractor

with an 8-ft. blade or a 6-ft. bucket to remove snow around our farm. I've never been stuck with this tractor, and it starts in any kind of weather. I couldn't do without this tractor."

Stephen Hunter, Coshocton, Ohio: After reading about the **Pet Protector** underground dog house in the last issue of FARM SHOW, Stephen bought one (Pet Protector, LLC, 600 S. Main, Newkirk, Okla. 74647 ph 580 362-3412). "We bought the first one sold in Ohio. We've only had it in for a short while, but initially our dog has been a little scared of the steps. Looks like it'll take some time to get used to it."

Chris Schaefer, Flemington, N.J.: Chris likes his 1999 **Deere Gator**. "It's our fourth Gator so we obviously like them. We also bought a mini one for our 4-year-old. It runs quiet, looks good, and doesn't go too fast so it's safe for him."

Terry Richardson, Weston, Mo.: "I'm impressed with my **New Holland** disc mower. I also had good luck with a previous model."

Roger A. Ussery, Columbia, Ky.: Roger owns a brush mower equipped with a 46-in. lawn mowing head and powered by a 12 1/2 hp gas engine. "This mower does what the company says it will do. I used it to clear 10 acres of overgrown brush and then used the lawn mowing head to keep it mowed."

Fred Hansen, Santa Rosa, Calif.: "Our 1998 **Deere 5500 tractor** is our worst buy. We bought a Deere model because in the horsepower range we were interested in the company kept its tractors simple, without using a lot of electronics, etc. The tractor itself is designed well enough, but before I bought it I had major reservations about the cab as it didn't appear to be up to the company's previous standards.

"Sure enough, most of the problems we've had with the tractor have been directly or indirectly related to the cab. For example, to service the battery you have to remove six bolts and take off both an outside cover and the step. To access the air cleaner, you have to remove a side grill support first because the air conditioning condenser hoses block normal access. To adjust the clutch - which is a major undertaking on a tractor even if it

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doesn't have a cab - the left side dash cowling has to be removed first so that you can disconnect the clutch spring. But in order to do this, first you have to remove the lower window on the left side of the cab.

"The door hinges are weak and the door seals aren't very effective. The engine oil fill is poorly located, and I have to practically drip oil in a little at a time in order to keep it from overflowing out the fill spout.

"Considering what this tractor costs, it's disappointing to have to deal with a cab that's this poorly designed. I believe these cabs were built outside the company, but so what? I think my four-year-old child could do a better job. The cabs on the company's 20 series tractors have a different design and look much better. However, after the experience we had we'll be taking a closer



C.F. Marley invented this "automatic" chimney sweep that mounts at the top of the flue pipe on his house.

"Peace Of Mind" Chimney Sweep

"My best buy is something I invented, patented and installed on my own house 16 years ago. After all those years of flawless performance, we recently checked it out and it was still in good condition," says C.F. Marley, Nokomis, Ill., about the "automatic" chimney sweep that mounts at the top of the flue pipe on his house.

Marley "sweeps" his chimney every few weeks during the winter using a cable from the ground. A weight hangs below a stainless steel brush housed inside a housing about a foot above the chimney. The weight pulls the brush down through the chimney, sweeping away creosote buildup with just a few strokes. When he's done, he just pulls the brush back up to the top.

"After I came up with the idea, we put the sweep on the market for a while in the 1980's but cut it short because of all the hassles of marketing.

"One great thing about this system is that you can use it when a fire's burning. In fact, it seems to work better then."

Anyone is welcome to build their own. Here's how you do it:

- Cut a disk of stainless steel.
- Bend flat stainless steel rods to use for legs and to hold the gooseneck pipe on top.
- Gooseneck pipe, through which cable runs, is fastened to the top disc by stainless steel bolts.
- Guy wires are installed opposite the pull as a precaution against pulling the device over as you pull on the cable.
- Hang the brush and weight from the end of a piece of cable long enough to reach the ground. You can buy the brush at chimney sweep supply stores.

look at other tractor brands next time."

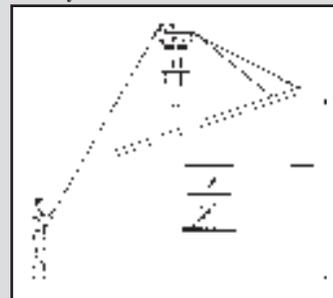
John E. Wohlwend, Foxboro, Wis.: "My 1999 **Wood-Mizer** hydraulic operated bandsaw has performed as well as the company said it would. I bought it to build a barn, a cabin, and a hunting lodge. None of the 2 by 4's ever needed to be planed because of how smooth it cuts.

"My 1995 **Dodge 3/4-ton pickup** was my worst buy. The frame bent doing farm work so I sold it and went back to using my 1969 GM 3/4-ton for hauling hay on our farm."

John Anderson, Marysville, Wash.: "One of my best buys ever was my 1997 **Ford F-350 pickup** equipped with a Power Stroke diesel engine. I put more than 87,000 miles



A weight hangs below a stainless steel brush inside a housing about a foot above chimney.



Stainless steel cable runs from the ground up through gooseneck pipe to brush and weight.

Contact: C.F. Marley, DWV, Box 93, Nokomis, Ill. 62075 (ph 217 563-2588).

on it without any problems. It was a great pickup with a great engine. Six months ago I traded for a 2001 **GM 3/4-ton pickup** equipped with the new Duramax engine. I'm well satisfied with it. It gets more than 18 1/2 mpg in town and more than 20 mpg on the highway.

"My 1995 **Sears Kenmore oven** is a worst buy. The problem is that the burners don't work right. We've had to replace them many times. In addition, the oven doesn't heat accurately."

David Swanson, Mount Morris, N.Y.: "Our 25 by 65-ft. **Harvestore** silo is our worst

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