

Best & Worst Buys

Jim Shilling, Spencerville, Ind.: "My 1986 International 1086 is a good tractor. However, I wish it shifted easier."

Ranoy Brown, Tipp City, Ohio: "I bought my 1970 David Brown 990 diesel tractor used in 1982 and am generally satisfied with it. It's easy on fuel and very durable and dependable. It's stable on steep sidehills and has powerful hydraulics. The 3-pt. hitch will lift anything attached to it. The tractor starts easy in cold weather. I wish the company would start making this tractor again so that I could buy a brand new one."

Bill McKeeman, Spruce Grove, Alberta: "My best buy is my 1990 GMC Tracker. It's dependable and economical and gets better than 25 mpg. The only parts I've replaced in more than 150,000 miles are the alternator, front brake pads and two valve cover gaskets. I use it as a utility vehicle and a go-anywhere quad during hunting season. It has been a great buy and I plan to use it for many years yet to come."

Lorn Manthey, Lakeville, Minn.: "I have a comment on a recent story in FARM SHOW's electronic newsletter which is sent out between issues by e-mail. You can sign up for free at your web site: www.farmshow.com). The story was about a study that showed a higher cost and lower yields for Roundup Ready beans. I've used Roundup Ready beans for three years and find that the per acre input costs are significantly lower than for conventional beans. I buy seed in volume which brings the cost down. Weed control costs are at least \$15 per acre less and sometimes \$30 less than with conventional chemicals. This savings more than makes up for the higher cost of seed. I also plant at lower populations, shooting for a final seed count of 140,000 to 160,000 per acre in drilled beans, depending on variety. This reduces the probability of white mold while allowing individual bean plants to stretch and produce more pods per plant."

"In two years of trials on my farm, the conventional beans produced 56 bu. per acre average, while the Roundup Ready varieties averaged 65 bu. per acre, with one 25-acre field averaging 67 bu. per acre last year."

"One point: I've never been a big fan of saving back beans for my own planting. The reason is that I've also worked in the seed business, and I know the importance of seed that has been carefully harvested and gently cleaned and conditioned. Quality in and quality out. Beans from reputable producers are between 95 and 98 percent perfect quality. Saved back beans can have shell scuff and hairline cracks from improper harvesting and handling. It's not uncommon to find nearly 20% less than ideal quality in saved back seed. These seeds produce bean plants that aren't as vigorous as a 'clean' bean. Subsequently, plant growth and yield aren't there even though they were cheaper to plant."

John D. Landreth, Durant, Okla.: "I believe the worst pair of work shoes I've ever had is a pair of Red Wing boots made in Red Wing, Minn. They cost me \$130 and only lasted 3 months before they cracked open at the toes. Then the front of the sole came off at 9 months. Red Wing refuses to do anything about them. They said 'They weren't properly taken care of'. Well, I've had lots of other boots and I didn't baby them and regularly get as much as 6 years out of them. I'll never buy Red Wings again."

"One of the best buys I ever made was a T-post puller made by a company called U.S. Lever in Newalla, Okla., that was originally featured in FARM SHOW (Vol. 17, No. 4). Unfortunately, I don't think they're in business anymore but they should be because this post puller is the best I've ever had or seen. It never bends the post and shows no wear despite a lot of use. I've pulled thousands of posts with it. Someone should pick up this design and run with it."

Jerry L. Wegner, Scea City, Iowa: "One of my best buys of all time is my 1990 Geo. It has 250,000 miles on it now and I haven't spent more than \$1,000 on repairs (front axle and an alternator). It has had 6 sets of tires and is on its third set of plugs. It still uses no oil. I change the oil every 6 to 8,000 miles. One important factor in how well it has run is that I use Archer oil in it. This is an aircraft grade oil that costs a little more but holds up a lot longer. I use it in other equipment, too."

Mike Hanley, Cashton, Wis.: "We have two Deere 567 wheel rakes equipped with rubber teeth. This is the best rake ever built – when it's properly adjusted, as described in the operator's manual. You have to put 10 lbs. pressure in the tires and 10 lbs. lift on the springs. I've seen some guys put 50 lbs. lift in the springs and then cuss the rake because they're breaking teeth or bending wheels."

"We also have a Deere 510 round baler that works great for us and is simple to operate. We use two Deere 200 stack movers to haul bales."

"My kids have new-style ATVs but I have an 'original' ATV which I like a lot better. It's a 4-legged type ATV with a saddle and I can place the kids can't go in the woods and on hills."

Ohl Bros., Lockport, N.Y.: "Our 1990 Case-IH 7120 tractor, which we bought used, is a best buy. It has more power than its rated at and the 18-speed powershift transmission works great. It has a comfortable cab and axles that are heavier than the ones on Deere tractors."

"Our Deere 1600A Haybine runs quiet and the head floats in just about every direction."

"Our Agri-Trend dump wagon will dump just about any material."

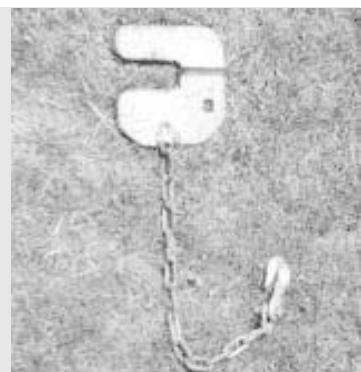
Virgil W. Russell, Bloomingdale, Ohio: Virgil owns a 1998 Hesston 3710 hay tedder. "I haven't broken a tooth on it or had any other mechanical problems. It came equipped with large shields which came off long ago. They were held by a very small bracket that could in no way support this much weight."

A Wagner professional duty power painter rates as his "worst buy". "It doesn't spray in any kind of pattern and makes a terrible noise."

Richard Willette, Medford, Minn.: "My best buy is my 1972 Deere 4320 tractor which I bought used in 1976. It still starts right up just like a Buick. In all the years I've had it I've never had to take the engine apart. I always keep the tractor in the shed whenever I'm not using it, and I always change the oil twice a year. Every oil change requires about 5 gallons of new oil. It uses a large, high priced, spin-on oil filter that's three times as big as the filter used in the company's 4020 tractor. I use the tractor to pull a field cultivator, grain drill, and 5-bottom moldboard plow."



To pull post you hook chain up to 3-pt. hitch and slip slotted steel plate onto post.



Slotted steel plate is attached to a 2-ft. length of chain with a hook on the end.

Simple Way To Pull Steel Posts

"Here's how I pull steel fenceposts. It consists of a 6 by 6-in. piece of 3/4-in. thick steel plate attached to approximately 2 ft. of chain with a hook on the end," says Joe Eliker, New Madison, Ohio.

"The plate has a 2-in. wide slot in it that

fits any T-post. You hook the chain up to a 3-pt. hitch or loader bucket. If you hook up close to the ground you can pull any post."

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This 32-ft. wide, 96-ft. long hoop building was recently put up over a farmer's existing bunker silo.

"Low-Cost" Shelters Sold Factory-Direct

"We used to sell another manufacturer's buildings but they got too expensive. My partner, Larry Long and I, decided to start manufacturing our own buildings and pass the savings directly on to farmers by eliminating the middleman. We also came up with some design changes that we think make our shelters better in quality than anything else on the market," says Jim Krier, Economy Confinement, Ollie, Iowa.

The design changes include:

• Rafters made from 2 3/8-in. dia., 12-ga., 2-piece galvalume structural steel instead of the industry standard 14-ga., 4-piece design.

"Each rafter is a 2-piece arch that connects at the top. It's more rigid than a 4-piece rafter, and because they're made from 12-ga. steel – which is 30 percent thicker than 14 ga. – we've all but eliminated problems with wind," says Krier.

• Three rows of 1 5/8-in. 14-ga. Galvalume purlins extend the length of the building to connect the rafters.

• Use of 10-oz. ultraviolet-inhibited and tear-resistant poly roof with d-rings sewn on 18-in. centers.

• Rafter base plates that are constructed of angle iron, rather than the industry standard flat plate. The base plates bolt to the top and side of posts. "This design helps to keep bolts from pulling out of the tops of posts," says Krier.

Optional end door, quarter panels, and interior braces are available.

Krier and Long both farm and use their own buildings to raise hogs. "We put up our first six hoop buildings four years ago and have had enough experience with them to know the concept works. We can customize the buildings to suit your needs. We recently put up a 32-ft. wide, 96-ft. long hoop building over a farmer's existing bunker silo. The 24-ft. high roof keeps rain and snow off the operator as well as the silage. The bunker has 8-ft. high pre-cast walls and the roof is high enough to get a lot of silage under it. In the spring when the bunker is empty the owner uses it as a shelter for heifers that are having problems calving."

The building's steel framework carries a 3-year pro-rated warranty for defects in workmanship and materials. The poly roof cover carries a separate 10-year pro-rated warranty.

The buildings are available in 30, 32, and 35-ft. widths with 5 or 6-ft. rafter spacings. A 30-ft. model on a 4-ft. high pony wall is about 15 ft. high at the peak; a 35-ft. model is about 18 ft. at the peak.

A 30 by 72-ft. building sells for about \$3,312 plus S&H. Leasing terms are available.

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