

BUYING TIPS YOU CAN USE

Randomly selected farmers “tell it like it is” in nominating their “best” and “worst” buys.

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Farmers Nominate Best, Worst Buys

OPINION

Tell Us About Your “Best or Worst” Buy

Send your nominations to:
**FARM SHOW, P.O. Box 1029,
Lakeville, Minn. 55044, or use
the survey form on our website at
www.FARMSHOW.com,
or E-mail your comments to:
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Elmer Pinkerton, Elmwood, Neb.: “I’m unhappy with my 1993 **Deere** 425 riding mower. It’s priced like a Cadillac but runs like an old Ford. The water-cooled engine is supposed to have 20 hp. The company brags about how many acres per hour this mower will cut, but for every acre I’ve cut, I’ve had to spend another hour blowing trash out of the radiator. Does anyone have a solution?”

Warren Bell, Burlington, Kan.: “I’m disappointed with my 1995 **Polaris** Magnum 425 4-WD ATV. I had trouble with high oil pressure. After making two trips to the dealer and spending a couple of hundred dollars, the problem wasn’t solved so I found a dealer 175 miles away who knew about this problem. He installed a factory recall kit on the carburetor that solved the problem.

“I’ve also had problems with the belt drive transmission, the reserve fuel tank, the lights, and coolant leaks. Also, the engine dies whenever I shift into reverse. I take good care of all my machinery but this one has problems. I think my next ATV will be a Honda.”

A.L. Banta, Oden, Ark.: “Our **New Holland** 660 round baler has been dependable and is easier to work on than the **New Holland** 850 it replaced. Despite its faults, the

say enough good things about it. I’ve used it for about 240 hours and have had to replace only one belt.”

Douglas G. Cramb, Beloit, Kan.: Douglas likes his **Drill Doctor** drill bit sharpener. “It’s user friendly and works just like the company said it would.

“I like my **Sears Craftsman** garden tractor equipped with a 42-in. mower. The deck is nice and level, the automatic transmission works great, all the controls are within reach, and it steers easy. The **Briggs & Stratton** 19 1/2 hp Twin-Turbo gas engine is smooth and vibrates very little compared to a single cylinder engine. All these features are a definite plus to someone who has arthritis. It’s built a lot like a ‘real’ tractor.

“All my **Ford** vehicles have been best buys, including ten cars, six pickups, four grain trucks, two full-size conversion vans, an Explorer, a Windstar van, and three tractors. I’ve used other brands, but in the end I’ve been much more satisfied with the performance of Ford products. The only real problem is that when I want to buy a used Ford, it’s hard to find one for sale.”

Gordon Byler, Alma, Neb.: “Our 1999 **Case-IH** 25-ft. tandem disk is by far the best of any we’ve used in the last 50 years. It’s built heavy and does a great job of leaving the field level.

“Our 1991 **Case-IH** 7120 Magnum tractor is a pleasure to operate, has a lot of power, and is easy on fuel. The cab is quiet and easy to keep clean.”

Paul E. Conkright, Jones, Mich.: “In April of 1999 I purchased a set of retreaded 20.8 by 38 tractor tires from **Olson Tire Service** (704 E. Pickford St., Mount Pleasant, Michigan 48858 ph 517 773-7978). They’re my best buy. These tires look and perform just like new tires. The company is very selective about the casings they accept for retreading so there’s very little chance that a tire will fail. The company says they’re equipped to retread many different sizes of tires.”

Bob Grenzow, Sumas, Wash.: “I’m disappointed with **Makita** tools and the lack of company support. The cordless drill that I bought didn’t have as much power as I would’ve liked and the gearbox failed. My **Makita** angle grinder also failed due to a light duty gearbox. It would’ve cost more to repair it than to buy a new **Milwaukee** grinder.”

George Merkley, St. Anthony, Ind.: “My best buy is my 1972 **Massey Ferguson** tractor equipped with a diesel engine. It has more power than I’ve ever needed and I’ve had no problems with it. It drives better than my car.”

Joe Shipman, Monett, Mo.: Joe’s impressed with his 1994 **Deere** 455 garden tractor equipped with a 54-in. mower deck and a diesel engine. “This is our second **Deere** garden tractor. We also had a 212 model. **Deere** garden tractors hold their resale value well. The 455 model has a lot of power and cuts smooth.

“My 2000 **Buick** LeSabre car is a best buy. I’ve owned four LeSabres in the last 10 years. All have been dependable. The 2000 model is easy on fuel.”

On the negative side, he lists his **Well Mate** water pressure tank. “It’s a 1998 model that our pump man installed to replace our metal tank, which lasted for 23 years. This tank is made of plastic or some other kind of synthetic material. After it was installed our water pressure dropped by 30 to 50 percent. The installer and a plumber made repeated visits, with no results. It cost me about \$1,000. I called the company but they wouldn’t help. Looks like we’re stuck.”

850 was durable and we didn’t have to replace many bearings.

“I wish all rotary mower manufacturers used the same type of spring-loaded fasteners that **Hesston** uses to attach its blades to the discs. These fasteners make it easy to remove, sharpen, and replace the blades. They never fail us. On the new **Kuhn** rotary mower, you have to remove a nut to detach the blade, and even then the blade can only be reused a limited number of times.”

Wilbert Goering, Moundridge, Kan.: “My best buy is my **Sears Craftsman** Speed-Lok set for drill bits, screwdrivers, and nut drivers. It lets me change heads in only a few seconds and is a real time-saver.

“I like my 1994 **Chevrolet** S-10 pickup, except for one problem. The automatic transmission doesn’t always shift up like it should without racing the engine. I’ve taken it to two different shops and changed the transmission oil and even flushed the transmission, but this problem still occasionally happens. It doesn’t make any difference what the outside temperature is. If anyone has a solution I’d like to hear from them (P.O. Box 175, Moundridge, Kan. 67107 ph 316 345-8674).”

Melvin Hanson, Emerson, Neb.: A **Schweiss** 5-ft. zero turn riding mower, equipped with a bagger and powered by a 23 hp **Kohler** engine, rates as Melvin’s “best buy”. “It mows even and leaves our yard so smooth I can’t tell one pass from another. It has joystick steering and will turn in its tracks. We also use it in the fall to clean up leaves, and it misses very few of them. I can’t