

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
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David Cornea, Morse, Sask.: David’s very disappointed with his 1997 **General Motors C-60** (Topkick) semi truck equipped with a **Caterpillar** 3116 diesel engine. He received the truck in April, 1999, over a year after ordering it. “After I got it, everything worked okay until winter arrived. Then the engine ran terrible, with enough blueish-white smoke to make my eyes water. The truck’s acceleration was very poor. As the engine warmed up the problem disappeared which made it hard to diagnose. The GM dealer told me to go to the nearest Caterpillar dealer.

“The Caterpillar dealer replaced a thermostat, replaced fuel filters, and pressures were tested. I thought my problem was solved, but the worst was yet to come. A belly tarp was suggested by the factory and cardboard was put in front of the radiator. The mechanics rotated the air filter housing assembly to draw warmer air closer from the radiator. Numerous seemingly inconclusive tests were made to the engine. Another new thermostat was put in. The fuel injector was replaced and adjustments were made to the timing. Exhaust temperature tests were made. Cat wanted me to purchase, for \$2,200, an exhaust brake to load the engine so I could maintain warmth to the engine in the city, for example.

Kodiak 400cc 4-wheeler ATV. It won’t start in cool or cold weather, even with a new battery. The front end is on its third set of bearings, even though I rarely drive it in mud. All I use it for is to check fences. It was supposed to have sealed brakes, but I’ve lost count of how many brake shoes I’ve had to replace. The front and rear differential came from the factory full of steel shavings. I’ll never buy another Yamaha product.”

Terry Spezia, Davison, Mich.: “I’m well pleased with my 1996 **Gleaner R52** combine. Its design allows me to shell corn on side hills without the grain shifting to one side, and without having to pay for the added cost of a regular side hill combine.”

Russell E. Beach, Montoursville, Pa.: “I like my 1999 **Deere 709** pull-type rotary mower. It does everything well and works great on headlands and pastures. It has a great power train and clutch and is well designed.”

Victor G. Barrick, Carlisle, Pa.: “My 1998 **New Holland 8360** front wheel assist tractor handles nice for a mid size tractor and is easy to service.

“I also like my **Meyer** rear-unload forage wagons. They unload fast and are built rugged.”

Jesse R. Houseknecht, Muncy, Pa.: “My best buy is **SAFE.T.FLUE** chimney cleaner. I’ve tried other products but this one works the best. It’s made by Worcester Brush, Worcester, Ma. 01609.”

John E. Gehman, Port Trevorton, Pa.: “My 1990 **Pontiac** Bonneville car is the best car I’ve ever owned. It has 190,000 miles on it but still runs like new and has no rust. It has a lot of power and doesn’t use any oil. No major problems.”

Roger W. Hadley, Woodburn, Ind.: “I’ve used my ‘best buy’ **Deere 345** mower for two years. I’m well satisfied with it.

“I’ve had my 2000 **Chevrolet 1500** pickup only for a couple of months, but so far I like it a lot.”

Sidney Smetzer, Bellevue, Ohio: “I use my **Kongskilde** grain blower to move grain from my grain dryer to my storage bins. It works well and all the pipes are on the ground so I can work on them if I have to, instead of being 50 ft. or so up in the air.”

Steve Weisbrod, Canastota, N.Y.: “It’s built extremely heavy and works great in hard soil and in rocky conditions,” reports Steve, impressed with his 1997 **Rawson** zone till cart which he mounts ahead of his Deere 6-row planter (Unverferth Mfg., Box 35, Kalida, Ohio 45853 ph 419 532-3121; Website: www.unverferth.com). “It has three wavy coulters per row which provides excellent tillage and germination. It allows true one-pass planting.

“My **Clean Burn** waste oil furnace burns clean and runs trouble-free. It’s better than free heat because you don’t have to pay for oil disposal.”

Charles Crossman, Ortonville, Mich.: Charles likes his 1998 **Dodge Ram 2500 4-WD** pickup which has an 8,800-lb. gross vehicle weight and is equipped with a 360 cu. in. gas engine. “The engine performs great. It always starts even on the coldest mornings, and it pulls wagons loaded with 200 bales of hay like they weren’t even there.

“My worst buy is my **Weight-All** gauge for front-end loaders. I paid almost \$300 for it. It’s supposed to tell me the weight of whatever’s in the bucket. However, the gauge readings are all over the place.”

Richard Mason, Rising Sun, Md.: “I’ve had good luck with my **Case 1370** tractor of which I’m the third owner. Only a few things on it have had to be fixed including the air

“In my case, CAT made what I term ‘band aid’ solutions. I can accept that a company makes a lemon every so often. The difference is in how they handle the problems. My best experience with this truck was when I sold it last November.

“I was lucky, because this vehicle was not used as my primary source of income. I can’t help but think what would have happened if it had been a Caterpillar tractor or combine. Heaven help anyone with a \$350,000 combine and a lemon engine.”

David Swartz, Edinburg, Va.: “Our best buy is a 1975 **Ford 3600** tractor equipped with a diesel engine. I bought it used in 1991 with about 700 hours on it. We use it for custom garden plowing, tilling, Bush Hogging, and chores on our small farm. No major problems. It now has more than 2,300 hours on it.”

Wes Suddarth, Lebanon, Tenn.: Wes is impressed with his 1999 **Deere 702 8-wheel** rake. “It rakes clean and cuts my raking time in half. In good hay it’ll stay ahead of two round balers. It makes even, fluffy windrows with minimal leaf loss and doesn’t twist and ‘beat’ the hay as much as a rollbar rake does.”

De Bo Jacks, Mountville, S.C.: “My best buys over the years have been my **Massey Ferguson** tractors. I’ve owned 1105, 1085, 285, 175, 275, and 265 models. All of them have been reliable and fuel efficient. None has ever failed to start in cold weather even though I don’t use starting aids.

“My worst buy is my 1994 **Yamaha**