

BUYING TIPS YOU CAN USE

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

By: Mark Newhall
Editor

Bill Gergen
Senior Editor

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:
Editor@FARMSHOW.com**

Steven Reeves, Delta Junction, Alaska: “I’ve had a string of bad luck with pickup trucks. But my most recent worst buy, actually ended up being a best buy,” says Reeves.

He divides his time between Arkansas and Alaska. Considering that he drives between the two states sometimes several times a year, the reliability of his truck is very important.

Reeves had an older model Dodge that was notorious for electrical malfunctions. While searching for a reliable used truck, he was asked by the salesperson what it would take to get him to purchase a new truck.

“I said, ‘Well, I’ve got an airplane that I’ve been wanting to sell. How about you take that on trade?’” Reeves says.

So he ended up with a new 2007 \$35,000 **Dodge Ram 3500** 4-door dually automatic diesel. Still nervous, however, he made the dealer promise that if he did have any problems with the truck, the dealer would do whatever he had to do to fix it or make it right.

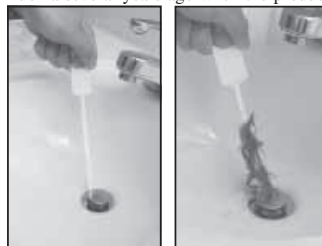
Reeves decided to wait until he had over 500 miles on the truck before he speeded it up over 55 mph. When he did that, it became obvious that the truck had serious driveline problems.

After giving the dealership three chances to fix the problem and they couldn’t resolve it, Reeves deemed the truck unusable and asked that it be replaced by the dealership.

“He did what he said he’d do,” Reeves recounts. “He let me pick out a new one – I gave up some options and they paid me the difference. That was in December, and so far, I really like this 2007 Dodge Ram 2500. I like it better than the other one!”

“That dealer did what he said he’d do, even though a deal like that is not part of the dealership policy and they really don’t have to do that sort of thing,” he says. “That will keep me coming back.”

Mark Newhall, Lakeville, Minn.: “I got a **Zip-It** drain cleaner from inventor Gene Luoma several years ago when the product



was first featured in FARM SHOW. Since then, I’ve bought several more for friends and family. It’s a handy little tool that I use for regular cleanout of drains.

“The Zip-It is simply an 18-in. long piece of tough plastic with jagged teeth cut into the sides and a finger hole at the upper end. You just push it down into a sink or floor drain and pull back. The teeth drag out hair and other stuff that typically clogs up. It’s small enough to slip down past the stopper mechanism and tough enough to drag back out without breaking or tearing off. In just seconds,

you can clear out a plugged drain.

“Once you’re done, just rinse it off and hang it on a hook somewhere. Zip-It is available in all the big home and hardware stores like Wal-Mart and Home Depot, or you can go to the website at www.zipitclean.com.”

Wesley McWethy, Fallon, Nev.: “The **Hitch-Rite** quick change universal trailer ball hitches are truly industrial-strength units. Not



junk, like some other multi-ball hitches on the market. It has a 7,500-lb. clevis capacity and is fitted with 1 7/8, 2, and 2 5/16-in. balls. The 2 5/16-in. ball has a 10,000-lb. capacity. There’s also an easy 8-in. vertical adjustment. (Hammerlock Industries Inc., ph 800 755-8345; www.hammerlock.com.)”

John G. Ruff, Logan, Kan.: “I’m still using a 1958 **McCormick Deering** self-propelled combine that my Dad bought. In the fall of 2006, this combine finished its 50th harvest – and, coincidentally, so did I. There have been only three times this combine didn’t finish a harvest because of serious breakdowns.

“I wish I could brag that this combine has only needed a small number of repairs during those 50 years but it hasn’t worked that way. There aren’t many original parts left on this machine now. Almost everything has been repaired, rebuilt or replaced at least once, some parts several times.

“This combine doesn’t have many of the features modern combines have but it has several features that they don’t. For instance, it’s an easy combine to adjust and it usually does very good work. I can do most of the repair work myself.

“Getting repair parts for it has never been a problem. IHC’s backing of its product has been fantastic. The dealer doesn’t always have the parts I need in stock but he can get them.

“I’m hoping both this combine, and myself, finish our 60th harvest together in 2016.”

Steve & Bob Schmidtmeyer, St. Henry, Ohio: These dairymen, with manure from 190 cows to spread, like their **Hydra-Spread** manure spreader with vertical beaters. The upright beaters spread in a wider, thinner pattern. They say the spread pattern is at least 30 ft. wide, which means they can make



fewer passes through the field, with less compaction. The vertical beaters also break up the manure better so there are fewer large clumps. The spreader has a hydraulic push plate, rather than apron chains, and a hydraulic close gate on back to hold in wet manure.

Joe Bacon, Spring Valley, Wis.: “My 1999 **Subaru** Outback wagon is a wonderful best buy. It has 225,000 miles and has performed flawlessly, requiring only scheduled maintenance and tires.

“Secondly, my **Kubota** AWD L5030 tractor has been great. With 50 hp, it can really get a lot of work done and it starts and runs smoothly on even the coldest Wisconsin mornings. There’s a good reason why Kubota