

## 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:  
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**Ron Tade, Scobey, Montana:** “I’m well satisfied with my 1992 **Case-IH 9280** tractor. This is the third one I’ve owned. These tractors run and run without any breakdowns. I put about 8,000 hours on a previous one without ever putting a wrench to it.”

**Clarence Persall, Wilsonville, Ontario:** “I like my **Massey Ferguson 8780** combine. It works as well or better than other combine makes in all crops and conditions. And, it has only about half as many moving parts.”

**Jack Rigby, Blenheim, Ontario:** Jack’s impressed with his 2000 **New Holland 8770** tractor. “It has a lot of power and is easy to handle. It has a super steering system that lets me make sharp turns. My only complaint is with the temperature control system on the air conditioner and heater. The blower always stays on, even though there are times when I don’t want it on.”

**Duane Stewart, Harrisville, Mich.:** A 2001 **Chevrolet Silverado Duramax 3/4-ton** ton pickup equipped with a diesel engine rates as Duane’s “best buy.” “It’s a durable pickup and is reasonably fuel efficient. It gets 20.4 mpg on the highway and 18 1/2 mpg when towing a horse trailer. It’s comfortable and a pleasure to drive. I raved about it long enough

three 2001 **Case MX110** tractors and they’re all best buys. I use them for commercial ditch mowing. Last year we cut more than 14,000 acre of ditches and only had two days of down time with one tractor. I really like the 5.9-liter Cummins engine. It’s very economical.”

**Dave Nicholas, Martinsville, Ohio:** “My 1977 **Dodge 3/4-ton, 4-WD** pickup is a powerful pickup with a 525 hp, 440 cu. in. Chrysler engine. It will pull a tremendous load. I use it to pull a couple of loader trac-



tors and a backhoe on a trailer - a load weighing 16,000 to 18,000 lbs. - with no problem. This pickup was specially built for Chrysler’s racing division and was used as a chase truck for an off-road racing team in Baja California. It came from the factory with Hedmond headers on the engine. I bought it used with 300 miles and paid \$7,500, which at the time was half as much as I had just paid for my house.

“This pickup has full-time 4-WD and is equipped with 4:30 low-ratio axles instead of the normal 4:10. As a result, it gets only 8 mpg no matter how hard or how easy I drive it. It has a big 45-gal. fuel tank that barely clears the pickup’s spare tire. It also has a specially designed 4-tube radiator core that’s 2 in. taller and 4 in. wider than a regular truck core. When the radiator rusted out I had to have it recored at a cost of \$400.”

**Earl Carpenter, Fort Towson, Okla.:** Earl isn’t happy with **Genco** aircraft tires. The company sells recycled aircraft tires and ready-to-bolt-on wheel assemblies for use on agricultural equipment such as tractors, mowers, cutters and shredders, grain carts and wagons, etc. The tires are said to be virtually flat-free.

He bought four tires for a total of \$388. Two of the tires were 14-in., 4-bolt-hole models that went on his Bush Hog mower and worked out fine - he still uses them. However, the other two were supposed to go on front of his Allis Chalmers WD45 tractor. They never made it onto the tractor.

“The front tires on this tractor have a 5-hole bolt pattern. The problem was that I couldn’t get the company to make the wheels right. I removed one of the wheels and put a cardboard up against the back side and drew in all of the holes. I sent the drawing to the company so they could custom make the wheels. However, the wheels they sent didn’t fit. I told the company about the problem and they told me to send them back. They sent out a truck to pick the tires up. That was the last time I ever saw them. I contacted the company repeatedly but always got the run-around. Finally I got disgusted and gave up. I never got any money back.”

**Gene Harrington, Chester, Va.:** Gene’s 2003 **Stihl MS 290** chain saw rates as his “worst buy.” “It replaced a 20-year-old Stihl 029 model that was dependable and solid and always started. However, when it finally wore out I bought the new model a year ago, and it has spent three months of that time in the dealer’s shop. It’s extremely difficult to start, and some days I can’t get it started at all. It’s an unreliable machine. I wasted \$300 on it.”

**Donald Bednar, Pierz, Minn.:** Donald says his 1946 **Cockshutt 30** tractor equipped with a loader is his “best buy.” “It has live power and live hydraulics. I bought it new and paid \$700 on top of a trade-in. It’s a good, economical tractor. I used it to pull a 3-bottom plow. It has a creeper gear and a high-

that my friend ordered a 1-ton Chevy 3500 for his farm.”

On the negative side, he lists his 2003 **North Star** corn stove which he bought from Northern Tool. “This stove never worked efficiently from the start, and I’ve gone through two auger motors in just a little over a year. I paid about \$1,000 for it. What it needs is a stirrer on the firepot. It’s hard to start and even harder to keep it going. Even using dried corn and pellets in combination didn’t work very well.”

**Duane Esarey, Yoder, Colo.:** Duane nominates his 1995 **Dodge Dakota** pickup equipped with a 318 cu. in., V-8 engine and 4-speed automatic transmission as his “best buy.” “With only a few parts and very little maintenance other than regular normal service, it has provided us with a comfortable ride, pulling a trailer with a classic car or tractor many, many miles - including one trip from Tennessee to Colorado. We haul firewood and hay, and bounce around our pasture checking cattle and fixing fences. It has about 145,000 miles on it but we think it’s barely broken in.”

**Wesley Smith, Quanah, Texas:** “It’s one of the most comfortable vehicles we’ve ever owned,” says Wesley about his 1997 **Ford Expedition** equipped with a 4.6-liter, V-8 engine. “We bought it used with about 70,000 miles on it and have had no problems with it. It now has more than 140,000 miles. It gets 20 to 21 mpg. We’ve been using Ford pickups for 30 years and have had great service from all of them.”

**Gregory Williams, Winona, Texas:** “Our **Deere LX 255** riding mower is one of the best mowers that we’ve ever owned. We mow six yards with it every week, and the only parts that we’ve had to replace are belts and pulleys.”

**Dale Wasden, Spiritwood, Sask.:** “I have