

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

Jeff Lang, Newport News, Va.: “I recently bought a **Toro** 22-in. personal pace recycle mower, which I now regard as my all-time best buy. A friend of mine recommended this mower to me and I can’t thank him enough. I’ve used it for about 12 hours and am completely satisfied with it. The personal pace is a fantastic option for a self-propelled mower. If the grass is tall I just go a little slower - the mower does the work. I think the personal pace feature would be especially valuable for anyone with a physical handicap and also for the elderly. It really takes the work out of cutting your lawn and makes working with a self-propelled mower seem almost like exercise.

“The mower does a good job of picking up all leaves, grass, grass clippings and even small twigs, and bagging them. The “atomic” blade minces grass into fine particles. The grass particles and leaves get chopped very fine. For anyone who bags their grass or leaves, this is an important option because you get a lot more in the bag.”

Paul Storey, Seaforth, Ontario: “I’ve used my **Keho** Windreel for more than 12 years to bring beans into combines. It’s an outstanding product (Keho Products Ltd., Barons, Alberta, Canada (ph 800 661-9419

rolling. It would stop turning, and then I would have to eject it and start over. Neither the dealer nor the service rep could solve the problem. I finally sold it and bought a used **Deere** 335 baler. It works good.”

Curt Kallal, Des Moines, Iowa: Curt’s unhappy with his 2002 **Chevrolet** Silverado 1500 4-WD pickup. “The paint was too light in the corners of the bed and on the tailgate. I got the run-around from my dealer and also from the company’s customer assistance center so I paid for a spray-on bedliner. I had to repair some spots on the bottom of the tailgate myself.

“Six months after I bought the pickup the transfer case started making noises. I had to return the pickup to the dealer twice for this problem. The first time the dealer couldn’t find anything wrong. The second time he kept the pickup for 10 days but still couldn’t find the problem so he said it was just a normal noise. Now they won’t do anything about it. I took the time to test drive two other pickups that were similar to mine, but I couldn’t get either of them to make the same noise. I asked both the dealer and the company’s customer assistance people if they could tell me what was causing this noise, since it’s so “normal”, but neither of them offered a response. They both pretty much told me tough luck.”

Curtis B. Reeves, Gainesboro, Tenn.: Curtis nominates his 1999 **Deere** 4600 4-WD tractor, equipped with a front-end loader, as his “best buy”. “This tractor is unbelievably easy to operate. The transmission has low, medium and high range, with four gears in each range. To shift from forward to reverse in the low and medium gears, all I have to do is move a lever on the steering column, right where the turn signal would be on a car. I don’t even have to use the brake or clutch. It really works great when I’m mowing, or doing anything that requires a lot of forward and backward shifting.

“I use this tractor really hard, probably a lot harder than it was designed for. One time I was rebuilding a berm alongside a creek and working in the water. I accidentally ran into a hole in the creek, which caused the front end of the tractor to go under water, and the engine died as I was trying to back out of the hole. The nose of the tractor was out of sight and water was right up to the seat, but I was still able to restart the engine right away, which really surprised me. After I got the tractor back on dry ground and checked it out, I couldn’t find any water in the hydraulics, oil, or fuel. I was able to keep on using the tractor as if nothing had happened.

“The front-end loader is so handy and easy to use that I’d be lost without it. This tractor can outwork a lot of bigger tractors. It’s well worth the money I put into it. I added a holder on the right fender where I can put a small cooler for sodas and water. It’s nice to be able to get something cold to drink while mowing or doing other work with the tractor. There’s plenty of room to put toolboxes. I added electrical outlets on the front and rear of the tractor so I can plug in a 12-volt air compressor or a chain saw sharpener for use when I’m cutting logs.”

On the negative side, “I bought a new **Sears** circular saw for \$39 and started using it to cut 2 by 4’s. The clutch burned out after only about one hour. I took the saw back to the dealer but he said I had to leave a \$32 deposit in order to have the saw repaired, even though I used it for only one hour. He said that since the saw was an electrical item, it wasn’t covered by the warranty and that if the repairs cost more than the deposit, I would have to pay the difference. I threw the saw away.”

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

or 403 757-2444). The Windreel uses individual fingers’ to blow crop into the header.”

Nathan Rand, Marshalltown, Iowa: “My **Sears Craftsman** socket organizer is my worst buy. It came with 12 more sockets than pins, so I ordered 12 pins over the phone. When I found out how much the pins cost, I tried to cancel my order. However, the company said that it was impossible to cancel the order due to the way its computers were set up. I could have purchased another complete socket organizer and still had plenty of money left over for what they charged just for a few measley plastic pins. The company told me I could return the product to a local Sears for store credit. Now I have to use the credit to buy something that I don’t really need, or else keep these grossly over-priced pins.”

Ray Alexander, Fredericton Junction, New Brunswick: “My 1986 **Houle** underground manure pump has been a reliable, trouble-free product.”

On the “worst buy” side, he lists his **Tubeline** bale wrapper. “Without a doubt it was the worst piece of equipment I’ve ever owned. It hardly ever worked right and was totally undependable. I finally got rid of it and bought an **Anderson** wrapper, which is a real pleasure to own and operate. It works like a dream.”

David C. Moore, West Grove, Penn.: David nominates his 1996 **Hesston** 530 round baler as his “worst buy”. “The main drive chain broke and had to be replaced. Sometimes the baler couldn’t keep the bale