

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

Albert Prich, Owendale, Mich.: "My 1988 Chevrolet 1500 4-WD pickup has been nothing but trouble. I had to replace the front shocks, starter, intake manifold, valve guides, valve seals, and 4-WD switch. The cab rattles badly and it takes at least a minute to engage or disengage the 4-WD. The brakes are bad and remind me of the mechanical brakes on my father's 1938 Ford car. When I use it to pull my travel trailer in hot weather, as soon as the temperature gauge reaches 225° the fan suddenly starts up. Within 15 seconds it drives the temperature down to 210°, then shuts off. Two or three miles down the road it starts up again. This cycle is repeated over and over. The defrosters fail to keep ice off the windshield and the heater controls are very poor. I have to take my eyes off the road to use them. Needless to say I'll buy a different brand next time."

Albert's "best buy" is his Deere 4450 tractor equipped with radial tires. "It handles nice and has lots of power."

"My Deere 2510 tractor is another best buy. It just goes and goes with very little upkeep."

Will Hathaway, Turin, Iowa: "It has lots of power and is a pleasure to drive," reports Will, pleased with his 1988 Dodge

Larry Hudson, Calhoun, Ky.: "I use my best buy 1980 Craftsman 1 hp air compressor almost every day for airing up equipment tires and blowing out air filters. I also use it with an air cylinder to bale burley tobacco. The only problem is that the automatic switch doesn't always work."

Arvin Reu, Luverne, Minn.: Arvin is "very pleased" with his 1979 Chevrolet J80 series Bruin diesel truck. "The 3208 Caterpillar engine has 240,000 miles and still runs good. I'd recommend Caterpillar engines to anyone."

"My worst buy was Commence soybean herbicide. It didn't perform as promised by the salesman and company. It was a waste of time and money."

Jim Barnes, Glen Allan, Miss.: "My 1989 Deere 4955 tractor equipped with mechanical front wheel drive has a lot of useable power and traction. Surprisingly, it uses much less fuel per hour than our 4840's while outpulling them. It pays for itself in improved economy and performance."

Ozzie Brendsal, Westby, Mont.: Ozzie is happy with his 1988 Brandt 847 grain auger. "It's equipped with 9-in. flighting at the intake end which is about 14 in. long. This gives it the same capacity as a 10-in. auger. It's well balanced and easy to move."

The Onan 2-cylinder motor on his 1989 Deere 70 skid steer loader is a "worst buy". "The valve seats come loose. To solve the problem the engine must be taken out and a special tool used to replace them. It makes a simple task very expensive."

Jack Strickler, Switz City, Ind.: "My 1989 Deere 1360 mower-conditioner makes hay mowing a pleasure."

Terry Meyer, Alta, Iowa: "My 1988 White 51008-row, 38-in. Seed Boss planter quipped with skip row bean attachments is my best buy. No problems at all. All adjustments are easy to set and service, and it offers good seed spacing and depth. It's also easy to move from field to field. Simply pull two pins and fold the wings."

Lloyd Pope, Clear Lake, Iowa: Lloyd likes the spacing and seed depth control offered by his 1989 Case-IH 900 12-row, 30-in. corn planter.

He says his 1989 Dixon lawn mower "cuts our mowing time in half."

Randy Warren, Brechin, Ontario: A 1987 New Holland 489 9-ft. haybine is Randy's "best buy". "The header flotation is excellent and the intermeshing rubber rolls do a fine job of conditioning hay. The second year we owned the machine a roll driveshaft broke even though the machine was out of warranty, but the company replaced it. As the ad says, 'If it isn't a New Holland, it just isn't a haybine.'"

Leo Christensen, Bowbells, N. Dak.: Leo says his 1989 Deere 8760 4-WD tractor is equipped with a quiet cab and is a "best buy".

He's disappointed with his Walinga grain vacuum. "I only use it to clean the bottoms of bins so it had very few hours, but the blower went bad after about 14 months. It cost over \$1,400 to fix and the warranty didn't cover anything."

Curtis Carlson, Washburn, N. Dak.: "My 1980 Behlen grain bin leaks every time it rains. The dealer tried to fix it once but has only ignored my complaints since."

On the positive side, "The Michelin tires on my Buick Park Avenue have 110,000 miles and will last at least another 10,000 miles."

Bill Salsman, Lamoni, Iowa: "My 1990 Honda TRX300 4-wheeler is a durable machine and has a smooth ride. My only

Dakota 4-WD pickup equipped with a 3.9-liter V-6 engine.

Bruce Johnson, Manson, Iowa: Bruce's "best buy" is his 1989 Dickey-john CCS100 sprayer control. "I use it while banding herbicides during planting and for post emergence banding. I also use it to sidedress anhydrous. The system works by a pressure sensor instead of a flowmeter which makes it very accurate and dependable."

Ivan Groothuis, Willmar, Minn.: A 1989 Brent grain cart rates as Ivan's "best buy". "Last fall I used it to unload the combine on-the-go. I was able to combine about one fourth more acres in the same amount of time because the combine didn't have to stop to unload."

Pat Fenton, Richland Center, Wis.: "It's a very dependable tractor and comfortable to operate," says Pat, owner of a 1977 Case 1070 tractor with 5,000 hours on it. "It still doesn't use any oil and I've spent only \$3,000 on repairs and tires in 13 years."

Pat's 1988 Case-IH 90 mower conditioner is also a "best buy". "No repairs at all after two seasons of use. It'll cut at 8 to 9 mph."

Kenneth Freeman, Bloomington, Ind.: Kenneth nominates his 1988 Kubota 4150 tractor as a "best buy". "After I bought it the dealer came out and wanted to know if there was anything I didn't like about the tractor. No American manufacturer has ever done that. I suggested some changes for the backhoe. They came out with the changes the next fall."