

# Best & Worst Buys

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**Phillip Knapp, Marion, Ohio:** Phillip's Case-IH 5100 soybean special drill heads his "best buy" list. "It does a good job of seed depth placement in varying conditions."

His Remlinger RTC-600 "does a good job of preparing seedbeds and incorporating soybean herbicides."

"My International 1066 tractor and 1420 combine are very dependable. The tractor has 4,000 hours and the combine has 2,100 hours."

**James Wish, Bellefontaine, Ohio:** James is the satisfied owner of a 1990 Case-IH Magnum 7130 tractor. "It offers great shifting, visibility, comfort, ride, performance, and fuel economy. Case-IH has finally made a tractor that competes with Deere."

James has had problems with Acra-Plant shoes on his Case-IH 900 planter. "The shoes are supposed to outlast Case-IH shoes, but they don't even come close. Each set lasts only 300 to 400 acres which is far less than the company's claim."

**Tommy Armstrong, Bloomfield, Ky.:** "My 1989 Case-IH 5100 wheat drill meters seed out just right."

**Charles Wylie, Proctorville, Ohio:** "The best buy I've ever made is my 1986 Ford 5610 tractor equipped with front wheel assist. It has a comfortable, full size cab, and features that others offer as optional are standard equipment."

**Paul Singleton, Bruceville, Ind.:** Paul is the proud owner of a 1988 Gehl 160 disc mower. "It's built with common sense - no bells and whistles. It'll mow as fast as I want to go in any kind of grass or alfalfa."

**Lowell McMullen, New Ross, Ind.:** "My 1988 Dixon ZTR model 427 mower is a best buy. It's fast moving and I really like its maneuverability."

**David Wiegand, Drakesville, Iowa:** David likes his 1982 International 786 tractor equipped with a 4-post rollover guard. "It's a very handy all-around tractor that's simple to operate, a pleasure to drive and trouble-free. Mom even likes to drive it."

**Gary Ehlers, Wheaton, Minn.:** "My

**Jerome Meier, Elm Creek, Neb.:** Grip gloves made by Wells-LaMont rate as Jerome's "worst buy". "The quality of material and construction is faulty. Paul Harvey says 'Wells-LaMont is s-t-u-b-b-o-r-n on quality'. Well, the stores where I bought two pairs of the gloves are just as s-t-u-b-b-o-r-n on offering refunds. The stitching is coming out of one pair (made in Mexico) and the leather is rotting in the other pair (made in Taiwan)."

**Reuben Swarey, Guthrie, Ky.:** Reuben, who custom combines with his brother, says their Deere 9400 and 8820 combines are "best buys". "The cabs are roomy and as comfortable as sitting in your living room. We can change heads to switch from wheat to corn or soybeans in 10 minutes. Almost all adjustments can be made from the cab. No trouble after 1,700 acres."

On the negative side, "My White 435 chisel plow works good, but leaves dirt piled up in the middle and low on the outside. It leaves the ground so rough that if you work ground in the fall, it washes bad over winter."

**Lowell Flitter, Lewisville, Minn.:** Lowell uses his Hypro model C60 diaphragm pump to band and broadcast Lasso and Treflan. "Once the diaphragm is calibrated for speed there's no need for a pressure gauge, relief valve, or monitor. All you need is a way to clutch the drive on and off, and it'll measure the chemical out to the gallon per acre."

**Billy D. Johnson, Franklin, Ky.:** Billy says his Ford 1510 equipped with front wheel drive assist and a Dunham front-end loader makes a "good working outfit" and is a best buy.

**Walt Rybka, Morehead, Ky.:** "My Skilsaw professional model 5656 circular saw should last forever. Black & Decker professional Piranha blades are also worth every penny."

Walt says his "worst buy" is his Mighty Mite portable band sawmill Generation II (Mighty Mite Industries, Portland, Ore.). "The hydraulic drive has never worked right, the blades break, and the blade grinder is hard to use and adjust. The company just ignores my letters."

His Ford 3910 II tractor is another "worst buy". "The power steering sector shaft seals went bad. Ford has issued two service bulletins on the problem and redesigned the seals twice. The leak doesn't usually appear until the warranty expires, and then Ford says tough luck. I'll never buy Ford again."

**Philip Long, Bethany, Mo.:** Philip says his 1984 Deutz-Fahr DX 160 tractor equipped with a powered front axle is both a "best" and "worst" buy. "I use it to pull a 25-ft. disk and 26-ft. field cultivator. It's a pleasure to operate, rides well, has a good cab, and excellent air conditioning and heater. It uses just 6 to 6 1/2 gallons per hour and the gear selection is unequalled by any other tractor brand except White. However, an 'O' ring in the engine oil pump blew out at 450 hours and kept me from using the tractor for 4 weeks. At 1,690 hours it started jumping out of gear. I also had to replace a ring and pinion, transmission shaft and numerous other parts totaling \$5,600. The company paid about \$1,200 of that. The ring gear case was replaced by a bigger,

heavier, and hopefully better part. I also had to replace two sets of gear shifter rails at \$750. The tractor now has 2,200 hours and it's starting to shift rough again."

"On the positive side I own a 1975 White 2-105 tractor with over 6,000 hours. The only repairs were a set of rings, a set of sleeves and pistons, two fuel injection pump repairs, and an Eagle air conditioner kit to replace the factory one. The 3-speed power shift, transmission, and rear end have never been touched."

**Rex Ballard, Waynetown, Ind.:** Rex is disappointed with his 1989 Ford 3/4 Super-cab pickup. "It's reliable, but uses oil and needs a 40-acre field to turn around."

"My best buy 1989 New Holland TR86 combine produces clean grain and is a pleasure to operate."

**Allan Ling, Hunter River, Prince Edward Island:** Allan says his Massey

**"It's reliable, but uses oil and needs a 40-acre field to turn around."**

**Ferguson 828 round baler** "makes a uniform bale, never plugs, and is easy to operate."

His 1979 Ford 3/4-ton 4-WD pickup has more than 200,000 miles. "I've used it on short drives and to pull heavy loads."

**Rick Harris, Denfield, Ontario:** Rick nominates an Oswalt 180 mixer wagon as his "best buy". "We shred round bales in a round bale grinder and use the wagon to mix the shredded hay with haylage, corn silage, and rolled high moisture corn. It makes a beautiful total mixed ration and only requires 50 hp to operate."

**Theodore McKelvey, Hastings, Mich.:** Theodore is the pleased owner of a 1990 Deere 4650 tractor. "The mechanical front wheel drive makes a tremendous difference in tilled soil and also lets me go through tough spots with the implement at full depth."

**DuWayne Lenzen, Cologne, Minn.:** DuWayne likes his 1988 Chevrolet Cheyenne 1500 pickup equipped with a 4.3 V-6 engine and manual 5-speed transmission. "It rides like a car, handles well, has good visibility, and gets 20 plus mpg."

**Robert Ketterer, Kempton, Penn.:** "My 1989 Westfalia-Visotron Bio-Milker designed for stanchion barns is a best buy. It milks fast yet still provides the individual attention required by each cow."

**John Kemmerer, Stanfordsville, N.Y.:** "My worst buy of all time was a 1987 Kelly model 30 backhoe. Unless it was on concrete it was almost impossible to attach to the tractor. With the 24-in. bucket mounted it couldn't lift a full scoop of dirt or mud. Both hose fittings broke on the stabilizer cylinders and the pto hydraulic pump assembly was a joke. I had to make an extra bracket to keep the pump from doing a 360° turn. I sold it within a year at a \$1,300 loss."

**Stan Stark, Kensington, Minn.:** Stan's "worst buy" is a 1987 Mirafount model 3360 energy-free livestock waterer. "When temperatures get below 0° for any extended period of time, the valve inside freezes. The ball floats freeze up in the closure holes overnight and cattle can't push them down. I've replaced the ball floats twice. Repeated calls to the factory have resulted in little help. During my last call in January, I was promised a visit by a company representative. I haven't seen him yet. My advice to

anyone contemplating installing a unit like this is to be sure to install electric wire along with the waterline so if you find out it doesn't work, you can replace it with an electric heated waterer. I didn't and now I'm stuck with a piece of junk."

**Claude Ritchot, Vermette, Manitoba:** "My worst buy is a General Motors 5.7L diesel engine which I installed in my 1980 Chevrolet truck last year. Since then, the truck has been at my local GM dealer for at least 4 months for several different reasons. The first engine had scratches in the cylinder walls and had oversized pistons fitted into the cylinders. The second engine had no oil pressure and started poorly. After one month of regular driving (2,000 miles), the third and current engine blew a head gasket and the head had to be planed. These three engines were all rebuilt by the same engine rebuilder for GM and obviously there isn't much quality control in the rebuilding. I'd like to praise my dealer for putting up with me and the engines they've had to install."

"Ironically, my dad's best buy is a 1981 Pontiac Parisienne automobile equipped with a 5.7L diesel engine. It has over 129,000 miles and other than an injection pump overhaul and new vacuum pump, the engine still performs like a Swiss watch."

**Warren Hahn, Mill Creek, Ind.:** "It starts easy and runs like a dream," reports Warren, pleased with his 1989 Honda 125 ATC all terrain vehicle. "Works great for checking electric fence."

**Duane Starkweather, Amboy, Minn.:** "My best buy is the 1989 Honda 8 1/2 hp engine I installed on my Snapper lawn mower. It usually starts on the first pull, runs quiet, and has plenty of power. I didn't have to add any oil all last summer."

**Richard Legeyt, Sheffield, Ma.:** Richard's "best buy" is his Poly Dome calf hutch. "Calves stay clean and dry. They look and act healthy and start eating grain sooner."

**Ernest Hoover, Manheim, Penn.:** "My Deere 7200 corn planter does a good job of no-tilling. The vacuum seed metering units put finger pickups to shame when it comes to spacing corn and bean seed. I don't need any wrenches to make adjustments."

**Jerry Wiford, Bellefontaine, Ohio:** "My 1989 Deere 9600 combine has great operator comfort and controls, a very quiet cab, and more capacity than the 8820 Titan II."

**John Vlaminck, Grass Valley, Calif.:** John nominates Cummins engines as his "best buy". "We have three Cummins 6BT 5.9L engines and they all have all the power you'd ever want in a pickup and start easy without glow plugs. One is in a 1-ton Chevrolet 4-WD service truck that weighs 9,500 lbs. and pulls a 6,500-lb. roller every day. We never have to add oil between oil changes."

**Phil Vollrath, Milford Center, Ohio:** "My DMC model 40 grain cleaner does a better job faster than the Farm Fans cleaner it replaced."

**Martin Greenleaf, Oxford, Penn.:** Martin's pleased with his 1989 Case-IH 1640 combine equipped with a Cummins engine. "It's quiet and easy to operate and all drives and maintenance items are easy to service. The engine is very fuel efficient."

On the negative side, "Our Doanes Agchek IV computer accounting program and service contract is a worst buy. The program wasn't tested and contained problems which still haven't been corrected 10 months later. When I call in for customer support they're busy and call you back anywhere from a half hour to 2 days later. Who has the time to sit by the phone and wait?"

**"It's a very handy all-around tractor that's simple to operate, a pleasure to drive and trouble-free. Mom even likes to drive it."**

1988 Caterpillar Challenger 65 is the best buy I ever made. It cuts soil compaction in half with hardly any slippage and rides like a car. It's very well built."

**Richard Haynes, Murfreesboro, Tenn.:** Richard nominates his Ford 8700 tractor as a "best buy". "It's fuel efficient and the weight is evenly distributed so I don't have to load down the rear wheels with add-on weights. I used Westendorf quick attach brackets to mount a Deere 146 front-end loader on it. I simply pull up 2 levers, drop the brackets down, and back out. It takes longer to get on and off the tractor than it does to change from bucket to bale spear."