

## BUYING TIPS YOU CAN USE

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

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**Stanley Hueske, DeWitt, Neb.:** "My "worst buy" 1984 Deere 4250 tractor uses more than twice as much fuel than the Allis Chalmers 7000 it replaced. It pulls like a 100 hp. tractor in the field even though the dealer's dyno shows 140 hp. It takes more time to pull a load with it. (My 11-year-old 2-135 White tractor pulls loads 35 to 40% faster.) Visibility is poor and the steering ratio is the slowest in the industry. I re-did the entire forward lighting system. The grill lights are a joke and the 3-pt. is slow, although we can't seem to stop it from making 3-in. jumps during hookups. It's also hard to see the 3-pt. from the cab. A gear went out of the transmission during cultivation and I was down for 10 days. The only thing I really like is the powershift transmission."

On the "best buy" side, Stanley's happy with his 1987 Case/IH 1660 combine. "It's got high capacity with clean grain. I like the 20 mph road gear and it's quiet to operate."

**Diane Morrill, Sherwood, Mich.:** "My 1986 Ford 3/4-ton 4-speed pickup has 15,000 trouble-free miles on it hauling loads of up to 3 tons across fields. Mud or snow can't stop it. It's got power that never quits."

**Ralph L. Odden, Lake City, Minn.:** "I've done lots of custom-sawing with my model 65 Husqvarna chain saw with a 20-

years ago and have had almost no trouble with it during 3,200 hrs. of hard use on the farm. Very reliable."

**A 1981 Oldsmobile Omega** ranks as "worst buy". "We were always putting in new transmissions or repairing the old ones. It only had 52,000 miles when we traded it for a 1986 Buick LeSabre which has been a good buy. Nothing has gone wrong after 15,000 miles."

**Donald L. Haines, Martinsville, Ohio:** "Our 1987 White 5100 4-row planter is the most accurate planter I've ever used in terms of seed placement and plant population. It's simple and maintenance-free. We had the best crop of corn and soybeans we've ever had last year."

**Doug Albin, Paris, Ontario:** He nominates his Fair Grade calibration scale for calibrating grain drills, which he read about in FARM SHOW (Vol. 11, NO. 3), as "best buy". "It's simple, easy to use, durable and compact. Lets you calibrate a drill, fertilizer applicator or other equipment in the first 100 to 300 ft. of travel without any need to return to the shop to weigh samples. The best part is that it sells for just \$31.80." (J & L Marketing, 5665 Eudora St., Commerce City, Colo. 80022)

**Kenneth Alton, Lucknow, Ontario:** "Our 1987 Lucknow 200 bu. feed mixer, built by Helm Welding, Lucknow, Ontario, is a best buy. It mixes thoroughly, requires low horsepower to operate, and is well-built. Scales aid in accurate ration mixing. We've had only minor problems after 4 years of mixing 4 batches per day."

**Ralph Wankel, Beardstown, Ill.:** "Our 1/2-ton 1988 Chevrolet pickup rides and handles well and we've had no service problems in nearly 10,000 miles. Good gas mileage and excellent appearance."

**Kenneth H. Peterson, Ironwood, Mich.:** "My best buy is a Sears 12-in. tilt head band saw. The assembly was simple and it's a smooth-running saw. I've been able to make very accurate miter cuts since the head tilts instead of the table. I also use it to 'resaw' small pieces of lumber."

**David & Lori Baldwin, Fostoria, Ohio:** "We're pleased with our 1987 two-horse Lazy N gooseneck horse trailer with living quarters (Lazy N, Warrensburg, Ill. 62573 ph 217 672-3281). It's easy to pull and workmanship on the trailer and living quarters is excellent. Lazy N trailers do not leak like others because the manufacturer takes extra time to seal each seam with caulking. Another reason we're pleased is that we were able to custom order it with features we needed."

**Gene Beard, Udall, Kan.:** "We've had no problems at all with our 1983 Case 2590 tractor. It has an abundance of power and is comfortable to operate."

**Chuck Diel, Noble, Ill.:** His Gehl 125 grinder-mixer heads his "best buy" list. "It has required no repairs and little maintenance."

**John F. Phelan, Perry, Iowa:** "I bought my 1981 Case 2290 tractor used about a year ago with 1,700 hrs. on it. It's my best buy because it uses no oil between changes and has plenty of power. I like the quiet cab."

"Another best buy is my New Holland 479 hay conditioner that I bought years ago. It's been a faithful workhorse for many years with almost no down time. I'm also still using a 30-year-old New Holland 68 baler. New Holland builds equipment to last."

**Edward Pierce, Marengo, Ill.:** "My 1983 Case 2290 and 1976 Case 1070 tractors are best buys. Both have been very

# Farmers Nominate Best, Worst Buys

## OPINION

in. bar. It's about 6 years old but it's always easy to start and has plenty of power. Outperforms all other saws I've tried or used."

**Lloyd M. Deeks, Lynden, Ontario:** He's happy with his 1988 Chevrolet 1/2-ton diesel pickup. "This is my second pickup with a 6.2 liter engine and my fifth Chevrolet diesel. I've never had problems with any of them. I drove the last one over 100,000 miles and never spent more than \$35 for repairs other than oil and filter changes."

**Albert Kurtti, Bruce Crossing, Mich.:** "My best buy of all time is a 1946 Coop E-3 gas tractor. It's been trouble-free other than a complete overhaul 20 years ago and a clutch pressure plate 3 years ago. It's done more work than most tractors, including skidding lots of pulp lumber. Last year it baled over 5,000 bales with no trouble at all. I'll never get rid of it."

**William L. Fry, Middleburg, Penn.:** "It's economical to operate and rides better than many cars with an extremely comfortable seat," says Fry, pleased with his "best buy" 1986 Ford F-250 diesel Lariat pickup.

**Marvin Fowler, Mechanicsville, Md.:** Marvin says his nearly 20-year-old International Farmall heads his "best buy" list. "It has 4,756 hrs. on the meter and I have had few problems. The problems I had came about because of poor communication by the company concerning the work capacity of the tractor."

**Mike Pedersen, Alta, Iowa:** "We bought our Owatonna 330 skid steer loader 14