

## 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

**Marvin Vlietstra, Kalamazoo, Mich.:** "Buying this 1982 Delaval Rationmaster computer feeding system was the worst business decision I've made in 40 years of dairying. It creates three new problems for every one it solves. If it raised production at all it's been the most expensive raise I've ever seen. It almost requires a full-time man just to keep it running and has never gone a full week without a breakdown. I don't fault the dealer. He does his best. But every time it breaks I have to decide whether to fix it or haul it out to the back forty and try to put it behind me."

"Our 1979 Gehl 1000 forage chopper has chopped all the feed for our 140 milk cows and 100 young stock for the past 9 years with a bare minimum of repairs. It cuts extremely fine and handles well. Our 1983 Gehl 99 forage blower blows the gummiest haylage up an 80-ft. silo without plugging. Excellent dealer service."

**Alan Hilt, Waverly, Neb.:** "My best buy is my 1987 Dodge Dakota pickup. It has the big box of larger pickups and gets about 25 mpg with the 4-speed overdrive. The engine is very easy to get at for service. It can pull a fairly large trailer. I'm having so much better luck mechanically with the Dodge than I had with my last two Ford pickups."

even though the paint was properly thinned and strained. However, it does do quite well spraying aluminum asbestos roof paint. The plastic valve body is flimsy and broke. Needs to be beefed up. We bought the \$149.95 sprayer on sale for \$89.50. Either price is a rip-off."

**David Swango, Bedford, Ind.:** He's happy with his Vermeer 605C round baler. "Starts bales easily and bales as fast as I can drive. The only downtime it's had is one broken spring and one bearing in over 500 bales. It's a much better baler than my previous 241 IH baler which burned up in the field due to a hot bearing."

David's "worst buy" is his 1976 White 8800 combine. "This combine clogs up inside so easily you can't run clean soybeans any faster than 2 to 2 1/2 mph. The air cleaner and radiator plug up continuously, causing it to overheat all the time. It doesn't even perform as well as my old 403 IH combine which never has clogged up on me."

**Gary Biester, Clay Center, Neb.:** "Without this tractor we would not have finished harvest until spring," says Gary Biester, Clay Center, Neb., pleased with his "best buy" Deere 4450. "We use it for pulling the grain carts during fall harvest and it has excellent traction in muddy fields. Lots of power and no down-time."

"We're also happy with our L3 Gleaner combine from Deutz-Allis. It's easy to work on, plus the dealer makes every attempt to solve all problems."

**George H. Tetzloff, Winamac, Ind.:** "I've tried the rest and this is the best. Trouble-free with good power," says George about his "best buy" 1/2-in. drive C.P. 734 Impack wrench."

**George Todd, Jr., Bartlesville, Okla.:** He nominates his 1980 510 Long tractor as "worst buy". "At 1,100 hrs. both clutches have gone out, it burns oil, it's hard to start, and every seal and gasket leaks. The tractor was torn down for complete overhaul in October and the dealer was still waiting for parts at the end of November. Cylinder sleeves have to be installed then bored out at a machine shop. The local dealer is trying to help but the tractor makes service difficult."

**Roy T. Johnson, Dows, Iowa:** "My 1987 IH/Case combine is the best and the most easy to operate of any combine I've ever owned. The new bean and corn heads are easy to change. It's a good machine and dealer service is good."

**Craig Kimbell, Unadilla, Neb.:** "We've baled three seasons with our 1984 Deere 530 round baler with very few problems doing our own and some custom work. Makes nice-shaped and very tight bales."

**Stan Sharlik, Linwood, Neb.:** "These are the most trouble-free machines that have ever been made," says Stan, pleased with his "best buy" New Holland 276 baler, 479 windrower and 1044 bale wagon. "All I've had to replace over the last few years are sickle sections and roller chains."

His 1984 7000 4-row Deere Max-Emerge planter and 1977 Deutz-Allis Gleaner F2 diesel combine also rank as "best buys". "The dealer who sold me this used planter completely went over the machine and replaced any worn parts without charge. The planter operated flawlessly on corn, soybeans and grain sorghum. The combine has worked great with only two belts replaced in two years as well as an air conditioner compressor. Handles irrigated corn with no problems."

**Harold D. Jones, Columbus, Kan.:**

"I'm also pleased with my Gnuse rear end scoop made by Gnuse Mfg., Arlington, Neb. It mounts on the tractor 3-pt. and will dig into hard ground with ease and is the best snow removal machine I've ever seen."

"One of my worst buys of all time was a Deere 1350 six, 18-in. bottom plow. We couldn't get it to stay in the ground no matter what we did. It also pulled way too hard."

**Elmer H. Freidel, Emmetsburg, Iowa:** "One of my best buys is a 1986 International model 600 forage blower. It has good leveling features along with high blowing capacity."

Elmer is also happy with his 1987 60 by 83 Morton machine shed. "It's their latest design with the 1-ft. cave, vented ridge and overhang, and the plasti-sol roof. It's all of excellent quality and has a proven guarantee."

**Allen Eck, Stitzer, Wis.:** "Our 1985 Deere 55V chainsaw is fast-starting, powerful and vibration-free. You can saw all day without getting all shook up. We replaced the 16-in. bar with a 20-in. bar. Works great. We also have had good luck using AMS/Oil synthetic 2-cycle oil mixed 100:1 with the fuel. The saw gets superb lubrication while gaining power. We've used it successfully since 1979."

Allen had bad luck with his "worst buy" Wagner 200 Series Power Painter. "It wouldn't spray implement enamel with the 0.7 mm spray tip. It plugged up constantly