

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

Les Smith, Vermillion, S. Dak.: "I'm happy with my 1985 Olds 98 but disappointed with General Motors for not alerting owners to possible brake problems with their cars. At 12,000 miles, the brakes were jumpy and made noise. The local dealer turned and adjusted the rotors. At 17,000 miles, the problem persisted so he readjusted the rotors. At 30,000 miles, the dealer replaced the rotors and pads, which cost me \$258.75. I complained (to GM Mediation Arbitration, Oldsmobile Central Office, Box 30095, Lansing, Mich. 48909) and got a refund of \$175. I'm happy about the refund but disappointed with GM for not alerting me when I bought the car about probable brake problems. I feel they knew about the problem, yet made me learn about it the hard way, on my own."

Charles Crane, Pleasantville, Iowa: "DuPont sent me a 5 lb. sample of Preview herbicide. It did a beautiful job so I bought some more."

As "worst buy" he says, "Our double spiral Stirrator from Sukup has to be one of the worst lemons ever made."

Kenneth Powell, Range St. Pierre, Que.: "My Knight 350 manure spreader bought new last spring is the best-made and strongest spreader I've ever seen. Its three

2 people. We also like the fact that heifers are easy to train on this system."

Ken Knickerbocker, Marion, Mich.: "My best buy 1984 Bainbridge 712 metal cutting band saw is portable and big enough to do most any job in a farm shop or small job shop. Both band speed and cutting speed can be controlled. It's priced right and shuts off automatically when the cut is finished. However, the saw is hard to line up and keep running true."

Jim Hofer, Reynolds, Ill.: "I like my Deere 318 riding lawn mower. Its power steering makes it a dream. However, the mowing deck could be deeper so it wouldn't plug so easy and it could ride a little better."

Fred Barrett, Mason, Mich.: Fred nominates his 72-in. Howard Rotovator as "best buy". "It's certainly well-engineered to last and it's easy to change tiller speeds. There are no headlands or dead furrows to complicate our vegetable operation and we get complete seedbed preparation in just one pass—even with a 4-in. layer of manure on the field."

Leo P. Bergin, Yerington, Nev.: "I found my best buy Keltgen tires through FARM SHOW. I needed narrow tires and wheels for high hp. tractors used in row crops. Although the arrangements for the purchase of the specialized tires were via a long distance phone call, the tires and wheels supplied were as represented and rim construction quality exceeded the original manufacturer's specifications. The price was fair and delivery was as stated. I was so pleased with the first set that I ordered a second set of tires and wheels for another tractor. These, too, were perfect."

"Other best buys have been a Ford TW 35 tractor with mfw. It's fuel efficient, trouble-free, comfortable and has more pulling power than other tractor makes with the same advertised hp. I also like my Ford 7710 which hasn't had any problems in 2,000 hrs. of use."

Lawrence Peterson, Ayrshire, Iowa: He likes his 6-ft. wide 1982 Woods belly lawn mower. "It's wider than the wheels on my Case tractor, therefore the tires don't run the grass down. I mow about six acres a week and have only needed to replace 2 belts and 2 sets of blades."

Doug Lucas, Central City, Iowa: "My worst buy was a 125-1170 Enco bench drill press. Drill chuck doesn't keep the bit tight, electric motor has no power and drive belts are too small. The thing I was most upset about was that I was charged \$55 just for shipping."

Roy Sauder, Bridgeport, Neb.: Roy nominates his 670 Deere double hydraulic side delivery rake as "best buy". "It rakes like nothing I've ever seen before. Makes a nice even windrow that's just right for my new 530 Deere baler."

Arthur Kuehl, Trimont, Minn.: "My two brothers and I bought our New Holland 68 Hayliner in 1959. It has hardly missed tying a bale since."

Tony Prom, Harvey, N. Dak.: "Wish I'd bought it 10 years earlier and so do my children," says Tony, pleased with a 1981 Weed Badger SM600 in-the-row tree cultivator. "It far exceeded my expectations. Does an outstanding job in extremely tough conditions. It's mounted on another best buy—a 4020 Deere tractor purchased new in 1968 which now has 10,000 hrs on and has only had minor up-keep expense."

Warren Newton, Ft. Huron, Mich.: "My 1986 Ford Escort diesel car has been the greatest. Runs 650 miles on a tank of

sets of beaters do a great job even with frozen chunks of manure."

Terry Monke, Litchfield, Ill.: He names his 1986 Carl Heald Mark IV hauler as "best buy". "It's convenient, great for utility use and saves a lot of steps around the farm. I like the easy to use controls, bench seat, and flotation tires which work well in soft conditions. The 16-hp. Briggs & Stratton engine always starts and has plenty of power but the drive belt smokes when starting out. The company could gear the machine a little lower for carrying heavy loads in soft terrain."

Thomas Busenlehner, Robstown, Tex.: "My 1986 Deere 4850 tractor performs beautifully. Has over 1,500 hrs. on it and has never been back to the shop for repairs."

Craig Davis, Connell, Wash.: "My 1984 Chevrolet S-10 pickup needed a complete \$1,100 transmission rebuild at 35,000 miles. It was then back for lesser transmission problems 10,000 miles later. It doesn't have enough power to handle the 4-speed automatic transmission. Fuel mileage is also disappointing."

He's happier with his 1986 Logan self-unloading truck bed. "Trouble-free and actually works as advertised."

Allan Cihlar, Mosinee, Wis.: "Our 17-stall Chore Boy turn-style milking parlor reduced milking time and labor of milking our 150 cows to 1 1/2 hrs. with just