

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

Donald Pfannkuch, Manning, Iowa: "My 1981 Chevrolet pickup with a 5.7 diesel engine has driven 63,000 miles. It had absolutely no problems until I went in to trade it off for a new truck. They want to take 30% off book value because it's a diesel but new diesel trucks are priced \$2,500 higher than gas. How dumb does General Motors think we are?"

Patrick E. Kalin, Steinauer, Neb.: "My worst buys are my 1980 International 986 and 686 tractors. The 686 has been worked on 8 times for injector pump, starter, and hydraulic problems and the 986 was delivered to us with a faulty hydraulic pump and foreign material in the hydraulic system. The rear-end on the 986 went out the first year. Our problems with both tractors all happened within 800 hrs. Although IH did fix them we wore out our welcome at two dealerships in the two years it took to settle it all. The only good thing about these tractors is their low fuel consumption."

Roy Borgmier, Lawson, Mo.: He likes his Cray guard alignment tool from Cray Co., Box 1779, Fargo, N. Dak. 58107. "The handle is long

worked well for me for thousands of hours with virtually no breakdowns."

Clair Long, Marshalltown, Iowa: "It's the best no-till planter I've ever owned. Has the most accurate planting rate and very good depth control," says Clair happy with his "best buy" White 5100 planter.

Glenn Frye, Ekalaka, Mont.: Glenn nominates his 1480 International combine as "best buy". "The 30-ft. header feeds the smoothest of any I've ever run. No hesitation or bunching. It runs quiet and has lots of capacity. My only complaint is that the hydrostatic drive slips too much in road gear."

"My worst buy is a pair of vise grips from Sante Fe Freight Salvage. They seem like a bargain but they aren't. The adjusting screws are so soft you can't adjust them. If you lock them very tight, the jaws break."

Rob Wallace, Hamilton, Iowa: "I'm very well pleased with my 1985 Ford F-250 4-WD diesel pickup with 4-speed transmission. After more than 25,000 miles in 16 months, I haven't had any trouble at all. Cold weather starting is no problem. The XLT cab greatly reduces noise."

Homer Hatch, Burlington, Kan.: "My best buy is a Kansas Klipper tree clipper. (Haden Industries, Rt. 1, Box 98, Cedar Vale, Kan. 67024, ph 316 758-2424). It works great for cutting off trees up to 3-in. in dia. at ground level. Does all that's claimed."

Tom Rankin, Springer, Okla.: "The frame had to be spot welded in several places before it could be delivered by the dealer after he assembled it. The blades on it were so soft they wore out in two months. The primary gear box shaft sheared off at the keyway after the first season. The right hand gear box had to be replaced by the factory because it came apart inside. This machine cost us two months down time last summer. We have another Flex-15 which is about 8 yrs. old and is no trouble but this new one is junk," says Tom, upset with his Rhino 15-ft. Flex-15 Brush Cutter.

He's had good luck with his Snapper weed and brush cutter. "We've used several weed eaters but this is by far the best. Starts every time and the shoulder harness is comfortable. I bought the optional tap and twine head. It's worth the money. Brush and weed blades work great also."

Gerald Van Zyl, Montevideo, Minn.: "I used it to drill five ½-in. holes and the armature broke off right by the chuck. I sent it back and got a replacement. The new one did the same thing. The company said they wouldn't replace it because it was over a year from the time I received the first one to when the second one broke," reports Gerald, upset with his ½-in. heavy-duty Chicago electric drill.

On the other hand he's had good luck with his Deere 4450 tractor. "Has good power, good working speeds and is easy to shift."

Roger Neuman, Baraboo, Wis.: "We'd like to nominate our Ford tractors as best buys. We currently

enough to get leverage to bend the guards on my haybine. It's simple and easy to adjust for different guards."

Frank Haasen, Timmins, Ont.: "I'd have to agree with reader John Hest who, in your last issue, nominated FARM SHOW as a "Best Buy". On the other hand, I have to disagree with Ronald White. We installed a DeLaval Ration Master computer grain feeder, with dual feed and breed module, more than a year ago. Production is good, the machines have worked very well, and the cows regularly consume 95% of the feed programmed. Both company back-up and dealer service have been excellent. I would not hesitate to recommend this system. I'm sure there must be an explanation why this first class machine did not perform for the Whites."

Henry Schmitt, Elkhorn, Wis.: "My sons purchased two H & S forage boxes from a local dealer. In two years the sides rotted out. You could stick your finger through any place. The company would not do anything about it."

George Ekman, Killam, Alb.: "My best buys are Deere 4430 and 7020 tractors, a 6601 combine, and a 1600 cultivator. These machines have