

BUYING TIPS YOU CAN USE

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

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Don Garnes, Mabel, Minn.: "This disk could be used to build terraces," says Don, upset with his "worst buy" **Deere 310** disk. "It's well-built and I haven't had to spend a nickel on it but it won't disk level. The blades in front throw dirt beyond the furrow fillers, leaving a big ridge."

His "best buy" is a cattle-waterer from **Highcroft Company**. "The waterer uses no electricity and, after four winters with no electric bills, it has just about paid for itself. In January, 1982 we had 30° below zero temperatures with 80° below zero windchills and had no problems with the waterer. It's all fiberglass and doesn't corrode or scale like metal foundations. It's a good investment."

Glenn Holland, Pocomoke, Md.: "Within 14 months and 13,000 miles, I had to replace the battery, rebuild the starter and install a new air conditioner compressor," says Glenn, unhappy with his 1983 S-10 **Chevrolet** pickup.

Noah Kinsinger, Oakland, Md.: "We like our **New Holland 425** diesel skid steer loader. It uses just ½ gal. fuel per hour and it has plenty of power. I also like our **Massey Fergu-**

4430, and a 4630. We've been very satisfied with the reliability, operator comfort and power of our newest **Deere 4640**. The only problem with buying a new Deere is the price, which seems to be at least 20% higher than other makes."

LuVerne Michael, Walker, Iowa: "On the plus side, one of my best buys is a Terra Temp livestock fountain for hogs. It went through the winter of 1983-84, with temperatures of 20° below zero and 40 mph winds, with nothing but earth heat to keep it from freezing. It's manufactured by **Doland Metal Products**, Lisbon, Iowa.

"Another best buy is our 1979 **International 1440 Axial Flow** combine. It delivers excellent quality grain and has fewer moving parts to replace compared to our IH 815, which it replaced.

"On the negative side, my **Home-lite 150** chain saw is my worst buy. It vibrates too much, shaking to pieces and then quitting. It has been in the shop more hours than it has sawed wood."

A. Prestin, Wenona, Ill.: "We made the mistake of buying two **Riley** leg elevators. The delivery was late and everything was shipped wrong. They were made from very weak tin and the gearbox on the wet leg went out the first day. The company did not replace it right away. The head on the dry leg ground the corn to powder, slamming it into the side of the head. The belt ran too fast, the head is not constructed right, and the Riley distributors are a joke. A 12-cent spring gets stretched out so that you have to climb to the top of the 130-ft. leg every time to reset the distributor. The tin they used on the elevator was too thin and buckled the first week. We've since bought legs made out of iron from **Schleper Distributors** and they work great."

"We've had very good luck with our 1977 **Versatile** with a 290 Cummins. We built the engine up to 350 hp. Good power and no trouble."

Richard Stanley, Livermore, Calif.: "Four years ago I bought a **Butler** Farmstead building. The cost was approximately \$22,000 and the building has leaked for the past four winters. I have repeatedly contacted the dealer with little or no response. He attempted to fix the leaks, but failed. I finally called my attorney and he has since contacted both the dealer and **Butler Manufacturing**."

Bill Wollgast, Dwight, Ill.: He names his **Deere 2250** tractor equipped with a 240 Deere level load bucket as "best buy". "Works great. We're satisfied," Bill told FARM SHOW.

Glen Stenzel, Hamburg, Iowa: "We traded our 1978 8630 for a **Deere 8650**. That was a mistake. The 8650 was a demo with 175 hours on it, which should have meant all the new-tractor bugs would be worked out. Unfortunately, this was not the case. The gear shift knob continually falls off. The tractor is hard to shift anyway and, without the knob, it's almost impossible. The hydraulics often refuse to lift the 3-pt. and fuel leaks from the injection pump make the engine hard to start. The alter-

Farmers Nominate Best, Worst Buys

son 124 baler. We've never had a breakdown in 11 years. It misses very few bales."

Joe Rosenkrantz, Springfield, Colo.: "Our 1984 **Ford F-250** diesel pickup cannot pull a trailer, which is what we bought it for. We changed the gear ratio in the rear end ourselves but it still wouldn't pull. Fuel economy is also bad at 7 to 10 mph. The dealer would hardly touch the pickup and charged us every time he did regardless of the warranty.

"We've had no problems with our **Deere 4840** tractor. It has performed at peak performance and has an abundance of power. Has required no dealer service."

Ron Skopyk, Hepburn, Sask.: "This tractor doesn't deserve all the criticism other dealers give it," says Ron, pleased with his 2390 **Case** tractor. "It's an all-around good tractor with handy controls and a quiet ride. Service is good."

He's upset with his **Allis Chalmers 616** garden tractor. "The tractor is alright but the lawn mower attachment is junk. Bearings are falling apart, the belts fall off every time the mower is lifted, and the blades work loose, ruining the splines on the shaft."

Doug A. Robertson, Carstairs, Alberta: "We've owned many Deere tractors, including a 3020, 2130,

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