

Best And Worst Buys

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Loren M. Sundquist, Wasta, S. Dak.: "I'd like to nominate our 1943 **Farmall "B"** as best buy," says Loren. "My father-in-law bought it new and we still use it. It has had just one overhaul, back in 1954, and has always been faithful. I also have an **Oldsmobile Delta 88** which I bought in 1974. It now has 101,600 miles on it and has cost me less than \$200 outside of normal maintenance items like tires, alignment and oil. It still doesn't use oil between changes and the 455 engine gets 15 to 17 mpg at legal speeds."

Ron Giese, Hoffman, Minn.: He nominates **Bosch** lights, which he first read about in **FARM SHOW**, as "best buys". "I first bought 4 of these lights for a Steiger tractor and liked them so much I purchased 12 more for three other tractors. I left the center lights on and took off the two outside lights in the front and back, replacing them with Bosch lights. At night, I guarantee that you can see five times farther and wider. By the way, the 4 lights that the Steiger was equipped with originally look like candles compared to the Bosch lights, which don't take any more electricity than the originals and may in fact take a little less. Someone should pass a law that all manufacturers equip their implements with Bosch lights. I bought my lights from Paul Morris, Rt. 1, Box 27, Versailles, Ind. 47042."

M. Bayliss, Lucky Lake, Sask.: "I bought a new **GMC 1/2-ton 6-cyl.** pickup in 1975. It now has about 130,000 miles of rough use, carrying rod weeders, balers, horses and cattle. The motor has never had the head off, and the ignition's never been touched. It has had two sets of spark plugs and still gets around 25 mpg, using little oil. We have had the brakes done twice, cleaned the carburetor once, installed a new rear end, and a new steering box.

"Another best buy is our **Deere 6601** combine bought last July. We harvested around 500 acres with it. It does a nice job and we've had good service. Practically no problems with the machine."

George Steele, Lawrence, Kan.: "We own a **Dixon** mower and feel that the company uses a smaller engine on the machine in order to quote an attractive price. When we bought our **Dixon**, the dealer said we could pay extra and get an 11-hp. engine, which we did. We have matched the 42-in. **Dixon** against our 42-in. **Deere** with a 14-hp engine. We've found that we have to use the **Deere** for heavy cutting as the **Dixon** is underpowered. In light cutting around shrubs, and so on, the maneuverability of the **Dixon** enables it to out-cut the **Deere**. However, the steering mechanism on the **Dixon** is so flimsy I have to constantly repair it. I can't knock the **Dixon** too much, though, since I didn't pay much for it. I might even buy another if a larger engine were available."

Cletus Axtman, Rugby, N.Dak.: "The **Willmar Super 500** fertilizer spreader is the first machine I've bought since I started farming that didn't have even one loose bolt when bought new," says Cletus about his "best buy".

David Cook, Canadian, Tex.: "I'm very satisfied with it except for one thing," says David about his "best buy" **Powder River** cattle squeeze chute. "They should lower the sides 18 in. to make it easier to work on cattle standing in the chute. Right now it is almost impossible to do so. They could easily lower the sides and extend the bars."

R.E. Bishop, Linesville, Penn.: "I bought a new **Deere 2640** tractor in 1976. It was poorly designed and

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"I have a 6,000 **Ford** I bought new in 1967 that is still going strong with about 12,000 hrs. I bought a **New Holland 467** Haybine that I've used 10 years and all I've had to replace is one bearing. I also have a **Farmhand 810** grinder-mixer that I've used 12 years and have only replaced a couple bearings. All of these are very good machines."

Doug Averitte, Vanleer, Tenn.: He's pleased with his **Honda 200E 3-wheeler**. "I use it mostly for fencing and feeding. It has really saved my tractor by doing those and other such jobs. I bought a trailer along with it that pulls behind. It's dependable and well-built.

"My worst buy is a **Massey Ferguson** model 39 planter. The rings would not match up with the plates and this resulted in cracked seed. After planting several acres of corn and failing to get it straightened out, I finally parked it and used a **Ford** planter to replant."

Eugene Allen, Rives Junction, Mich.: He named his **International 3588 2+2** tractor as "best buy". "I especially like the way it handles, as well as the two-door cab and the digital readouts on the instrument panel. It has plenty of power and good fuel economy, getting 6 1/2 gal. per hour on a chisel plow. My wife operates it most of the time."

Clayton Kuchinka, Macoun, Sask.: "I'd like to nominate our **Deutz DX160** tractor as best buy. It has lots of power, the cab is quiet and it runs on 5 gal. of fuel per hour. Dealer service has been excellent.

"On the negative side, we had nothing but trouble with our 1412

David Brown tractor, which we bought used. It started poorly and the 3-pt. hitch wouldn't work properly. A snap ring on the hydraulic control valve that holds the cylinder body in place would pop out continually and spray oil all over your pants leg. We kept it one year and let it go.

"I'd also like to nominate **FARM SHOW** as best buy. The minute it arrives we read it from front to back."

Donald G. Chamberlain, Bowling Green, Mo.: He's happy with his 1983 **Ford 6710** tractor. "This tractor replaced a 1980 **6700 Ford**. It has a little more horsepower but much better fuel economy. The hydraulic system is also much improved with increased capacity and redesigned valves. The pto clutch engages smoothly without jerking the implement. Hardly any bugs yet and a pleasure to operate."

Lennie Verhoeff, Holly, Colo.: "After 600 hours of use I have had to make only minor adjustments. It's a real winner. Quiet, comfortable and dependable," says Lennie about his "best buy" **International 3488** tractor.

Wayne Shuler, Baroda, Mich.: He's had trouble with his 8-ft. **Loftness** double auger snow blower. "When we received it, it had a bad bearing in one chain sprocket. After running it last winter, I found that the blower paddles are not centered in the blower housing, which lets hard-packed snow or ice get wedged between the paddle and the housing before it leaves the spout, thus bending or tearing up the ends of the paddles. These snowblowers are advertised as tested and proven in Minnesota's worst weather conditions. I wish they'd make one for Michigan."

Wayne likes his **Deere 8300** grain drill. "We have used this drill to plant oats, wheat, soybeans, and to drill alfalfa seed into our wheat fields in the spring. So far, no complaints."

F.L. Feazel, Washburn, Ill.: "I've had **Trimpe** hard-surfaced cylinder bars from Clarence Trimpe, Seymour, Ind., in my **Deere 105** combine for three years and I wouldn't sell those bars for \$1,000 if I knew I couldn't get another set. They're great," says Feazel. "Another good buy is our **Fuerst** harrow. We used it behind a field cultivator. It's a great tool to mix and incorporate chemicals."

Feazel has also had good luck with his 8600 **Ford** tractor equipped with a **Red Rooster** propane injection system from **Acme Carburetion**, Mankato, Minn. "It lets you inject supplemental propane for extra power on less fuel. We've tried working this 1974 8600 tractor to death but it just keeps on going with a minimum of repairs. Our dealer has given super service."

Ron Baker, Mechanicsville, Iowa: "We've never seen such a poor excuse for a planter. On a good day we could plant 50 acres and, on a bad day, just 5 to 10," says Ron about his "worst buy" 8-row **International 800** Early Riser planter.

On the positive side, Ron's happy with his **Case 4890 4-WD** tractor. "It's given me one solid year of good hard work. I just sit back and let the tractor do the rest. When I'm done at night,

it's nice to get out without your ears ringing. Makes you feel like the day in the field was worth it."

Kent Carpenter, Cogswell, N. Dak.: "I've had this **Wil-Rich** chisel plow for two complete trouble-free seasons. The depth control is excellent for the application of anhydrous ammonia, thanks to the four walking tandems."

Randall Sinnwell, Nashua, Iowa: "The tractor had bad power steering and shifted poorly to start with. Then, all the gears busted in the rear end and the transmission went out with less than 900 hrs. on the tractor," says Randall, disappointed with his **Case 2670 4-WD** tractor.

He's pleased with his "best buy" **Deere 653A** row crop head. "We thought at first, when we got the machine, that the knives would catch on rocks. But the guards keep rocks out of the knives, giving you a close, clean cut at field speeds of 4 to 5 mph."

Frank Streit, Juda, Wisc.: "We've had this baler for three years and have baled over 35,000 bales and have never had a single thing go wrong," says Frank, pleased with his **New Holland 315** baler. "Also, our 1981 **Chevrolet Silverado** diesel 1/2-ton pickup has run without trouble for

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over 40,000 miles. It always starts."

Frank's disappointed, however, with his **Deere 317** garden tractor. "It's hydrostatic drive and, since they have no clutch, you can't get into a small spot, or stop and back up, without having to jerk a lever."

LeVern K. Eldred, Leslie, Mich.: "Here's a list of some of the problems I've had with my 1982 **Oldsmobile 98** Regency Brougham 4-door diesel. The trunk light stopped working; the starter broke; the front window on the driver's side stuck half way up and had to remain that way for two weeks waiting for parts; the air conditioner and electric seats quit; traveling secondary roads through Texas, the transmission sheared off a gear and we drove 30 mph for 125 miles in low gear; transmission wouldn't shift until you reached the speed of 55 mph; replaced four new cams; replaced fuel pump and put in new filter; trunk lid cable broke; and, the control on the solenoid for the glow plugs went haywire.

"Despite all these problems, the radio works fine and the clock keeps perfect time."

Edmund O. Brown, II, Reeds, Mo.: "New Holland hay machinery is second to none in engineering, design, and durability. They are innovative, yet simple to work on. I bought a used 1010 bale wagon and it has never given any trouble, which is unusual for a machine so complicated. I also own a 269 baler and a 256 rake. All very dependable."