

# Best And Worst Buys

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**Floyd Van Roekel, Guthrie Center, Iowa:** He nominates his TCI mineral program and feeder as a "best buy". "The cows are able to balance their mineral needs. The salesman services the feeder. The head oilers on the feeder are very effective against horn flies, face flies and lice."

**Eugene Frodl, Whitewater, Wis.:** Heading his "best buy" list is his Menard 54 by 90-ft. pole building. "It's really built well. All the doors open and close with no binding. The building crew knew what they were doing. The salesman called back after it was up to see if I was satisfied."

Also on the plus side, Eugene likes his New Holland 718 field harvester. "I've had no breakdowns with it in the second year of use and I like the 722 cornhead. The length of cut is easy to change."

**Matthew Graff, Markesan, Wis.:** He's happy with his 1983 Honda ATC 110 3-wheeler. "Except for a couple of minor problems it is a great little machine. Easy on gas, great for running around on the farm and having fun. The 4-speed dual range transmission is also nice. I'm very pleased with it."

**John Urch, West Concord, Minn.:** John's "best buys" are his White 8700 combine and his Honda Accord car. "The combine has good fuel efficiency and power, the cab is tight and quiet. The Kwik-Kut floating cutterbar does a real nice job. Excellent dealer service. The 1982 Accord gets good mileage — I've never gotten under 32 mpg — and up to 44 mpg on a trip. Quiet running car and a good ride."

**Patrick O'Brien, Kasson, Minn.:** He nominates his Badger silo unloader and self-unloading forage boxes as "best buys". "The self-unloading boxes are the best I've ever had. They're dependable and easy to maintain. The unloader works well in cold conditions and is built well for long service."

**E. Fechner, Chelmsford, Ontario:** "It's always fully charged when stored in the charging unit. The light is very powerful and fully adjustable from wide to narrow beam. Every home or farm should have one," says Fechner, pleased with his Pittway First Alert rechargeable flashlight.

**Garnett Vickers, Mt. Olivet, Ky.:** "The tractor's engine performs well but the power shift transmission is hard to shift between second and third gear. The dealer has taken the tractor in twice but can't fix it," says Garnett about his "worst buy" 1981 Case 1490 tractor.

**Leon Seahorn, Jefferson City, Tenn.:** Leon lists his New Holland 420 baler as "best buy". "It's an excellent piece of equipment. Haven't had any problems in any way."

**Daryl Anderson, Postville, Iowa:** "One of our best purchases is our Mix-Mill. It's about 5 years old. We're able to keep very complete records

with the digital counters on the Mix-Mill panels, which make feed trials easy. Our feed system is very efficient because everything is handled by auger. It has paid for itself already. We figure it costs 21 cents a ton to auger feed to the mill, grind it and deliver it to feeders. There's very little maintenance required."

**Chuck Shelby, West Lafayette, Ind.:** "We were very unhappy with our International 400 Cyclo planter and almost bought a Deere before deciding to buy International's 800 Early Riser. We couldn't be more satisfied. It does an excellent job

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under all conditions, including no-till. Depth control is easy to set. It puts the seed in the same spot every time.

"My last bad purchase was a 1979 Chevrolet 4-WD pickup. As I drove the truck home from the dealer, oil started running out of the engine. The filter hadn't been tightened properly at the factory. They re-built the motor but that was only the beginning of my troubles. Several months later, the rear axle slid out on the driver's side while going down a steep hill. I was able to stop without having a major accident but it could have been really serious on a busy highway going 60 mph."

**Mel Klish, Nekoosa, Wis.:** "This truck topper is ideal. It's easily installed with ordinary tools. The back part of the topper telescopes forward. When loading, you don't bump your head, get sore knees or an aching back. Powered equipment can be driven right into the back end. If you are hauling large items, like a refrigerator, you don't have to remove the topper. Just push it forward," says Mel, pleased with his Tel-Top III, from Top-Line Products, Inc., Owen, Wis.

**Joseph L. Winslow, Belvidere, N.C.:** "Due to high prices on new equipment, I've bought good used equipment for the past couple years. One purchase I've been well satisfied with is my 1972 Deere 4620 tractor. It has plenty of power, uses no oil and has no leaks of any kind."

**Jack Drumm, Prattsburg, N.Y.:** He's disappointed with his Same Buffalo 130 air-cooled diesel tractor. "This tractor does not have the quality of American-built tractors. We had trouble with the electrical system, the air conditioning, and the wheel seals. The last straw was when the hydraulic pump leaked oil into

the crankcase and ruined the engine. Also, the cab is poorly made. The doors don't fit tight and there are holes around the hydraulic levers. It's very noisy."

**Jack's Roskamp portable roller mill and mixer is his "best buy".** "We purchased it last year to roll ear and shelled corn. This machine has lots of capacity and since using it our butterfat test has gone up four points, which in itself is making the payments on the machine. The cows prefer the rolled feed over the ground up stuff you get out of a hammer-mill."

**Cyril Anderst, Hilda, Alberta:** "Up until last summer, my best buy was my 1977 International 1486 tractor. At only 1,600 hours, and while under load one morning in the field, a plug at the back of the fuel injection pump simply unscrewed itself and fell out, releasing all the motor oil before the trouble was detected and the motor shut down. The damage to the crank, rods, cylinder walls and cam was too extensive for repair so a new motor had to be installed. While in the shop we found that the clutch plate splines were 50% worn so we installed a new clutch. The whole job relieved me of nearly \$9,000. Only 150 hrs. after this, the bull gear and pinion on the left side piled up. After another trip to the shop, and another \$4,000, I was back on the move again. We put over 80 hrs. on a neighbor's tractor while ours was down. This IH tractor was

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our 4th in a row spanning back nearly 30 years, but it let me down at a time when I needed it most."

**Jack McLean, Pilot Mound, Manitoba:** "In 1979 we purchased two 1460 International Axial Flow combines. They have given us top performance and service. We have pickup tables, straight-cut, and sunflower tables. The 1 to 2% of dockage we get is amazingly low."

**Marvin H. Sawyer, Siler City, N.C.:** His 1982 Buick diesel is his "worst buy". "It didn't have much power. A spring broke in the fuel pump and the car almost ran away with us. After a new pump was installed, the car smoked bad and idled rough. Had it back to the dealer for several other problems, too. Now we have received a letter from GM recalling the car."

On the plus side, Marvin says his Bolens 17-hp 4-WD tractor with a front-end loader is a "best buy". "The tractor is very handy. The 4-WD gives the traction of larger 2-WD tractors. Its little diesel engine has always started and is stingy on fuel. The range of gears is excellent. No repairs have been needed."

**Duane Grube, Appleton, Minn.:** "We are very pleased with our International 800 Early Riser 8-row corn planter. It plants excellent stands of

corn and does so with any size seed. Last spring was cold and wet but we had our corn up in seven days. It's truly an 'early riser'."

**Rick Broderius, Hector, Minn.:** "We plowed sudan grass on our PIK acres last year with a Deere 4640 2-WD. Wherever the ground was wet, the tractor spun and dug up sod. We bought a Deere 4650 MFWD. It had the traction to pull the plow without slipping. We love the 15-speed power shift transmission."

On the negative side, Rick lists Deere's 2800 vari-width plow. "The bottoms are loose and they're not level. Some are 2 in. higher than the others. It also doesn't stay in the ground where there are dips and won't pull straight in hard-packed ground."

**Edwin D. Jordan, Osage, Iowa:** He's had good luck with his Massey Ferguson 124 twine baler. "In 10 years of use I haven't had any down time. The knotters assembly has very few moving parts and you can switch from regular twine to plastic without making adjustments. The twine disc does not drop twine. You can easily bale 300 bales per hour with this baler."

**Louie W. McCoy, Albia, Iowa:** "What I like best is the quiet cab but this tractor performs well in all respects," says Louie, about his "best buy" White 2-105 tractor.

Another "best buy" is his Honda 1500-watt generator. "It's very handy for on-location repairs, running drills, electric lights, airless paint sprayers, and so on."

**Joe Hicks, Chalmers, Ind.:** "It's hard to beat if you need a small tractor," says Joe, pleased with his Yanmar 240D 4-WD, 24-hp. diesel tractor. "I use it to pull my 5-ft., 3-blade mower as well as a large 6-ft. Brillion mower. We also use it to help clean feedlots. It has plenty of power and traction, and uses little fuel."

**Tim Gerber, Jackson Center, Ohio:** "We have mastitis detectors in our milking system that fit in the milk line between the milkers and the vacuum line. We've had them in about a year and have found that early detection of mastitis is easier and more complete. Strip cups and CMT are used to locate the infected quarter after the initial detection of mastitis," says Tim about the detector system made by the RJB Company, Modesto, Calif.

**Lynn Whittlesey, Atwater, Ohio:** "This drill works fine but it was not ready to go when it came from the factory," says Lynn, upset with his Lilliston 9680 grain drill. "I had to make at least 18 adjustments or repairs that should have been performed initially by the dealer. When the dealer did perform some of the needed repairs, he returned it to me saying everything was ready but it wasn't. The welding job the dealer did was horrible. I have contacted the company."

**James David Ross, St. Clairsville, Ohio:** He's had trouble with his Homelite 330 chainsaw. "The carburetor is a joke. No matter how you adjust it, it still won't do the job. The starter rope is too short and the spring