

# Best, Worst Buys

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drill behind it. Last year, I drilled 80 acres of barley and drove 10 miles down the road and it used just 60 gal. of fuel. The extra traction really covers the ground."

**Robert Radcliffe, Cardale, Man.:** "No more searching for the chuck key on drills," says Robert, pleased with his **Rohm** hand-tightened keyless chuck that attaches to his 3/8-in. Black & Decker electric drill. "It doesn't slip and ruin drill shanks and will outlast most electric drills. It's expensive but well worth the convenience."

**Linus Holthaus, Ossian, Iowa:** He's happy with his "best buy" Blu-Jet 2100H folding NH3 3-pt. mounted toolbar made by **Thurston Mfg. Co.**, Thurston, Neb. "A reasonably priced heavy-built and well-engineered piece of equipment. Very convenient to operate and move with hydraulic NH3 control valve and folding wings. Parts and service available locally. On the minus side, it's 16 1/2 ft. wide in the folded position so you can't get it through 16-ft. doors. It's also too wide for moving down narrow country roads. In-line transport is available, however."

**Glenn Schultz, Richwood, Ohio:** "Our best buy is an **Allis Chalmers** Gleaner N-6 combine we bought in 1979. It has a 24-ft. grain head and an 8-row, 38-in. spaced row head. We put a Tiger Jaw knife, from the **Herchel Corp.**, Indianola, Iowa, on the grain head and really like it. The more we run this machine and compare it with others, the more it impresses us. It's extremely easy to handle, quiet, well-balanced, has a large grain bin, and the operator sits in the center. To unplug the cylinder is unbelievably easy so you're able to push it to full capacity. Just an awesome machine. We've put 3,700 acres through it and yet have only 425 hrs. on the separator."

**Bill Wilkins, Lucknow, Ont.:** "My worst buy is a **Nesseth** manure pump. It worked for the first 5 or 6 months and then the pipe plugged. When we installed it, the sides of the hopper got pushed in by the cement. So, in order to get the cylinder out, I got the torch to cut the outside flange off. The torch touched off a pocket of methane gas and the explosion blew the cylinder, myself and about 2,000 gal. of liquid manure into the barn. I called a service man in from the distributor. He spent two days working on it, told me he couldn't make it work, and gave me a bill for \$750. Finally I got a backhoe and dug up the pipe and shortened it from 200 ft. back to 30 ft. and it has worked fairly well since."

"My best buy is our 26-ft. **Wil-Rich** cultivator. It's five years old and has covered over 4,000 acres. The only thing we've replaced besides sweeps are a couple wheel bearings. For the last three years it has been equipped with a **Harlan** anhydrous kit. Pulling the wagon and extra teeth doesn't seem to bother it at all. A fine piece of equipment."

**George Faulkenburg, Douglas, Wyo.:** He says **Ectiban** insecticide

tape worked well for him last season. "We put it on March born calves the 10th of June. The tape not only kept the flies off the calves but also kept them off of their mothers. We usually use oilers for fly control. Maintenance on them is messy, expensive and whenever you get a heavy rain, it soaks up the water and drains out the solution, wasting both time and expensive solution. By late summer, when the fly season was over, the tape wore out and fell off. A job well done. The tape fits right over ear tags without covering over any of the numbers. The best part is that they're priced in the cowman's pocketbook range."

**Daryl J. Winkler, Calgary, Alta.:** "My worst buy was a **Leon** loader to fit our **Allis Chalmers** 7000 tractor. "It was designed poor, had loose pins, the bucket was too far ahead of the front wheel, poor bucket design, and no way to tell when it was level."

"We also run **Allis Chalmers** 5050, 7010, 7060, 8010 and 8070 tractors and we're very pleased except for the hydraulic couplers. They leak oil almost every time you hook up and are hard to connect. We have replaced at least 16 of the couplers with **Pioneer** one-handers and they work fine. They fit the same brackets and cost approximately \$11.50."

**Ralph Olson, Downey, Idaho:** "My best buy in recent years is an **International** 435 hay baler. I've used this baler for four years now and have had a minimum amount of trouble or repairs on the unit. I especially like the knottor mechanism. Really trouble free."

"My worst buy is **Anchor** brand cattle insecticide ear tags. After a short time they break off just below the attaching button. I have complained to my supplier with no results and am very disappointed with the product. Other cattlemen should beware."

**Brad Haley, Earth, Tex.:** "Our **New Holland** TR-95 combine replaced our **New Holland** TR-85. The increase in capacity is amazing along with the excellent job of threshing and the clean grain sample. In my opinion it is superior to all other brands I have tried. We're also pleased with our **New Holland** 852 baler. It makes an excellent sized bale that keeps well and feeds well."

**Albert Van De Weert, Dryden, N.Y.:** "Our **Deere** 2750 tractor, equipped with a 7-ft. bucket and cab, is our best buy," says Albert. "We used it to fill our bunker silo this year and it did a fine job. Other years we had to hire a small bulldozer for the last 100 loads to top the silo off. But with the 4-WD, there was no problem. The price tag on the tractor was steep but if it performs as our other **Deere** equipment has in the past, it will be worth it."

**Gerald Nakaerts, Clifton, Ill.:** "Excellent performance, uses little oil, has power enough to pull an 11 1/2-ft. Soil Saver at 6 1/2 mph 8 to 10 in. in the ground, and fuel consumption is in

the 6 gal. range," says Gerald, happy with his **Deere** 4640 tractor.

**Fred Dale, Davis, Okla.:** "It does a better job cutting than any saw I've ever owned. Has plenty of power for any job and has been trouble-free. It always starts easy. Since buying it two years ago, all I've had to do is sharpen the chain and replace it when worn," says Fred, pleased with his **Stihl** Farm Boss chain saw.

He's had trouble with his half-ton **Jeep** 1979 pickup. "We bought it new and from the beginning it only got from 6 to 8 mpg on fuel. After 14 months and approximately 12,500 miles, it needed a valve job. This did not improve fuel consumption. Have also had the carburetor rebuilt two times with no improvement. I finally installed propane and now it's even worse than when it ran on gasoline. At 38,138 miles, I've kept the body in like-new condition, but am unable to find any dealer interested in trading for it."

**Bob Fuhs, Ft. Branch, Ind.:** He likes his 1983 **Chevrolet** S-10 4-WD pickup. "I've had it for almost a year and drive it seven days a week. I haven't had a single problem with the truck nor have I taken it back to the dealer for any service. It rides good and drives excellent. The V-6 engine gets great mileage and has good power."

**David Rietveld, Kouts, Ind.:** He names his **Howard** Roto-Spike as both "best" and "worst buy". "It does an excellent job of incorporation and bed shaping. It's basically well-built and durable. However, we have been very disappointed with the com-

**"For \$3,000 extra, we expected a lot more."**

pany's warranty on the bed-shaping components used on the machine. When we wore out the supposedly durable parts after 100 acres in non-abrasive soil, the company deemed this "normal" and would not stand behind it. The bed-shaping part of this machine was not thoroughly field-tested as it should have been to anticipate such premature wear. For \$3,000 extra, we expected a lot more.

"Another worst buy is our **Wick** building that we bought 14 years ago. It continues to have a leaky roof that the manufacturer contends cannot be fixed. Also, the paint on the exterior steel siding has faded. They told us no one in the farm building industry can warrant the paint on their siding. We can show anyone a poor example of how a Wick building might function and look in the future."

**Kenneth L. Smith, Waterloo Ind.:** Two pieces of equipment head Kenneth's "best buy" list. "The **International** 720 toggle plow does a real nice job plowing and pulls easily. It also goes through heavy cornstalks without plugging. I'm also well-pleased with my **Pioneer** model 1074 chain saw. It starts easy, and cuts well

with no vibration. I have had no trouble with either product."

**Bill Shumate, Urbana, Ill.:** "The cab and chassis are well-built, the workmanship is very good, and the engine, which is built by **International Harvester** for **Ford**, is a good performer for the 420 cu. in. size of the engine. My local Ford dealer is a dealer everyone would like to have. Very thorough and provides good service. This is my first Ford product."

On the negative side, Bill lists a set of replacement diesel injectors installed in his 1975 **Allis Chalmers** 7060 tractor. "In 75 hours, two injector tips went bad. My dealer replaced them quickly for me but it was a nuisance. The rest of the tractor has given good service but the older style injectors and pump aren't very good."

"Another of my best buys is **FARM SHOW**. It's chock full of innovative ideas a farmer can use. The Worst and Best Buys section serves as a good guide when shopping for equipment."

**Gary Newton, Belfield, N. Dak.:** "My best buy is a rotary cutter made by **Continental Belton Co.**, Belton, Texas. It isn't the heaviest made or the most expensive but I cut weeds that are 5 and 6 ft. tall. I also cut road ditches with it."

**Murray McIntyre, Burns Flat, Okla.:** "I bought a Double Torque 2XT auxiliary transmission for my new **Chevrolet** 1-ton pickup from **Power Torque Industries, Inc.**, Arlington, Tex. The unit is supposed to split the gears giving you an extra set of in-between gears. In a little over a year, it failed completely once, and was removed, repaired and replaced four additional times prior to complete failure. In addition, it was responsible for the unnecessary replacement of three heavy-duty Chevrolet clutches due to failure caused by oil contamination from the Double Torque transmission."

"This add-on has a very bad shrill scream and overheats even with the optional oil cooler and pump. The only parts I haven't replaced, including the transmission case itself due to bad factory machining, was the Eaton electric shift unit which comes with the transmission."

"The Double Torque 2XT experiment cost me in excess of \$4,000 but my Chevy pickup is once again perfect. The unit has been removed. If anyone wants this kind of trouble, I'll send them my old burnt transmission free."

**Wayne Fleming, Mattoon, Ill.:** "This tractor almost broke my father and me. We each had one and it brought on my father's early retirement. In two year's time, we spent about \$16,000 on repairs and had lots of down time," says Wayne about his **International** 1466 tractor.

On the positive side, Wayne's **Deere** 4840 is a "best buy". "It's been performing exactly as promised. Plenty of power and comfort. Can be used for any farming operation, including hoeing, cultivating, and so on."