

Best And Worst Buys

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feature that lets me take it off in only a few minutes."

Alan Jay Petersen, Jamestown, Kan.: He bought two pieces of used equipment, a 1970 **Case** tractor and a 1979 **Chevrolet** Caprice Classic car, which are his "best buys". "The Case 970 with cab is easy on diesel fuel, at approximately 3 gal. per hour. There's no gear noise in the cab, excellent air conditioning, and good lugging power. The 1979 Caprice is quiet running and so comfortable it's comparable to a Cadillac. Has all the options I like."

Bill Orr Jr., Council Bluffs, Iowa: "I like the increased ground speed I get on sidehills but I especially like the way the cutterbar can be adjusted to stay flush with the ground on slopes," says Bill, pleased with his **Deere** sidehill combine.

He's unhappy with his "Midwest Busterbar harrow. It's always falling apart. If you lower the harrow so it works good, it will get bent out of shape."

William Ondracek, Max, Minn.: He's pleased with the electric fence he bought from **Hol-Dem Fencers** of Minneapolis, Minn. "The model 57 has good power, even with lots of weeds on the line or when the wire is shorted on a nail or post. The battery-powered model 55 can use either 6 or 12-V batteries, dry or wet, and has good power with good battery life before recharging."

"Another best buy is my **Vermeer** 605C big round baler that I bought in 1979 from my Dad and which he bought in 1974. It's been a real good baler. Dad replaced the belts once and we've both had to replace bearings but that's normal. The only bad thing I can find is that when you have really light, short hay, it's sometimes hard to get a bale started."

"My worst buy is my **Versatile** hydrostatic 400 swather, with a mounted crimper, that I use for cutting hay. The header is a piece of junk in hay. It's built so light something is always breaking down. The only good thing about it is the crimper which does a real good job."

Roy Meyer, Batesville, Ind.: He's pleased with his **International** equipment. "Our 800 Early Riser planter has good seed placement, accurate fertilizer calibration, and a good marker system. We've also had good luck with IH tractors. We've owned two 656's, an 806, 1086, 966, 986 and a 686. All have been real dependable. We also own an IH 715 combine. We have 700 hours on it and have replaced only one belt and one bearing. It does a good job of cleaning and has good capacity. The only problem is that it's a little short on horsepower."

Larry Eley, White Plains, Ga.: He's had good luck with his Hester "turf truck" from **Hester Truks**, Hughson, Calif. "It's built for farmers, with a bench seat for two and a large cargo bed for hauling. It has a handy reverse gear that makes backing a pleasure. It replaces a pickup for around-the-

farm chores for only 4 gal. a week."

Mike Scanlon, Oskaloosa, Iowa: His "best buy" is his **New Holland** 855 baler. "It makes a lot heavier and denser bale than the old 851 baler. I like the heavier apron chain, automatic chain oiler, 6-bar hay pickup and the roller in the bottom that replaces floor chains. It also takes less power to operate than the old one. A well-built, dependable easy-to-operate machine."

Mike's disappointed, however, with his **Deere** grease gun. "It works good if you can get it started after changing cartridges. I tried several different kinds of grease in it and it makes no difference. Usually, after five minutes and a big mess, it starts working. Maybe it needs a bigger valve to bleed the air out."

Mark Parker, Clearwater, Kan.: "The worst buy I've made is a **Wahoo** Big 6 crate farrowing house. The initial cost was cheaper but by the time you added in the extras, it was about the same as a central farrowing house. Also, if a sow gets caught in the crate somehow, you practically have to dismantle the building to get her out."

On the positive side, Mark's pleased with his **Dodge** D-100 1979 pickup. "I have 37,000 miles on it and never have had a bit of trouble. I'm also pleased with my offset 18-ft. Miller disk. It's given me pleasure to run. I've had it nine years and worn the 24-in. blades down to 19 in. and only replaced two bearings."

Roger Liehr, Chambersburg, Ill.: "Our **Massey Ferguson** 126 wire tie baler has been nothing but a

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headache to me," reports Roger about his "worst buy". "It has been used two haying seasons and I've had nothing but trouble. The dealer has been down six or seven times and it's been to their shop two times and it still isn't fixed. I wish I'd never seen it. I'll probably never own another piece of Massey equipment."

James Tostenson, Pine River, Wis.: He's disappointed with his **Stihl** AV-031 chain saw with electronic ignition. "It starts hard, doesn't have the zip it should have, and constantly needs something fixed or replaced. It's not worth the premium price you pay for the name."

James nominates his old **Deere** Model A tractor with a "Power Block" as "best buy". "I bought the tractor used a couple years ago and, considering it was over 30 years old, it performed like new. It has very good power for a smaller type tractor and uses less fuel than I expected it to. I would recommend a Power Block to anyone who needs a re-

placement block on an older John Deere."

Stan Stefanik, Forest, Ont.: He's happy with his Tiger Jaws cutterbar bought from the **Herschel Corp.**, 1301 North 14th St., Indianola, Iowa 50125. "We put a Tiger Jaws cutterbar on our **Deere** 6620 combine and increased our field speed to 6 mph. We also increased the capacity and kept our header losses down. The knife stays sharp much longer. We only broke one guard and two sections last fall. We're very satisfied."

James E. Shelton, Blodgett, Mo.: "My best buy is an **International** 2+2 3788 tractor. "We've had very good performance with this tractor. Has plenty of power and is easy to handle. Fuel consumption is satisfactory and it's fairly easy to work on."

James reports trouble with his **Deere** 709 rotary cutter. "This cutter will not cut grass and weeds. It hacks them off instead, even though the blades are sharp. We've also twisted five pto shafts and cannot find the reason why. The slip clutch works well but the shafts still twist."

L.D. Casterline, Richey, Mont.: "Compared to my old machine, it's a thing of beauty," says Casterline about his **Hesston** 4600 Beeline baler. "It's very reliable. I had minor problems when it was new but the dealer and factory rep were very good about assisting with these problems."

Ralph Piepgrass, Exeter, Calif.: He likes his **Ford** Ranger 1979 ½-ton pickup. "I equipped it with a 100% propane fuel system as soon as I bought it. In 30,000 miles, we've had absolutely no problem except for a punctured tire."

Brad Black, Vonore, Tenn.: "We like the ease of handling and the power of our **Deere** 4440," says Brad. "It has much more power and uses less fuel than the 4240 it replaced. We really like the power shift transmission and the hydra-cushioned seat suspension."

"**FARM SHOW** Magazine is also a best buy. It's very informative and to the point. We enjoy the Best and Worst Buys section."

"We're also pleased with our **Honda** 200E ATC 3-wheel cycle. Everyone enjoys riding it. We use it to check crops, cattle and just about anything else you can think of. It makes weed and insect scouting easier and a whole lot more fun. The only thing I should have done is bought one sooner. It's definitely a best buy."

On the minus side, Brad is disappointed with his **Parmi** 8-hp. rear tine tiller. "Both transmissions have been replaced, it's hard to start and, once started, it won't run for more than 5 minutes at a time. It's very hard to control and the belts are impossible to keep adjusted. This tiller is truly a piece of junk!"

Darwin Reyne, Rushmore, Minn.: He's happy with his **L.B. White** 903 heat exchanger. "I installed it in a 12 by 36-ft. pig nursery in January, 1983, and in the next two months used only 30 gal. of LP gas. It cut my fuel bill by 80% or more."

Gene Deckard, Sadler, Tex.: His "best buys" are his **Brillion** 8-row cultivator and his **Massey Ferguson**

2775 tractor. "We used the cultivator on over 1,000 acres with no problems. It did a great job, covering more than 160 acres in one day. The Massey 2775 has been the best tractor I have owned. It has as much power as my 1805 Massey 4-WD and handles as easily as a 100 hp. tractor."

W. Hemstreet, Wawota, Sask.: "One of my best buys is **FARM SHOW** Magazine. It describes new products in plain language."

Dennis L. Herbert, Winnebago, Ill.: "My best buy is a **White** 2-70 tractor. The company rates it at 70 hp, but mine puts out around 80 hp. I'm very pleased with the fuel economy, averaging 2½ gal. per hour. It's right for all the jobs on my dairy farm, except chisel plowing and applying anhydrous ammonia. It's much cheaper to buy than other, more 'popular colored' tractors."

Norvin Thomas, Mondamin, Iowa: "I've talked to lots of other farmers who have had similar problems," says Norvin, disappointed with his "worst buy" 1982 **Chevrolet** 6.2 diesel 4-WD pickup. "I've had nothing but trouble in a year and a half. The head had to be replaced two times because it warped and caused the engine to overheat. The glow plugs have burned out three times. The transmission went out and, when they worked on it, they checked the rear end and said it was going out, too. They fixed it, and it lasted about two weeks before it went out again. I took it to a different dealer and he said they'd put it together wrong and he fixed it. It has lasted another month and the bearings are now going out. I've been waiting for parts for several months. I paid \$14,000 for this pickup. I wish GM would either replace the pickup or give me my money back. I bought the truck in Nebraska and the state now has a new 'lemon products' law. I intend to see if I can qualify."

Nate Reilly, Spokane, Wash.: He's pleased with both his **International** 674 tractor and his **New Holland** 489 mower conditioner. "I bought both machines new a few years ago and they have been real dependable with just routine service."

Vance Stiles, Spring Hill, Kan.: "It's much simpler and easier to service than the **Deere** 6600 it replaced," says Vance, pleased with his "best buy" 1982 **International** 1460 rotary combine. "It's a dream to drive and has tremendous capacity. Has just half the belts and chains of the **Deere**. Good dealer service. The only thing they haven't got working yet is an automatic reel speed, but they'll get it."

Vance has had some trouble with his **International** 183 6-row 30-in. Vibrashank cultivator. "It does a good job and has been mostly trouble-free except that the rolling guide fins do not have enough ground clearance in the transport position. This causes gouging on turn rows and we have broken several guide blades. No one has come up with a solution. A little redesigning is in order here."