

## BUYING TIPS YOU CAN USE

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

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# Farmers Nominate Best, Worst Buys

## OPINION

**John G. Bakker, Tyler, Minn.:** A 1992 Blumhardt crop sprayer equipped with a 60-ft. boom heads John's "best buy" list. "It has oscillating tandem axles for a smooth ride so that boom sections hardly bounce at all and remain quite level. We use a Micro-Trak spray monitor and Trakstar speed sensor with it. They work flawlessly."

On the negative side, "My 2-year-old Ritchie Challenger automatic cattle waterer is my worst buy. It has caused me many headaches because of freeze-ups and problems with fluctuating water levels. We had to disassemble the cabinet and reline it with a higher grade of insulation. We also had to replace the cable heater with a commercial heat tape to prevent freeze-ups. The bottom edge of the stainless steel cabinet can be easily dented by the hooves of large cattle. Compared to our Bohlman automatic waterer it's a disappointment."

**Jake O. Cutchin, Jr., Suffolk, Va.:** "It has good lugging power and the smoothest shifting powershift transmission I've ever used," reports Jake, pleased with his 1992 Ford 8630 4-WD tractor. "Handles nimbly for a 4-WD tractor. I'd buy another one if I was in the market."

"My Ariens 10 hp riding mower is my worst buy. It starts hard and is hard to shift

omy and is comfortable to drive, especially on long trips. No problems in 38,000 miles."

**Dave McFadden, Lakefield, Ontario:** Dave likes his Deere 435 and 430 round balers. "We use them for custom work, making 3,000 to 4,000 bales per year. They allow us to bale day after day without breaking down and produce excellent bales."

"My worst buy is my 1989 MacDon swather. The only good parts on this machine are the engine and cab. The drive chain on the conditioner has to be adjusted every day, and the guards bend easily. The muffler and rear axle broke right off. Luckily, the axle broke in the field and not on the road. The company is trying to take care of the problems."

**Albert Larsen, Edgar, Wis.:** Albert's disappointed with his Deutz-Allis DX 90 tractor. "It had less than 500 hours when one of the pistons got scorched. The mechanic that worked on it tried to get the company to pay for the repairs, but they refused. Since then the engine has been overhauled three more times for the same problem. The tractor still has less than 5,000 hours on it. Every overhaul was at my expense - the company refuses to admit there's a problem."

"My Deere 2950 tractor is my best buy. Works great."

**Ralph Hauter, Morton, Ill.:** "My 1992 Buick LeSabre drives well on all roads and is comfortable on long trips. It's fuel efficient."

**Marty and Richard Lionberger, Middletown, Mo.:** "Our 1990 Case-IH 1640 combine is simple to maintain and trouble-free. We've used it on a lot of acres. It just keeps going and going and going."

"Our 1989 Chevrolet 2500 heavy duty 4-WD pickup is our worst buy. We've had a lot of problems with the front end. We had to replace four CV joints and four or five idler arms, as well as the clutch and flywheel."

**Don Heikens, Nashua, Mont.:** Don's impressed with his 1993 Chevrolet 3/4-ton pickup equipped with a 350 cu. in. engine and 5-speed transmission. "I like the ride, power, handling, and appearance. It's fairly fuel efficient and has plenty of power."

**Jeff Schlaeger, Pine City, Minn.:** Jeff's unhappy with his 1990 Gehl 175 manure spreader. "To change unloading speeds you pull on a rope. However, the rope pulls so hard that I had to get off and use a pipe wrench to throw the gearbox in and out of gear. My dealer tried to solve the problem, but with no luck. I wrote to the company but they didn't answer my letter and no one ever came out. I'll never buy another piece of Gehl equipment."

**Rob Kraft, Laurel, Mont.:** Rob's the satisfied owner of a 1992 Ford F-250 4-WD diesel pickup. "I use it to pull my 20-ft. gooseneck livestock trailer. Handles well and has plenty of power, even on hills. It's fuel efficient and has a comfortable cab. So far it's been trouble-free and easy to start in cold weather."

**Jerry Josefy, Grandfield, Okla.:** Jerry's had good luck with his 1989 Deere 4455 MFWD tractor. "It always starts, is easy on fuel, and has a comfortable cab with a good air conditioner. It has a lot of power for a small tractor and I really like the powershift transmission - works great for plowing, baling, etc. It has good lights and doesn't use any oil. No problems. It also has good resale value."

A 1992 Deere 673 hay rake heads his "worst buy" list. "I decided to replace one of my old New Holland rakes with the Deere model. However, it didn't have as many

into reverse. I don't like the friction drive. Another problem is that with the deck at its lowest setting the front part of the mower digs into the lawn. The dealer installed electric start on the engine, but it has never worked right. Finally the wires burned up. I'll never buy another Ariens."

**Harold R. Stoudt, Hamburg, Penn.:** "My Parmac deluxe SolarPak 6-volt electric fencer is my worst buy. I thought it would be ideal for remote pastures, but after two weeks of use some of my cattle got wise to it. It just doesn't have enough output, even for brand new fence that's properly installed. I used it on less than 1/2 mile of fence. Perhaps the 12-volt unit would work better. I'm not going to find out. I've been burned once."

**Tom Reuter, Monticello, Iowa:** Tom's impressed with his 1991 Knight 712 manure spreader. "Does a nice job of spreading a variety of types of manure. I use it for liquid as well as solid and packed manure. No problems. It's built heavy and shows no wear after almost two years of use."

"My 1992 Ford Ranger pickup has plenty of power and is fuel efficient. Rides smooth. No problems."

**Willis Doezema, Shelbyville, Mich.:** A 1992 Harsh 240 feed mixer rates as Willis's "best buy". "It mixes uniformly and runs easy. We'd definitely recommend it to other dairy farmers."

**Harold Weisbrook, Bushnell, Neb.:** A 1991 Chevrolet Caprice rates as Harold's "best buy". "It delivers excellent fuel econ-