

BUYING TIPS YOU CAN USE

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

by Harold Johnson
Editorial Director

Mark Newhall
Editor

Bill Gergen
Associate Editor

Farmers Nominate Best, Worst Buys

OPINION

Gordon E. Payne, Austin, Manitoba: "My worst buy is my 1987 Case-IH 1494 tractor that I bought new in 1989. At 10 hours it blew out two block heaters at the same time, and at 20 hours it started leaking hydraulic oil. An O-ring and seal had to be installed. It was in the shop three times for this problem and the dealer fixed it quickly every time. The last time was at 600 hours. At 750 hours the pto clutch wouldn't stop turning while we were baling hay so I had to stop using it. It has over 800 hours now and I'm just waiting for something else to happen. There have been many other small problems too numerous to mention. On the positive side, it's a good chore tractor because of the front wheel drive and loader combination."

Dale Paulson, Gregory, S. Dak.: Dale says the 1991 Koyker K-5 quick-tach loader he purchased for his Belarus 825 tractor is a "worst buy". "For the money they charge, it isn't built heavy enough, especially the mounts. The hydraulic cylinders that tilt the bucket attach below the pivot point where the loader arms connect to the bucket. When the bucket is full, the load rests on fully extended cylinders instead of on retracted cylinders. As a result, there's very poor leverage and not enough power to raise the

a best buy. It has 79,000 miles and I just installed the first set of replacement tires. The old ones were Goodyear Vectors. It gets 26 to 27 mpg loaded or empty."

Gene Wiemers, Melbourne, Iowa: Gene likes his 1991 Case-IH 1640 combine. "It's an excellent machine. Everything on it worked like it was supposed to. No problems at all. It's fuel efficient and easy to handle. I really like the new 1020 platform. I bought a reel enlargement kit from Reel Mfg. & Sales after reading about it in FARM SHOW (Reel Mfg. & Sales, Inc., Rt. 1, Box 132, Stonington, Ill. 62567). It increases reel size from the standard 42 in. dia. to 58, 60, or 62 in., allowing you to save 3 to 5 bu. of soybeans per acre. Kit consists of 15 1/2-in. steel extension arms that bolt onto the existing reel arms and the mounting plate at the center of the reel."

DuWayne Hanson, Vienna, S. Dak.: "I'm pleased with my 1991 Case-IH 4800 field cultivator. Depth control is easy to adjust. It does a level job and won't plug up in trash."

Richard Dunlap, Cedar Falls, Iowa: Richard's impressed with his 1991 Vermeer 604 Super J round baler. "I do custom baling and have bought four new Vermeer balers in the last four years, with no breakdowns or repairs on any of them."

Alice Karl, Tiro, Ohio: Alice's "best buy" is Color-Back paint renewer (Apollo Sales & Service, Inc., Box 1113, Bismarck, N. Dak. 58502). "I tried it on our tractors and was pleasantly surprised with the sheen finish. I hope to try some on our pickup."

Allison MacNevin, Oleary, P.E.I.: Allison owns a Lucknow 7-ft. double auger snowblower. "It's built heavy and hasn't broken down once after two years of use. It blows snow far enough that we don't have to move it again."

Bennard T. Rimmer, Centralia, Ontario: "My Troy Built tiller does a good job tilling but is poorly built. The handles broke off and the dealer had to weld them back together. Depth control is hard to set."

Arthur Timmel, Collins, N.Y.: "My 1991 Case-IH 1840 skid steer loader is handy. I use a bucket and set of pallet forks with it. It starts and runs good. The only problem I have is with the pallet forks. They can't be locked into place to keep them from going sideways when I turn. I should be able to lock them into position like on New Holland and Bobcat models. Otherwise it's far superior to them."

Charles R. Day, West Finley, Penn.: "Our 1984 Suzuki 250 ATV is a best buy. We've changed the battery only once, changed spark plugs for the first time at 6,200 miles, and the drive sprockets and chains twice. Not bad for 10,100 miles."

Richard Breneman, Parsons, Kan.: "It's easy to use with many types of bins and works great," says Richard about his "best buy" Mayrath 10-in. dia., 72-ft. long swingaway grain auger.

"My worst buy is my 1977 Chevrolet Silverado 4-WD 3/4-ton pickup equipped with a 350 cu. in. 4-cyl. engine. It got only 4 mpg even after a tune up. At 17,000 miles the camshaft failed. By the time it had 142,000 miles it had gone through three engines and four clutches, and I'm not hard on clutches. I have a 1972 Dodge 4-WD pickup with 480,000 miles that's only on its second clutch, and it gets 17 mpg. I'll never buy another Chevrolet product."

Craig W. Hubbard, Bonners Ferry, Idaho: Craig installed a dual header exhaust system from Brian's Auto R.V. Marine & Diesel (11104 Pacific Hwy. S.W.,

bucket when it's close to the ground. Also, the bottom end of the cylinder is in the slop when manure is loaded into the bucket. The grapple fork cylinder hookup is very poor. It doesn't have enough power with just one cylinder. The bucket teeth are mounted at a poor angle. They can be adjusted to three different settings, but none of the settings are even close to where they should be. I explained all of these problems to three company engineers, but no changes have been made so far."

David Everett, Oak Harbor, Ohio: David's impressed with his Steffen System model 300 self-propelled loader for small square bales (Steffen Systems, 4432 Howell Rd. N.E., Silverton, Ore. 97381). "It's as maneuverable as a medium-sized fork lift. Has a spring suspension and shifts quicker and goes faster than a forklift."

Robert G. Dunn, Larwill, Ind.: A 1991 Dodge 3/4-ton 4-WD pickup equipped with a Cummins diesel engine rates as Robert's "best buy". "It gets over 23 mpg, has great power, handles well, and is equipped with a 1-ton front end to carry the big diesel engine and Allison transmission. The cab's interior is well organized and the full-size bed is big enough for my topper, side boards, or stock rack."

Stanley Klausch, Watertown, Wis.: A 1990 Deere 2755 MFWD tractor rates as Stanley's "best buy". "It runs well, is fuel efficient, and has as much pulling power as a much bigger tractor."

"My 1987 Dodge Dakota L.E. pickup is