

# Best & Worst Buys

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below zero. Dealers said it was a slow seller because of the price. But with mileage and performance like this, my investment has been returned many times over."

**Craig Elsberry, Sherwood, N. Dak.:** "My Lincoln Idealcar SP250 wire welder makes welding a pleasure. I can set the voltage and wire speed by simply pushing buttons."

**Ron Sylte, Williston, N. Dak.:** Ron's the satisfied owner of a Flexi-Coil 5000 39-ft. air drill equipped with a 160 bu. tow-between tank. "This air drill is designed to flex from front to back and from side to side so it seeds evenly over the roughest terrain. The four rows of hoe-type openers allow me to seed in standing stubble and high trash fields."

**John B. Gund, Lee, N.H.:** "It works good for haying and chores and generally performs well," says John, whose 1989 Ford 5610 tractor has nevertheless had some problems. "The electrical system is faulty and the exhaust system is loud. It gets tiresome if I don't wear ear plugs."

**Larry Gregerson, Herman, Neb.:** "My Deere 4555 tractor is fuel efficient and hasn't had any problems."

"My Deere 9500 combine is easy to adjust and service. Capacity is excellent."

"My 1992 Ford F-250 4-WD pickup, equipped with a 7.3-liter diesel engine and 5-speed transmission, is a best buy. Drives comfortably, has plenty of power, and the soft ride suspension option gives it a better ride than the 1988 F-250 I had been using."

**Tom Wilson, Lamona, Wash.:** Tom's "best buy" is his 1992 Flexi-Coil 300A chisel plow. "I purchased it after using my Flexi-Coil model 600 on 13,000 acres with no problems. I still own the 600. I like the ease of adjustment and the single hydraulic cylinder lift system on my new 300. It's built heavy and has 650-lb. breakaways on the shanks to keep them at an even depth when they're equipped with large sweeps."

**Dennis Jahraus, Eureka, S. Dak.:** "In 1990 I purchased a used Deutz-Allis 7.10 front wheel assist tractor. It's reliable and economical. I like the air-cooled engine. The cab is quiet and has a super air-ride seat. This is my kind of green tractor."

On the negative side, "My 1991 Vermeer 605 Super J round baler is a disappointment. It's equipped with a bale kicker and

plained to the company with no results yet."

**John Hamann, Clayton, Mich.:** "I've used my Miller 225 stick welder for 20 years with no problems. It's a best buy. All I've replaced is the ground clamp and electrode holder."

"I'm disappointed with my Lincoln SPI 50 wire welder. It has a 20% duty cycle which means that out of each hour, I spend 12 minutes welding and 48 minutes waiting for the welder to cool off so I can restart it. Heat output on the wire settings is touchy. Makes a good spot welder, but that's all it's good for."

**James Preston, Vilna, Alberta:** "My worst buy is my Deere 120 15 1/2-ft. disk. It's built too light and is impossible to set so it'll do a good job. I tried all summer to set it, but had no luck. I finally gave up and dumped it."

**Wesley Hulsebus, Donnellson, Iowa:** "I'm pleased with my New Idea 5408 disc mower. Mows well in all conditions. I'd recommend it to anyone."

On the negative side, "My Wagner airless paint sprayer uses too much paint and doesn't apply an even, smooth coat. I used it once, then sold it at my neighbor's auction for quite a bit less than what I paid for it. I was glad to get rid of it at any price. I hope they've improved the new models."

**Dean Easton, Remsen, Iowa:** Dean's had good luck with his 1991 Yetter 3730 folding ridge till 30-ft. rotary hoe. "It's wide enough to cover a lot of acres, but light enough that our Deere 4020D tractor can safely lift it. It's aggressive enough to kill weeds without hurting our crops and rarely plugs up in heavy crop residue. We were able to reduce herbicides and still get the best weed control we've had in years."

"My 1990 Case-IH 1660 Axial Flow combine is a best buy. It has lots of capacity, runs smooth, and threshes with little damage. It has had few problems and works well with our Deere 643 corn head and Deere 653A row crop head which we mount using a Bish header adapter (Harv's Farm Supply, Giltner, Neb.). Makes harvest fun."

"My worst buy is my 1991 Yetter no-till cultivator. It has four discs per row unit. The problem is that the row units aren't strong enough for no till or ridge till. To the company's credit, they did take my cultivator back. It's an excellent cultivator for minimum tillage, but shouldn't be sold as a no-till or ridge till cultivator."

**Mark Meyer, Fairmount, N. Dak.:** Mark's impressed with his 1992 Case-IH 9280 4-WD tractor. "It's easy to service and has a quiet cab. The powershift transmission is a real plus."

**Larry Enget, Audubon, Minn.:** "My 1990 Deere 7200 Max-Emerge II vacuum planter is a worst buy. Vacuum pressure fluctuates up and down, causing population to vary within rows from 9,000 to 25,000. Fortunately it's a relatively simple planter and the dealer is still willing to work with it even though I've used it for two years."

**Donald Jensen, Goodridge, Minn.:** Donald's pleased with his 1992 Gallagher 110-volt fence controller. "When cowstouch the wire they quickly back off. They don't get close to the wire again for a long time. Being able to put up just one small wire makes fencing easy. It'll still deliver a shock

even if a tree falls on the wire."

**Steve Scheffer, Langdon, N. Dak.:** Steve's had problems with his 1990 Saturn 41-ft. chisel plow. "During the first 7,500 acres several main braces broke on the frame and 90% of the cross braces cracked loose. The manufacturer failed to honor written warranties."

**Howard Metsker, Buhl, Idaho:** Howard's happy with his 1990 Ford XLT 4-WD pickup. "Starts good in cold weather and is fairly fuel efficient at 15 mpg. It rides like a passenger car, yet handles rough terrain like a goat."

**Larry O' Brien, Olney, Ill.:** Larry's 1991 A-Maize-Ing Heat shelled corn forced air furnace heads his "best buy" list. "It performs exactly as advertised and heats my 2,000 sq. ft. home on 1 1/2 to 2 bu. of corn

**"It rides like a passenger car, yet handles rough terrain like a goat."**

per day. It keeps the house much more comfortable than the LP gas heat we had been using for about half the cost. I was so pleased with it that I became a dealer."

On the minus side, "My 1991 Acu-Grain GMS-4 combine yield monitor is a worst buy. The company claimed it would indicate the number of bushels with 99% accuracy because it measured volume with a grain sensor baffle. We tried it and decided the best place for it was in the junk pile. The combine always has to be on level ground while unloading for it to work properly. Anything that measures volume isn't very accurate. I now weigh all my grain."

**G.R. Frederick, Moyers, Okla.:** He's impressed with Hydra-Levers sold by Shoup Mfg. Co. (145 South West Ave., Kankakee, Ill. 60901). "They make it easy to connect and disconnect hydraulic hoses on my International tractor and work almost twice as fast as conventional hydraulic hose ends. They're also inexpensive and easy to install."

**Robert Byrd, Kershaw, S.C.:** "My 1988 Ford F-150 pickup is my worst buy. I had six people riding in the back (I was hauling them out to the field) with two sitting on each side of the box and two on the tail gate. It caused the sides of the box to spread apart about 2 1/2 in. and the bed's floor buckled up 2 in. in the middle. When I got out of the field the tail gate wouldn't close. A company representative checked out the problem and said that we weren't supposed to sit on the sides of the box. I told him they should tell us that when we buy it. They won't fix it. I had the white Ford letters on the tailgate painted out. When people ask me why the Ford name isn't on my tailgate, I tell them what happened."

**Leroy Jones, Clarion, Iowa:** "My 1991 Deere 7200 Max-Emerge II 8-row vacuum planter is a best buy. I used it last spring under extremely wet planting conditions. It was easy to set and operate and had no skips or plugged runners even when I got stuck or had to plant through standing water. Mud did throw one drive chain off which the monitor noted immediately."

**Cecil Stephenson, Holden, Utah:** Cecil's a dealer for CBT tractors (built in Brazil) and says the CBT 8240 70 hp tractor is a "best buy" (CBT North America, Inc., 7245 N.W. 19th St. Bay C, Miami, Fla. 33126).

"They didn't spare any iron when making this tractor. Its dry weight is 9,700 lbs. which is 3,000 to 4,000 lbs. heavier than other tractors in the same category. It has 18.4 by 34 Firestone 10-ply rear tires and 10.00 by 16 8-ply front tires. The front end is built as strong as the front end on most 150 to 200 hp tractors. It's powered by a Perkins engine. Most parts like bearings, filters, etc., can be bought at auto parts stores. It costs about half as much as a major brand tractor and is built better. Pulls good with minimum slippage."

**Eugene and Larry Wendt, Napoleon, Ohio:** "Our Eversman 20-ft. 3-pt. land leveler is a best buy. It has a much shorter length than most land levelers, using the tractor itself to increase effective working length. The tractor's front axle acts as the leading axle for leveling."

**Wallace Keller, Mt. Horeb, Wis.:** "My 1990 Ranch King 46-in. riding lawn mower is my best buy. It has an 18 hp, 2-cyl. Briggs & Stratton engine and 7-speed transmission with two ranges. By progressively depressing the clutch pedal I can creep around bushes without downshifting. The belt that drives the blades was too small so I replaced it with a bigger one. I bought it for \$1,800 which is much less than what name brands sell for."

**David Holman, Union City, Tenn.:** David's pleased with his DMI no-till anhydrous applicator. "It does an excellent job in all conditions and requires little maintenance."

His "worst buy" is Yetter no-till anhydrous applicator units. "The shanks won't track behind the no-till coulters. I replaced the shanks but it didn't help. They don't have press wheels so we had some built. The applicator units can't be mounted on a folding toolbar because when they're folded the stops either break or slide around and they fall down on top of each other. All in all, they're very poorly designed."

**Clinton Brannon, New Hampton, Iowa:** Clinton says his Kinze brush type seed meter units "work better than Deere cup-type seed meters for planting soybeans. They plant soybeans (plus cotton and milo) without using air or vacuum. They'll fit Deere Max-Emerge planters and Kinze planters, plus Kinze planter units sold by Buffalo and Black Machine. I bought them a year ago and had a better and more uniform stand. I set the planter once and planted without having to change them every time I used a different size soybean seed."

**J.R. Blakely, Melfort, Sask.:** "My Honda water pump is my best buy. The engine starts on the first pull almost every time, runs smooth, and the pump never loses its prime."

**Kent Krause, Adams, Neb.:** "It has good power and fuel economy and a quiet, comfortable cab with good visibility," says Kent, who has nevertheless had some problems with his 1988 Case-IH 7120 front wheel drive tractor. "It turns too wide at the end of the field for row crop work. There are two 12-volt plugs in the cab for monitors, but it's hard to find a place to mount them without blocking my vision. The radio is poor. It's hard to tell what gear I'm in. There are no adjustable stops on the throttle or gear shift. Electric switches for the front wheel drive assist and rear axle differential lock are poorly located - they can be easily bumped."

**John Pierskalla, St. Cloud, Minn.:** "My 1991 M & W 1815 rotary hoe is a best buy. It really works great on small weeds. It's fast and doesn't plug up due to the placement of the wheels."

**"The cab is quiet and has a super air-ride seat. This is my kind of green tractor."**

monitor package with automatic tie. I traded in my Massey Ferguson 1560 baler which was a very reliable, well-designed machine (the same baler as the Vermeer 605F). I hadn't used the new baler an hour when the monitor quit working because of a defective wire harness. The sales literature says the device "electro-mechanically monitors left/right bale formations" but I think it's simply a timer that turns on the left/right lights every few seconds. Also, one tailgate cylinder developed a pinhole leak. I've com-