

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

Dennis Esslinger, Bern, Kan.: "When I went to buy a bagger machine, I checked with two competing companies, **Silo-Press** and **Ag-Bag**. I made my 'worst buy' when I leased a Silo-Press. It wouldn't run straight or feed even and, 30 bags later, it was shot. A short lifetime.

"My 'best buy' is the **Ag-Bag** machine, made in Blair, Neb. This machine has twice the capacity of the Silo Press, runs smooth, straight and is a treat to operate, compared to my earlier experience. My **Ag-Bag** machine has had 20 bags through it and shows very little wear."

Frank Stake, Amberson, Penn.: "It's the worst buy I ever made," says Frank, disappointed with his **Simplex Multitherm HF-120** add-on wood furnace. "The boiler is nothing but trouble. If the electricity goes off or any part of the oil burner malfunctions, the wood boiler overheats and all the controls on the boiler are damaged and have to be replaced. This furnace doesn't do the job the salesman said it would.

"I'm pleased, though, with my **John Deere 567** wheel rake. It rakes

member. Two almost new rear tires were ruined."

Don Losure, Chester, Iowa: "The absolute worst product I've ever purchased is the 'Big 6' farrowing house built by **Economy Housing** of Wahoo, Neb.," says Don. "In hot weather, sows get their heads stuck in the creeps and the building has to be disassembled to get them out. Little pigs get out and can't get back in. Sows crush too many pigs, and the hardware doesn't stand up to abuse. I called the company twice about problems but they already had the money and I had the problems. I am presently using the buildings as nurseries for weaned pigs and they work alright but are not recommendable. These buildings combine most of the labor of a pasture system with most of the expense of confinement."

On the positive side, Don likes his **Allis Chalmers D-15** tractor. "We added a hydraulic pump and three valves to make a great loader tractor out of it. Always starts, doesn't use much gas and hardly ever needs to be worked on."

Donald Thies, Randolph, Neb.: "I'd like to nominate my 1969 **International 756** diesel tractor as 'best buy'," says Donald. "It has 6,400 hrs. and we've picked corn with it for 10 years with an **International 234** mounted picker, so it hasn't been babied. A real good running machine.

"I would also like to mention a 1968 **Pontiac Bonneville** station wagon that has 183,000 miles on it with only a timing gear replaced and a transmission repair job."

Victor G. Barrick, Carlisle, Penn.: "My 'worst buy' is a **Surge 1,500** gal. bulk milk tank with a heat exchanger. I bought the tank 3 years ago and it started rusting through the enamel surface in a few months. The company replaced the tank shell with a new one which also rusted within a few months. After a year of phone calls and arguing, **Surge** replaced the tank again, with a unit that didn't fit the milk house and also started blistering within a month. Finally I traded the tank in on a **Dari-Kool** milk tank, which has been excellent."

On the plus side, Victor says he's happy with his **White** tractors. "Owning a 2-70, 2-85 and 2-135 is a pleasure. They're reliable and have excellent cab visibility. Our dealer is good."

Norman Overland, Churchbridge, Sask.: He likes his **Allis Chalmers 7020** tractor. "The price was far lower than the competition, the tractor has good power, good fuel efficiency, a quiet cab and has been almost trouble-free in the first 800 hours I've used it. Dealer service is excellent."

Fred Schooley, Waterford, Ont.: "My 1978 **Ford Mustang** is the worst car I have ever owned. It's equipped with a 2.4 liter 4-cyl. 4-speed engine. It provides disgusting performance, requires frequent maintenance, gets very poor mileage and makes lots of noise.

"Another poor buy was a machine that had a 2-cyl., 17 hp. **Wisconsin Robin** engine made in Japan. It has no power under load and I have replaced countless plugs, along with the star-

clean, even in rough fields. The purchase price was reasonable and it has few parts to wear out. I have only replaced a few rake teeth."

Charles, Blankenship, London, Kent.: "This truck has run 223,234 miles on the original engine, rear end and transmission. All I've replaced are the clutch and waterpump," says Charles about his "best buy" 1978 6500 series **GMC** truck, noting that, "The 366 cu. in. engine is number one in my book."

On the negative side, Charles had a bad experience with another truck. "The 'worst buy' in my life was a 1976 **F600 Ford** truck. In 19,000 miles and 13 months, the Ford dealer in Knoxville, Tenn., installed 6 complete 361 cu. in. engines, each one costing a tow bill of \$150 to \$460 and a dealer charge of \$300 to \$700 per engine. I don't want any more Fords, not even as a gift."

William J. Davis, Sheridan, Ind.: "High capacity, very maneuverable, easy to operate, and gives a good grain sample, especially in corn, with very little damage to kernels," says William, pleased with his **Massey Ferguson 750** combine.

William has had some problems with his **Omaha Standard** truck bed.

"It was not installed properly so, that when a load was put on the truck, the tires rubbed against a cross