

# Best And Worst Buys

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— for a new clutch. It has a good power-to-weight ratio and is good for just about any chore," says Mac, pleased with his **Massey Ferguson** 1130 tractor. "I'm also happy with my 1980 **GMC** 1/2 ton 4-wheel drive pickup. I bought it new and it has 45,000 miles now. It has never been in the shop, even after pulling lots of trailers, fertilizer tanks, and other equipment. The 350 engine doesn't use oil and has plenty of power. However, the 3.07 axle ratio is too high for farmers. I'd be happier if it had a 3.73 or better.

"My 'worst buy' is the **Caterpillar** 3208 engine in our **Massey Ferguson** 4-wheel drive tractor. I wish I hadn't traded off my beloved 1972 **MF** 1150 for this 1805. Why didn't the company use a 640 cu. in. Perkins engine, which is in the **MF** 2800 and 2805, rather than this short-lived Cat?"

**Dean Glenney, Dunnville, Ontario:** He says his worst purchase recently has been **Micro Max** rotary spray nozzles. "We have terrible drift problems in even the slightest wind, getting more spray on the tractor than the field. It's impossible to use with wettable powders. Every time the amount of chemical in the tank was changed, the output of the sprayer nozzle changed."

**David A. Fedun, Andrew, Alberta:** He had warranty problems with a **Goodrich** 23.1 by 34 rear tractor tire. "The tire had a flat spot and was out of round. In repeated calls to the company, they said the tire was either underinflated or overinflated, and that tire circumference can never be true because of the size of the tire, and so on. The tire is now 1½ years old and absolutely nothing has been done. No more Goodrich rubber on our farm."

**Sterling Sutton, Sargent, Neb.:** His **Lilliston** rolling cultivator heads his "best buy" list. "You can set it so many different ways. It can be set to get grass that's in the row and still travel 6 mph. With shields, you can cultivate real small corn, or just about any crop you want."

**Carl Anderson, St. Peter, Minn.:** He's had trouble with **BF Goodrich** flotation implement tires. "The Goodrich tires on our gravity running gear blew out the first year. The sidewalls on these tires are paper thin. A very poor product."

**Scott Johnson, Badger, Minn.:** "I've had nothing but good luck with this pickup. I couldn't believe how easy on fuel it is. Really satisfied," says Scott, happy with his 1980 **Chevrolet** Luv 4 by 4 pickup.

He's not pleased, though, with his "KP pistol grip grease gun. This grease gun is the worst grease gun I've ever used. It just won't push the grease out. The gasket tears in no time and then the gun won't work at all."

**Louie W. McCoy, Albion, Iowa:** "They weren't a big purchase but I'm very pleased with my **Visegrip** needle nosed plier. It's a very handy tool that should be in each of our tool-

boxes. Another 'best buy' is our **John Deere** lawnmower. It's very powerful and makes yard maintenance a real pleasure."

**Henry Kalke, Rockford, Iowa:** "I have both a small and a large **Deutz** tractor and, compared to my two U.S.-made tractors, they are 50% better on fuel, have better cabs, a better ride, are quieter, easier handling and in my opinion generally better built."

**Robert A. Clark, Southington, Ohio:** "My **Homelite** 150 chain saw ran fine for the first year but then the gas tank began to leak. I had it repaired twice and soon it leaked again. As it was also hard to start, I finally traded it."

He's happy, though, with his **Ford** C120 skid steer loader. "It's really handy and I've discovered so many uses for it. I like the controls on the hand levers. The bucket and everything is controlled by hand. Does much more than I thought possible. Stingy on gas and service is tops."

**Scott Ewalt, Harmony, Minn.:** He says his "worst buy" is a head adaptor from **Brobst and Associates**, of Lincoln, Neb. "My local International dealer ordered an adaptor from Brobst to mount an 863 IH corn head on my New Holland combine. It wouldn't fit and, after several phone calls to Brobst, we got no satisfaction and he wouldn't give us our money back. We finally got an adaptor from **Harv's Farm Supply** of Giltner, Neb., that I'm very pleased with. It fits well and I got excellent service when a sprocket wore out."

Scott's also happy with an **Eagle** grain loss monitor sold by New Holland, and with his **White** 5100 planter. "The grain loss monitor was easy to install on my TR75 and works

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good. It paid for itself the first week. I like the simplicity and accuracy of the 5100 planter."

**Elwood Ripstein, Cowlesville, N.Y.:** "We hated to buy a foreign product but we could not find another tractor to compare with this one," says Elwood, pleased with his **Same** Tiger 105. "The fuel economy and the price of the tractor made it by far the best value."

**Dave Panther, Chehalis, Wash.:** He's had good luck with his **Warn** 8000 electric winch that mounts permanently on his pickup. "It has been invaluable on the farm for retrieving bogged down equipment, hauling wood logs, serving as a crane when rigged through blocks overhead, and freeing the pickup that it's mounted on when it gets stuck. No

breakdowns and it's easily maintained."

**Woody Bryant, Austin, Ark.:** "I've used my **John Deere** 510 round hay baler to bale several hundred bales and have never had trouble getting them started. It rolls a tight and neat bale that stands the weather well," reports Woody.

**J. Russell Angell, Mocksville, N.C.:** He's disappointed with his **International** 830 forage chopper. "It pulls hard, much harder than a John Deere. The cornhead is a joke. You can't adjust the spout to direct silage from side to side, or to the rear of the wagon, from the tractor seat. Generally poor design and workmanship on the whole machine."

**Jerry Schneider, Seymour, Ind.:** "My 'worst buy' was a bird alarm from the **Av-Alarm Corp.**, of Eugene, Or. This alarm is supposed to scare birds with a loud scream but it really attracted them instead. The company wouldn't stand behind their product. When I returned it, they sent it right back to me. They were a terrible company to do business with.

"My 'best buy' has to be my **Banebridge** Hog Nursery. It comes complete with a self-contained pit," says Jerry.

**Kevin B. Weeks, Elizabeth City, N.C.:** "This combine cleans corn, wheat and soybeans as well as any combine I've ever seen," says Kevin, pleased with his **International** 1460 Axial Flow combine. "It handles our corn and bean headers well. Quietest cab ever. Well pleased after 574 hours. Hard to pay for with \$2.50 corn and \$6.00 beans but it's worth the gamble."

Kevin's "worst buy" is his **International** 1486 tractor. "Before the two-year warranty expired, the transmission and rear end went out four times. They put three rear end housings in this tractor. We traded for a 1586, which is trouble-free after 1750 hours, except for one bearing in the rear end."

**Denis Roy, Domremy, Sask.:** "Our **Vertec** grain drier is probably as good as any on the market. It's simple and quiet. Our **White** 9700 self-propelled combine seems fantastic with lots of capacity and very low loss, thanks to adjustments suggested by **Ray Stueckle**."

**Tommy Griggs, Kenton, Tenn.:** He's upset with his **Tye** grain drill. "The drill is poorly constructed and made of low quality materials. We have had to replace all springs and many other parts that have worn completely out. In less than two years of service it has worn 7 or 8 times more than normal."

His "best buys" are his two **John Deere** tractors, a 4440 and a 4840. "We've had no major problems and only a few minor adjustments. They're very comfortable to operate and easily serviced. Dealer service is excellent."

**Don Wogen, Marshalltown, Iowa:** Don has a "best buy" **John Deere** 6620 sidehill combine. "I have had very little trouble with it and, on rolling ground, you can harvest faster with it than with the larger 7700 John Deere combine it replaced."

**Bruce Atkins, Warner, Alberta:** "It was supposed to have hydrostatic

drive but that never worked properly for more than two hours at a time," says Bruce, disappointed with his **Massey Ferguson** 655 self-propelled swather. "It broke drive chains, sprockets, and needed constant adjusting. The dealer tried to help but couldn't cure the problems. Poor basic design."

**L.G. McLoughlin, Pinedale, Wyo.:** He had trouble with two electric fuel transfer pumps made by **Tokheim Electric**. The first one ran good for a

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while and then quit. It cost about \$30 to repair and worked alright for about 6 months before it quit again. I never got a gallon of gas out of the second one. The dealer and company both failed to stand behind their product."

**Bruce I. Hartman, Dansville, N.Y.:** "It'll do anything a ring drive will do at a fraction of the cost," says Bruce, happy with his "best buy" **Patz** 98-B silo unloader. "The big wheels give positive drive in soft ensilage and the optional weight transfer kit prevents the unit from sinking in soft silage conditions. We can fill one day and use this unloader the next."

Bruce had trouble with his **Lancaster** 18440 **NuRock** silo. "We noticed a series of staves were cracked upon filling. The company came and inspected the unit and after some calls, came back last spring and added extra hoops so that the silo is now safe. However, I feel the construction was faulty."

**Jimmy Lester, Lascassas, Tenn.:** He likes his **Honda** 200F, Big Red three-wheeler. "We get super performance for farm use with an attached Gravelly trailer. A very satisfactory purchase that hasn't caused problems.

"We are also pleased with our new 2705 **Massey Ferguson** tractor. It's an ultimate pleasure to bale dusty hay in a cool, clean cab."

**Wilbur Easter, Green Ridge, Mo.:** "The hay dries faster and is easy to bale. So far it has been trouble-free. It's made in France," says Wilbur about his **Kuhn** hay rake.

On the negative side, Wilbur has a minor complaint about his **Chevy** Luv diesel pickup. "It is a great little truck but I can't get oil filters for it. They're made in Japan and Chevy dealers don't stock enough of them."

**Dick Cleaveland, Oakland, Iowa:** "Our **International** 1440 Axial Flow combine is my 'best buy,'" says Dick. "It does a good job cleaning the grain without damaging it. On the minus side, I'm very unhappy with the brakes. Unless you weigh 400 lbs. and stand on them, they don't work."

"**Sencor** and **Sutan** were my 'worst buys' of the year," he continues. "I have had little problem with velvet leaf in the past after using Sencor but this year it didn't work. And, wherev-