

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

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Farmers Nominate Best, Worst Buys

Ward R. Reiss, Oak Park, Va.: "My 'best buy' in the past year is FARM SHOW magazine. I read and reread FARM SHOW more than any of the other magazines I receive. I take each issue along to neighbors to point out interesting 'made-it-myself' articles. I don't buy any new farm equipment and am interested mostly in what other guys dream up. Nonetheless, your 'Best, Worst Buys' section is worth the cost of your magazine."

Robert E. Watson, Formoso, Kan.: "I purchased a **Miracle Span** arch-type 50 by 150-ft. steel building in the fall of 1979. Once it was finally completed, it was a pretty good building. But that took a full year and everything possible went wrong. Construction company blamed the sales force and the sales force denied everything. My insurance company replaced nearly the entire structure after it had collapsed three separate times during mid-winter construction."

Max E. Baker, Powell, Wyo.: "He had trouble with "a chemical degreaser from the **Allied Chemical**

without refueling. The nozzle mounting brackets are flimsy and bend easily if a boom end touches the ground. They are fastened with a cheap stamped metal wing nut, which is impossible to remove after the fertilizer rusts it fast. Overall, the product is a bad combination of cheap materials and shoddy workmanship."

On the positive side, Richard is happy with his **Deere** 4440 tractor with Sound Gard cab. "The tractor is quiet and comfort of the cab is superb. One thing I like is that both the engine oil and hydraulic oil reservoir filler caps are set so you can pour directly from a 5 gal. pail without a funnel. Also, the engine uses as little oil as any large diesel engine I've ever seen."

"I'd also like to commend **Deere** for its excellent service publications. They are well written and easily obtainable from the company directly without going through a dealer. That department of Deere in Moline does a good job of processing orders."

A.W. Yowell, Etlan, Va.: "I don't see how we ran the farm before we got our **Caterpillar** 910 diesel wheel loader. We've had it two years and have put 2,000 hrs. on it, averaging 1.5 gal. per hour. It doesn't leak oil and starts easy in winter. We use it for logs, lumber, silage, fencing, pushing in stakes, apple bins, fixing roads, pushing snow, straightening creeks, loading lime and sand, clearing out orchards and, above all, moving hay (two 1,500 lb. bales at once.). The only maintenance problems so far have been three flat tires, and a water pump."

"Our 'worst buy,'" continues Yowell, "is our **Etrin** ear tags. I can't see any difference whatsoever between calves, bulls or cows that have the tags and those that don't. We were running about 10% pinkeye in calves this past summer, about the same as usual. Last year, we used **Rabon** tags, with the same 'zero' results. I realize tags aren't supposed to prevent pink-eye, but they should at least reduce the incidence."

Jack D. Sullivan, Douglas, Wyo.: "Easily attached to a loader and can be run in either direction. Also, the auger bits are very efficient and easily replaced," says Jack, happy with his **McMillen** hydraulic post hole digger.

Merlin Fingarson, Edinburg, N. Dak.: "A skip in the field proved to us how well it worked," says Merlin, pleased with his "best buy" chemical **Hoelon** plus **Brominol**, tank mixed and sprayed on wheat. "Left a clean, weed-free field."

Robert Fenner, Iroquois, S. Dak.: "Well-balanced, easy to raise and lower, quiet and moves grain fast," says Robert, pleased with his "best buy" **Farm King** 7-in., 52-ft. grain auger.

Ted Dyck, Winkler, Man.: He sold his 1980 **Ford** ¾ ton pickup soon after he bought it. "It had a 351 engine but poor power and very poor gas mileage. Also, the box was made so poorly that it was coming apart. I finally sold it and got a 1979 **Chevrolet**."

Anton N. Steiner, Mott, N. Dak.: "My 'best buy' is my 1978 **L2 Gleaner**

Company. This degreaser is supposed to be a concentrate that can be diluted in water. Unfortunately, in that form it was useless and it's too expensive to use straight."

William Beckerman, Mt. Carmel, Ill.: "I cut 65 bu. wheat at 6 mph and it worked as slick as a whistle," says William, pleased with his new **Herschel** combine cutterbar and knives. "It's similar to a White **Kwik-Cut** cutterbar and is great for fast, efficient cutting. You could hardly see the stalks move when cutting until they fell into the auger. I am looking forward to bean harvest in hopes that it will keep shatter loss to a minimum."

Richard E. Stewart, Canisteo, N.Y.: "He nominates his **Century** field crop skid-type pickup-mounted crop sprayer as "worst buy". "The pressure gauge and electronic control panel was eaten up by corrosive liquid fertilizer. The toggle switches on the control panel break easily because they are made of thin plastic. The 8-wire plug broke apart inside after plugging and unplugging three times. On the sprayer itself, the hose clamps are nothing but junk. No stainless steel can be found anywhere on the machine. The gasoline engine is mounted so that the exhaust blows right onto the valve manifold and it has such a small fuel tank that you can't spray out one full spray tank