

## 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

Earl W. Cunningham, Sleepy Eye, Minn.: "We recently purchased an IH '1256D' from our local dealer with a full line of tillage equipment. It was our worst buy ever! When it had run 1,700 hours, we noticed coolant seeping from the side of the block just above one of three stiffeners on the side of the block. When shown to the dealer and district representative, we were told it had been frozen. We strongly disagree. The frost plugs only a few inches away were in good condition and still are. Subsequently, it has developed leaking areas just above all three stiffeners on the side of the block. After writing the company a number of times we are told 'It's out of warranty and there's nothing we can do!'"

"In inquiring from other dealers and service departments, we've learned that our engine design was found to be of inadequate engineering and that many were replaced for the same failure as we've had. We've also been told that the weakness of our engine is so well known that we will be unable to trade it in. Soon after

cause it's so economical to run, we use it whenever we can and park the other tractors," reports Bob, pleased with his Deutz 160-A 4-WD tractor. "We bought it a year ago and have put on 900 hours. It's comfortable, extremely quiet, and has amazing power output for its rated horsepower. We've never turned up the fuel pump. There have been no major problems at all and the service we have needed has been prompt and excellent, though the dealer is 50 miles away."

**Don H. Patterson, Roland, Manitoba:** Don's disappointed with his 18-ft. Versatile pto-powered swather. "I bought the unit new and before I cut 50 acres the pto shaft fell off due to a faulty set-screw. Right after 100 acres, a shaft that drives the rollers twisted off due to a bearing seizure. There was no shaft available for it anywhere in Canada. I rented a neighbor's machine to finish swathing. The manufacturer paid for the rental and the dealer was most cooperative."

On the plus side, Don nominates his 851 New Holland round baler as "best buy". "It's the most trouble-free machine we've ever had on this farm. We've baled 4,000 bales with it and never had one stop or breakdown."

**Dale Whitney, Watertown, S. Dak.:** "I am very pleased with my 2290 Case tractor. It has good power and is relatively easy on fuel for the horsepower it has. Dealer service has been great, too," reports Dale.

He says he's had trouble with Firestone tires on his pickup. "I've had four of them develop bulges in two months. I only had about 1,000 miles on them. Dealer adjustment was lousy."

**Jim D. Hansen, Bloomer, Wis.:** "I have three Leyland tractors and am very happy with them all. In six years, I've had no tractor trouble at all. You have to work them hard to use as much as a gallon per hour of diesel fuel."

"Also, all New Holland machines bought in the last seven years have been good buys. I only had one major problem, and both the company and dealer bent over backwards to help."

**Leslie B. Parker, Jr., Ionia, Iowa:** "We purchased a new 1440 International Axial Flow combine this fall and harvested 550 acres of soybeans and 550 of corn. The combine did an excellent job and we had no problems. Our dealer's service is very good."

"We also rented a Bush Hog Soil Saver. It's field heavy and does a great job."

**Bonnie Denlinger, Mount Joy, Penn.:** "We've had a 2010 John Deere and a Deere 70 tractor for many years and they're worth their weight in gold. They both work like old troupers with almost no problems. On the other hand, our John Deere 2030 is the pits and has been repaired more than the other two tractors together."

**Leland Flory, Callett, Virginia:** "I'm doing it the old way," says Leland, pleased with the used equipment he's bought for use on his small farm. "My John Deere model 'A' tractor, purchased for \$100 and rebuilt for \$475, has been my 'best buy'."

our engine was manufactured, the design was changed.

"We have been long time customers of International Harvester and have been fortunate to have gotten some good engines from them. We still use our "M" tractor, purchased new in 1950 and have had excellent service from it," Earl told FARM SHOW.

**Gary Wilson, Odin, Minn.:** "It was actually fun combining soybeans last fall with our new Massey Ferguson 550 combine," says Gary, happy with his "best buy". "It has plenty of power and puts clean beans in the tank. We didn't have any trouble in harvesting 600 acres of corn and beans. It's easy to service and shields can be opened easily to get at things. We found that two poly belts wore out but our dealer has given us new ones."

**Renken W. Leners, Beatrice, Neb.:** He says his "best buy" nomination goes to Ray Stueckle (Box 1348 Calwell, Idaho 83605) for his book "Combine Settings for Better Harvesting", which he first read about in FARM SHOW. "We even drove 460 miles last year to attend his combine clinic in Scotts Bluff, Neb. His information was a big help in harvesting my big blue stem crop, which I harvest for seed."

**Bob Wenger, Minburn, Iowa:** "Be-