

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

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Farmers Nominate Best, Worst Buys

Randy Jacobs, Alden, Minn.: "Our Badger feed wagon has been a lemon since we got it. In less than a year, the axle tore loose from the frame, which we've rebuilt. There are no bearings, just loose fitting bushings. The drive system is so light that we are always reinforcing the framework around all the shafts. It's just plain built cheap and too light. The service needs improving."

Randy says his "best buy" has been his 1980 Mazda GLC. "For a small car, it has an extremely smooth ride and many convenience items. The gas mileage is great, as high as 38 miles per gallon on trips, loaded with luggage. That's with an automatic transmission. Absolutely no problems and service is super.

"Two other good buys are our Johnson Energy Converter wood burner and our Fence Tight fence crimper. The wood burner has really been a money saver when it comes to heating our big house. The fence crimper tightens all kinds of fences

bank, S.D. They came to check if information about our place was correct, but when I got my copy they had everything wrong. It cost me \$49.40."

Robin Robinson, Lovelady, Tex.: Robin likes his 605 F Vermeer round baler. "This baler has been very dependable and easy to operate. I've had one bearing go out in more than 2,000 rolls of hay. It puts up a consistently tight bale."

Robin's disappointed, however, with his Caraway V-type front end rake. "We purchased the rake from a local dealer and were told it would work well on any tractor in any type of hay. We found the rake caused all of our tractors to overheat, including a 100 hp John Deere. Secondly, it would not rake our thick hay because the hay built up in front of the tractor and made a great mounded windrow that our trailing baler could not begin to handle.

"When we went to the rake dealer for some solutions to our problems, there were none. He told us that we were the only ones having the overheating problem, which was the problem we were most upset by. We tried to trade the rake in to the dealer where we purchased it. He wanted to charge us \$700 for raking about 100 rolls of hay. None of the other dealers in town even wanted to consider a trade with us, including the Vicon dealer who supplies the basic rake to Caraway. They wanted \$3,000 difference between our two-month-old rake and their \$5,600 rake."

Ernest Hayl, Shandon, Calif.: "Our 453 hillside IH combine was so poorly put together that we were broken down most of the time. The dealer and International people tried to blame all the breakdowns on operator neglect. Finally, we showed them that it had been assembled with poor alignment, which put the combine in a continuous strain. They made it better but it certainly cost us in downtime.

"The International dealer in our area quit so we have had a hard time getting service and parts for our IH equipment. It shows that they don't seem to care for their customers. We have purchased IH equipment for over 40 years. We have three IH combines, four crawler tractors and a 4366 wheel tractor."

On the plus side, Ernest says he's pleased with his 30-ft. Marvin cultivator and 4890 Case tractor. "The cultivator is lifted like a sulky rake so you can clean out the trash rapidly by dumping it. The construction is good so there's no problems breaking the frames, and so on. Our Case tractor does a super job. The dealer gives the best service possible."

Wells Raben, Torrington, Wyo.: He's had good luck with his "Skuttle grain moisture tester. It's easy to use, gives accurate readings and is cheaper than competitive models we looked at," he reports.

"I don't have a specific 'worst buy'," Wells adds, "but I think most agricultural people will agree that the service and treatment you receive for most anything you have done in town just isn't as good as it should be. It seems most town people don't care whether they help you or not, just as

quickly without any harm to the wire."

E.K. Habersetzer, Raymond, Wash.: He's happy with his Bauer F111 RD manure pump. "We'd used an older model Bauer pump since the mid 60's and were well satisfied with it. Then, we bought the new F111 series and wow! It puts out more with the tractor at half throttle than the old one did wide open."

On the minus side, he's disappointed with his new Allis Chalmers 185 tractor. "We've been with AC for years. We have a WD 45 that is a great old workhorse and a D17 that can handle a 16-in. three bottom plow at a trot, and now Allis Chalmers puts out a 75 horsepower 185 that won't do any more than the D17 at 55 horsepower."

G.W. Carroll, East Ely, Nev.: He's had problems with his 1980 Dodge 150 4x4 pickup. "The brakes were too small and kept breaking. It had a slant six engine and, with the motor mounts set right under the fuel pump, the pump kept breaking off. The factory installed the wrong front end gear ratio against the rear end. The bed was just caulked, not welded. The pickup was cheaply made."

Marlyn Hefti, Marshall, Minn.: "My 'worst buy' is a County Atlas from Midland Atlas Company in Mil-