

Best And Worst Buys

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Ed Jensen, Logan, Utah: He's disappointed in "Five Star fiberglass tiller rod. The rod did not rotate. It plugged continuously and did a poor job, at best, of leveling the furrows behind a Danish harrow. Finally, it simply snapped in two."

Richard Vane, Vermilion, Alberta: "The transmission knocks and the steering is terrible. It's hard to keep it between the ditches," says Richard, upset with his 1979 Ford 150 pickup. "The dealer has had it in 11 times but can't fix it. He contacted Ford but they say it's alright. The dealer agrees with me but Ford won't do anything. Next time we'll try a GMC."

On the positive side, Richard nominates his Delaval milking equipment as a "best buy". "This milking equipment is a pleasure to work with. We've had no herd health problems with our cows and dealer service has been outstanding."

"Another product that's been a pleasure to own is our 2-60 White 4-wheel drive tractor. It's been trouble-free and does a real fine job with a front end loader," Richard concludes.

Ray Nauman, Norwalk, Wis.: "The advertising claim was that it could handle anything but we found the manure had to have a water-like consistency or it couldn't handle it," says Ray, who was disappointed when he tried, but did not purchase a Better-Bilt liquid manure spreader with 3,200 gal. capacity.

On the plus side, he's happy with his Delaval 300 milking equipment. "The system really does a nice job and milking our herd of 100 cows takes about 2 hrs. time with 2 people and six units. Milk-out is very good and mastitis is kept at a minimum. People enjoy using it."

Oskar Heller, Scotia, N.Y.: His "best buys" are his 1090 Gehl mower conditioner and his International 550 manure spreader. "I used the mower-conditioner all last year and had no trouble at all. A great machine in cutting more than 150 acres. Dealer service was very good. I used the spreader all winter with no trouble either. Dealer service is fair."

He's unhappy with his DuraCraft Bench drill press. "The first and second motors didn't work. The third motor works but it took 4 months to get that taken care of. Looks good but the workmanship is lousy," he told FARM SHOW.

Leonard E. Dicke, Sheridan, Ill.: "My worst buy nomination is a Carrier heat pump installed by Backwood Sheet Metal, of Ottawa, Ill.

about \$4,000. Complaints to the company and the installer produced no result. The installer charged \$47 to check the unit and state that nothing was wrong. The Carrier Company did not respond to a letter of complaint."

On the plus side, Leonard likes his Case skid loader. "It's the most useful and dependable piece of equipment on my farm. Have found 101 uses for it, with no problems after three years of service."

William J. Lauckner, Nashua, Mont.: "We harvest 2,000 acres of wheat each year and our down time is nil," reports William, pleased with his Deere 6620 combine with 22-ft. header. "It handles like a dream and is quiet and comfortable in the cab. Good service from our John Deere dealer."

Earl McDonald, Ogden, Ill.: "I'm disappointed with M & W Gear's spacers for dual tractor wheels that let you plant and cultivate with duals on. They were loose fitting and let the dual come loose. So, I traded them off for DMI spacer rings, which fit tight and work excellent."

On the positive side, Earl nominates his 12-row John Deere 7000 Max-Emerge planter as a "best buy". "I had an 8-row and liked the way it sowed seed with no maintenance or down time. That prompted me to go to a 12-row when I rented more land."

J.L. McIlroy, Red Deer, Alberta: "We recently purchased a used Versatile field cultivator. It does an excellent job in our rocky field, standing up to all the punishment. Really a good machine."

"On the minus side, I received a Black and Decker cordless drill as a Christmas present. It was a 3-piece unit with a charger, handle and the drill. The problem was that the handle was missing. They're sold as separate pieces. I tried to locate a handle. None were available at any price. After a big argument, the store took it back. However, they had their remaining units on sale and would only refund the sale price. They must have discontinued making them as I have looked for them and they don't seem to be available."

James F. Burton, Tilley, Alberta: "We grow alfalfa seed and need a combine that's easy to set and does a clean job. The 8700 fills the bill without throwing seed over. Very pleased," says James about his White combine.

He's unhappy, though, with "Torch herbicide used with Hoegrass. I used Torch and Hoegrass mixed. The Torch didn't even kill wild mustard, which is one of the easiest weeds to kill, and the Hoegrass only turned the wild oats brown before they shot up. Very unhappy with these chemicals."

Harold Kannel, Arkansaw, Wis.: He's displeased with his Vaughn manure pump with a Ronk motor from Hedlund Manufacturing. "The chopper pump is a delicate machine that can't tolerate soil, lime, stones, metal or strings. We've installed the

third cutterblade and bar in only 7 months. The Ronk motor and switch leave a lot to be desired. The 20 hp. was too small and the switch snapped out on load. Traded for a 30 hp. motor. It runs the pump faster, but will not stay running. Ten minutes is all it can take."

Floyd Schaefer, Bellevue, Iowa: "We chopped corn that was blown down so bad one could scarcely see the rows but that 4-row head saved it all," reports Floyd, pleased with his New Holland 1895 forage harvester. "There were a few mechanical problems but they were promptly corrected. Their metal detector is unbelievably effective. It'll stop the feeder upon detecting even light gauge electric fence wire less than 6 in. long. Words can hardly describe how smooth this machine works."

Junior Mathias, Birmingham, Iowa: Junior's pleased with his new

"Their metal detector is unbelievably effective."

Longwood Dualfuel furnace installed last December. "With the old furnace, we used 200 gal. of oil in November, 1980. From December to February, using the new furnace, we used just 50 gal. of oil. It doesn't use large amounts of wood and does maintain even room temperatures. No problems so far."

"Another good buy was our Allis Chalmers 1300 series 23-ft., 6-in. wing fold cultivator. We have had no problems at all with it."

On the "worst buy" side, Junior says he's had trouble with the input shaft and bearings on his F Gleaner combine. "The original lasted five years and the replacement lasted five hours. After three shafts and bearing sets, we finally harvested with \$1,500 spent and no answer for our problems. Last fall, after a year, the company did admit the shafts they were selling were supposed to have been recalled. Our dealer finally obtained all new parts plus a new housing at company expense."

Junior's also pleased with his Deere 7100 folding 8-row planter, but has a suggestion for the manufacturer: "The adjusting gate settings for insecticide and herbicide boxes are different. We failed to catch the differences until we started planting. Then, we discovered one setting is for insecticide and the other for herbicides. Deere should put out more information to their dealers specifying which is which."

James Van Houten, Clarence, Mo.: "My worst buy was a set of four Mansfield L78 rough tread tires. After only 5,000 miles they started to go flat. When I took one off to repair it, the wire was sticking out inside and outside and could not be repaired. I finally got one adjusted by buying two more. The other three had to be junked because the dealer said the manufacturer had gone out of busi-

ness," says James. He nominates his Ford F150 4x4 pickup as his best buy: "I get 14 1/2 mpg, which is five better than I have ever been able to get on a competitive brand. Handles like a dream."

John Mack, Amboy, Minn.: "He's pleased with his Pioneer P41 chain saw. "Its 5 cc. engine has plenty of power and is easy to start. The 24-in. blade tackles the big ones. Engine and handle are separated by rubber mounts that really cut down the vibration."

John Knutson, Cottonwood, S. Dak.: "I'd like to see more of the quality and ruggedness of industrial equipment in farm machinery, although I know the cost of this machine would be prohibitive in many instances," says John, pleased with his Michigan 35 AWS 4-wheel drive front-end loader. "Since using big round bales, I'd had spindle, bearing and steering problems with my old loader tractor. I finally replaced it with the Michigan. It's outperformed any farm tractor and loader I've ever used."

Curtis Wegner, Paynesville, Minn.: He's happy with his Case 2290 and 990 tractors. "I'm having some hydraulic charge pump trouble on the 2290 but the dealer has given good service. The 990 has been good with no trouble except for a fuel leak in the return line which the dealer took care of right away. Real pleased with these tractors and the service."

E. Scott Woodard, Jr., Ringgold, La.: "We've never had this kind of service on farm equipment or, for that matter, anything," says Scott, pleased with the dealer followup on his Massey Ferguson 2705 tractor. "Other than an imperfection in the casting of the front axle, we're very satisfied."

His "worst buy" nomination goes to his Gilmore-Tatge portable holding bin. "The cone sheets wouldn't fit together. Just a son of a gun to put together. It took three men four days to assemble the 9-ft. dia. 500 bushel portable bin."

Jim Jirava, Ogema, Minn.: "This baler has never baled 15 bales at any one time since it was new," Jim says about his Vermeer 605 Super C round baler. "The belts turn over every 4 to 5 bales, the slip clutch isn't big enough for the machine, and any little gob of hay will plug it."

His "best buys" include an International 800 hinge plow and his 6-in. Vac-U-Vator pneumatic grain mover. "I've put just \$12 into this plow in three years of plowing. Works well under any condition and follows varying ground contours. The Vac-U-Vator moves grain with ease and a minimum of trouble. Dealer service is good."

"The installer charged \$47 to state that nothing was wrong."

The product does not maintain a comfortable room temperature. It cost