

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

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Farmers Nominate Best, Worst Buys

Dennis Kampen, Breckenridge, Mo.: "We had trouble from the start," says Dennis, upset with his International 2 plus 2 3588 tractor. "At 50 hours, the main transfer case went out. With the strike on, getting parts was a problem. After it was returned from the shop, we did not even make it across the field when the hydraulic pump went out. After that was repaired, in the middle of spring planting, a bolt left inside the torque amplifier at the factory ran up through the gears. As our saddle tanks were designed just for a 2 plus 2, we had to stop spring work as we could not incorporate our chemicals. Our local dealer did all he could, including spraying some of our ground, but the district representatives could have cared less. No replacement tractor was given to us. We were down for 12 days during planting. Other problems, such as the hood rolling off the tractor and bending, and several gauge malfunctions, have plagued us. The design and fuel consumption are great but

Larry. "They're very stable on rolling ground, have large capacity, and are easy to service. Belt drive delivers forage to the blower evenly from start to finish."

Roman L. Stoltzfoos, Free Union, Va.: "This fencer will shock through weeds like no other fencer. Half the cost or less of regular fence and easy to erect," reports Roman, happy with his Gallagher electric fencer and high tensile fencing system from Brookside Fencing, Turnbridge, Vermont. "I put up my fence and didn't check it for over a year and it was still putting out a good shock. The wire is spring-loaded and I had it running through brushy country. One time, a big round bale rolled right over it without any damage whatsoever. No one could sell me any other type of fence, both for its dependability and ease of erection."

Roman's had some trouble with his Sears 225 amp welder. "It doesn't do a real good job of welding like we'd like to see. It's hard to start the arc and harder yet to hold it after we get it. Just not a heavy-duty farm welder. Also had trouble with the cooling fan. And it doesn't have D.C., which makes it unhandy to weld certain metals."

Ellsworth Olson, Madison, Minn.: "I like my new 8640 Deere 4-wheel drive tractor. Haven't had any major mechanical problems, and I enjoy operating it as it has a good seat and convenient controls. Seems to have good power and fuel efficiency."

Ray Bedel, Metamora, Ind.: "For the livestock farmer, there's nothing like it," says Ray, pleased with his AO Smith Harvestore 2080 and 2535 silos. "We were grinding and mixing our own feed before and it became a daily chore. Now, with the flip of a switch, we have the best feed obtainable without the hassle. You only have to handle the feed once — when you put it in."

"We also like our Slurrystore. Lets us hold manure from the dairy until time and weather let us put it on our fields."

On the minus side, Ray registers this complaint about his Massey Ferguson 180 tractor: "Had to have the multipower system worked on twice in one season. Also, the starter locks up on cold days."

A.J. McCashin, Jr., Mocksville, N.C.: He says all his "best buys" are New Holland equipment. "We like our 479 Haybine, our 263 baler, our 1001 bale wagon and our manure spreader. They all take little maintenance and we get the best service."

Kenneth and Gail Johnson, Menomonie, Wis.: "We were only getting 4 mpg until they adjusted it," say Kenneth and Gail, pleased with their 1979 4x4 heavy-duty 1/2 ton truck. "After they adjusted it, we now get 14 to 15 mpg. The truck is comfortable riding. The four-wheel drive is nice to have when you get in deep snow or mud, and the box size is just right for our needs. We use the truck every day for our repair shop. Another good buy is our 50-ton hydraulic press from the Owatonna Tool Co., Owatonna, Minn. Don't have to worry about running out of power!"

The Johnsons add that "FARM

International's field representatives and their factory people have turned us away from red tractors."

Dennis is well satisfied, however, with another International product, his 490 disk. "Our 490 is built heavy enough to handle the everyday strain put on it. Easy to maintain and pulls easier than most other makes," he says.

Lester Versteeg, Monmouth, Ore.: "I ordered a grain cleaner on Nov. 16, 1980 from Grain King Corp., in Minneapolis, Minn. They requested full payment by cashier's check (\$3,952) which I sent. They promised delivery by Dec. 16 as I was scheduled to put it into service at that time. The machine finally arrived Jan. 13 but it was incomplete so I could not use it. I had to have my wheat cleaned commercially. Numerous phone calls were made to the company but the salesman and manager were always unavailable. A certified letter was sent but again no response.

"The company has my money and I have a machine that is absolutely useless. This is definitely my worst buy of all time," Lester told FARM SHOW.

Larry Manternach, Cascade, Iowa: "My two John Deere 716A chopper boxes, mounted on Deere tandem axle wagons, are best buys," says