

Best And Worst Buys

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drawback is that it's noisy, has seemingly no insulation, has a 'boulevard clunk' in the front suspension, and doesn't ride well even with radial tires. I put a topper on the box because, when I took my wife along to town, there wasn't room for more than one sack of groceries between us."

Stephen Aberle, Sabetha, Kan.: "My 125 Yamaha Enduro is one of the best investments I ever made. Dependable, economical and durable, it's slow enough to check fences, crops or cattle, yet travels 55 to 60 mph. on the road. Whenever working away from home, it goes with me, carried on the tractor, truck or combine. The suspension system on the '78 and later models is a great improvement over earlier models. The only maintenance on the first 6,000 mi. was changing plugs, a set of points, and cleaning carbon out of the muffler."

Gregg Toombs, Rosemount, Minn.: Gregg's "best buy" is his International 1450 Cub Cadet purchased new last year. "The hydrostatic transmission is better than a regular gearbox 4-speed, always delivering constant power to the wheels. We use the tractor for hauling wood and, with chains on, you can go anywhere. The best thing about it is you can load it in the pickup and haul it with you to the job."

Another good buy was his McCulloch Pro Mac 10-10 chainsaw. "We've never touched the motor. All we have to do is keep a sharp chain on it," says Gregg. "It has more than enough power, and the best feature is probably the chain brake. If it didn't have it, I would have cut my leg badly on one close call. Always have had good luck with McCulloch chain saws."

Gregg's had trouble, though, with his 1980 Arctic Cat Pantera snowmobile: "Soon after we got it, the brakes were re-called back but mine had already gone out. Then the drive clutch exploded. My parents have Panteras and on their machines clutches shattered, too. Also, the center of gravity is too high and this makes it tipsy in deep snow or taking a corner. When warm, they're hard to start."

J. M. Thompson, Oxford, Nova Scotia: "My 'best buys' are my 1/2-in. J.E.T. drill press made in Japan, and a 25-ton Christensen hydraulic press made in Denmark," says Thompson, a machinist who farms on the side. "The best feature of the drill press is that the table moves up and down easily by means of a little crank acting on a rack and pinion. A great timesaver when drilling pieces of different heights, or changing drills of varying lengths. The table also angles and swings easily."

"The hydraulic press operates by means of two foot pedals for fast and slow speeds, leaving your hands free to hold the work."

"Another good product, which was

a gift, is my Sear's model 2003 credit card size calculator, which fits neatly into a shirt pocket. Convenient and a great buy for anyone who needs to do a lot of figuring in a hurry on the spur of the moment."

Tom Betz, Springport, Mich.: "I would like to nominate my Rufeeder from the Feterl Mfg. Co. as a worst buy. It is of poor quality and has some design problems. The quality problems are: Too light steel used on the dividers and in the steering system, poor welds on the dividers, and poor heat treatment on the spindle steering arms — one was brittle and the other soft, and the tie rod ends were a farce."

"The wheels are so wide they run over the feet of cattle. Three broken legs so far."

"As for design problems, it's hard to move the wagon with cattle around because the wheels are so wide they run over the feet of cattle. Three broken legs so far. The ridge in the middle of the wagon makes a prop to hold up ensilage so it won't fall down where the cattle can eat it. The position of grease zerks on the front spindles make them nearly impossible to grease. Finally, the steering yoke should be reinforced where the tongue hooks on."

Robert S. Shore, Greenfield, Ind.: "I would suggest to people that they try to buy a dryer that is manufactured as close to home as possible," Robert told FARM SHOW after his experiences with a Superior 7 by 24-ft. bin with a Helifoil vain axle fan and dryer. "The first time we started the motor on the fan, the capacitors burned out. My distributor put on a new motor. Last fall, I dried a bin full and sold half, then refilled with wet corn. Tried to restart the dryer motor and finish drying, but it wouldn't start. Took the motor off, and found a wire inside had touched the casing and burned up the motor."

"We tried to find a motor close by, but couldn't. Finally, we located one in Nebraska. My distributor did everything he could to help, but I still had the wet corn in the bin for a month before I got the motor."

Roy Frenzel, Northome, Minn.: He's had trouble with his Minnesota 160 manure spreader. "Shortly after buying it, the belts stretched out and had to be replaced. Then, the apron chain broke and the bolts in the frame had to be retightened."

Marshall Alford, Jr., Moores Hill, Ind.: Marshall's pleased with his Deere 7000 Max-Emerge planter. "Spacing and depth stay the same regardless of what speed you are going. A pleasure to use."

He also nominates "Trazco soil penetrant" as a best buy. "I used it on 30 acres last year and the field was drier — not muddy like the rest of the fields. We had a wet fall and the treated field was easier to harvest. This year, I'm using it on everything."

Don Findlay, St. Johns, Mich.: At the top of his "worst buy" list is his "Midwest truck rack with fold-down stock racks. The 16-ft. fold-down sides are too heavy and cumbersome for one man to put up and down easily. I would like to see some company come up with 8-ft. sections for easy handling."

On the positive side, Don's happy with his Stihl 041 AV chain saw. "The dealer checked it out before we took it home and we've had absolutely no trouble. With the rubber mounting that cuts down on vibration and its ease of handling, it has been a joy to operate."

Also on Don's "best buy" list is Roundup herbicide from Monsanto: "We've had good results with it."

Mark Sproul, Ringwood, Okla.: "Can't be beat for stamina and versatility on our small acreage operation," says Mark, happy with his "best buy" 1979 6-cyl. pickup. "For an all-around vehicle, it gets good gas mileage and rides as smooth as a car."

"I'd also put FARM SHOW on my 'best buy' list," adds Mark. "I wouldn't be without it."

William Senkel, Winner, S. Dak.: He's pleased with his C-10 Chevy diesel pickup. "After 15,000 miles, this is the best pickup I've ever driven. Averages 20 miles to the gallon and starts good in cold weather. Dealer service has been great."

John R. Cooley, Monon, Ind.: "It was the most cold-blooded thing I ever owned," says John about the "worst buy" 14-in. Homelite chain saw he no longer owns. "I also spent as much time sharpening the chain as I did cutting wood."

On the other hand, John nominates his 16-in. Echo CS-351 chain saw as a "best buy". "I've run more than two gal. of gas through it and have only had to lightly file the chain once. Starts easy in cold weather."

David C. Moore, Coleman, Mich.: "It's a 'boss' alright. When it doesn't want to run, it won't," says David, upset with his "worst buy" Stihl 041 Farm Boss chain saw. "It hasn't run right from day one. We've had it to two different Stihl dealers and it still doesn't run right for more than one tree. This is our first and last Stihl saw."

David also reports that he's had problems with "six two-speed electric motors made by Marathon Electric Company, of Wausau, Wis. They came with a Northco ventilating system for our hog barn. Out of the six motors, three are in the junk pile and the rest have been re-built."

Heading David's "best buy" list is a used John Deere 5020 tractor. "Although it had 4,000 hours on it when I got it, the only repairs it has needed in two years' use has been a \$5 oil line. Drives as nice as a small tractor."

Jay Elsassner, Kenton, Ohio: Jay says about the only improvement he'd make on his Allis Chalmers 7000

tractor is to enlarge the cab. "Otherwise, we've had no trouble so far. Plenty of power and torque and we're very pleased with the 301 turbo-charged engine and power shift transmission. Have had AC tractors and combines for the past 10 years and am very pleased with them."

Joseph Heim, Dell Rapids, S. Dak.: "It's a little lighter than the John Deere I had and has performed real well. The Kohler engine gave me trouble, though," says Joseph, who's well pleased, nonetheless, with his Lehman skid loader, powered by a Kohler engine. "First, it was out of time and hard starting. Then, the head on one cylinder came loose so a gasket blew. Both times, though, the service was super and problems were fixed in a short time. One other negative is that the throttle, switch and choke levers are in an awkward position."

Warren Walker, Niles, Mich.: "This pickup was designed with the farmer in mind," reports Warren about his "best buy" Ford F-150 pickup with jump seats. "Besides the load on the truck, you can haul just about anything behind the front seat — hand tools, clothes, traps, tie-straps — you name it. If needed, you can even carry three extra people, plus three in the front seat."

"As another 'best buy', our Snapper riding lawn mower has been unbelievable," says Warren. "Our teenage sons run it. Has a 30-in. blade with the motor mounted in the rear. It's easy to handle and fast moving."

Ronnie Scott, Coalmont, Tenn.: "Does an excellent job cutting down and tangled hay, and a much better job of turning windrows than a rake."

"Only drawback is that I've been plagued with small breakdowns."

The only drawback with this machine is that I've been plagued with small breakdowns. Hope it straightens out this year," says Ronnie about his New Idea 272 Cut-Ditioner.

Commenting on his Sear's electric impact wrench, Ronnie says that, "The wrench itself is a good tool. The problem is in the chuck which converts it to a 1/2-in. drill. There's nothing to hold it on, so it comes off when withdrawing the bit, especially in wood. Overhead drilling is dangerous. Be on guard!"

Orville Mielke, Sauk Rapids, Minn.: "Except for a problem at first with a fuel switch, we really think this is a great tractor," states Orville about his Massey Ferguson 2745. "The Perkins V-8 really performs with excellent power. After 200 hrs. of forage chopping, we've had no problems at all. Has an excellent and quiet cab."

Orville adds that another good buy he made was the milk heat exchanger for his parlor milking setup. "The exchanger, from P.E.C. in Madison,