

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

by Harold M. Johnson
Editor

Farmers Nominate Best, Worst Buys

"It's a shame they did not do better with a good idea. I think they should recall them and furnish us a combine as good as they wanted us to think we were buying," says George Ruppel, Vincennes, Ind., who is disappointed with some features on his International Axial-Flow "rotary" combine.

On the plus side, George notes that, "the machine is build around what appears to be a better threshing setup than the usual cylinder. It has a quiet cab which I wish was fully centered. I think the rear mounted motor is in a good place and also the fuel tank. In 130 acres of beans with some bad spots of weeds and grass, we had no stops due to rotor wrapping or plugging — even in green, viney black beans.

"On the minus side, the machine shows a real lack of plain common sense on the part of those who designed it. Many simple, easily available conveniences are lacking. They left too many corners, pockets, ledges, and flat irons to hold grain in a tank that should be self cleaning,

and have yet to shear a pin."

Darrell is disappointed with his "Farmhand grinder-mixer Model 830. Nothing but trouble with it since the day I bought it. Every time I wanted to grind, something would break. After a breakdown, the company would send repairs which took about a week to get here. They replaced about 3 gear boxes, 2 hammermill drive shafts, the vertical auger and other miscellaneous parts. The company even took it to the factory for a week. I was lucky to have a good dealer who let me use one of his used ones while I was broke down."

Darrell adds that "I bought from Agri-Electronics Co., of Bloomington, Minn., a bird chaser which is supposed to keep birds out of metal, un-insulated buildings. Supposed to put out a high pitched sound. The sparrows sit right beside the electric box and it doesn't bother them at all."

Edward Shute, Red Cloud, Neb.: On the plus side, he's well pleased with his Deere 1214 pull-type swather. "This machine ran all summer with no breakdowns. It came from the dealer serviced and ready to go. Was one of the few machines I have bought lately that has good workmanship."

On the minus side, Edward is disappointed with "Genesis II and Medina soil conditioners. I used these 2 products on irrigated corn ground — fortunately, on a relatively small scale. Both of these products were used like the company suggested. They did no more good than the water carrier applied with them.

Donald Griffith, Glenwood, Mo.: "The best buy I have ever made in haying equipment is my Vicon disk mower. After owning mowers by Deere, International and David Bradley, and windrowers by Hesston, New Holland and Deere, and an MC Rotary Scythe, I wish very much that I could have had a Vicon 34 years ago. We mowed 710 acres of hay last summer and never had to stop mowing, despite a lot of rocks and multi-flora rosa. We replaced a few blades but never had to stop mowing because of rock damage or rain. Mowed many acres at night. Mowing in conjunction with a New Holland windrower in alfalfa, the Vicon-mowed hay was able to be baled in big bales a day before the windrowed hay, beating a disastrous 4 in. rain."

Larry Hoover, Millersport, Ohio: "My best purchase is a Deere 6600 combine with Flex-Header and 6 row cornhead. I am very pleased with the header. You just place it on automatic and lower the header to combine beans. You never have to adjust header height during combining — just put the control on automatic. No broken guards and no dirt in the bin."

Also on Larry's "best buy" list is Rid-A-Bird, a product he first read about in FARM SHOW. Manufactured by the Rid-a-Bird Co., Muscatine, Iowa, it uses a "poison perch" which is laced with a chemical, to keep unwanted birds out of buildings. "It works," says Larry.

Also, there are many places inside the main machine where trash, dust and grain mixture collect — bushels of it. The floating cutterbar is not built for easy, smooth feed to the platform auger. Even after being checked by the dealer, the brakes are nearly worthless. The gear shift does not operate as positively and accurately as it should for safety."

George adds that one of the "best buys" he made last year was a Deere 7000 Max-Emerge 8-row corn and bean planter with Tru-Vee double disk openers. "The position of the depth regulating wheels is a big help toward accurate planting. The folding tongue is fine for road transportation. After thorough adjustment and tightening to make up for some sloppy assembly, and adding some improvements of our own, I think we have a good planter."

Here's how other randomly-selected FARM SHOW readers size-up "best" and "worst" buys they've made recently:

Darrell Jensen, Hamlin, Iowa: He nominates a Gehl 1200 chopper with corn and hay heads as his "best" buy. "I cut all my oats, hay and quite a few acres of corn, plus my son's and neighbors, and all the trouble we had was a loose set screw on one bearing lock collar. No end to the capacity. I pull it with an IHC 1586 with 165 hp.