

"Best" and "Worst" Buys

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heavy, above-average construction of the disk."

Also on his "best buy" list is "the 1976 GMC 4 wheel drive truck my dad purchased. We have used the truck to do everything from hauling fuel to tractors in the field to pulling wagonloads of corn out of fields. We're well pleased with the 400 cu. in. motor. It seems to have all the power we need and the automatic transmission with the full-time 4 wheel drive makes it easy enough for my Mom to use it to get to work and back in bad weather. The one complaint would have to be the poor mileage — only 7 to 9 mph."

Larry Hoover, Millersport, Ohio: Heading his "best buy" list is a Speedy 500 gal., low-profile sprayer with 47 ft. booms. "This sprayer has walking tandem axles with 11L by 15 flotation tires. It walks over the ground without bouncing and jumping around. The booms also ride on walking axles, which keep them at the correct height and without bouncing."

Larry's disappointed with his 1610 A International truck with 5 speed transmission and 2-speed axle. "The transmission has gone bad 6 times — the first time was two weeks after purchase and continuing at approximately 6 months intervals. The company admits that this model transmission has been bad and has installed a correction kit twice — with 2 failures. Now, I'm facing the bill for the 6th repair job and I have been without the truck a total of 14 weeks in all. Needless to say, as far as I'm concerned, the integrity of IHC has been seriously damaged in my eyes."

Allen Blum, Wakarusa, Kan.: "Never again! I lost at least 25% of my stand and that which survived was stunted," says Allen who nominates "Bladex herbicide for milo" as a worst buy. "This product was first advertised for milo for the 1977 crop year. I was interested because there is no carryover problem and I used it as a tank mix with Ramrod. My calibration was right on the money and the product was mixed and sprayed in accordance with label directions. Part of the same field, planted the same day with the same seed variety and the same planting rate, was sprayed with Ramrod only, followed by a post emergence spraying of 2-4D. You could see the tremendous difference right to the row. The portion of the field sprayed with Ramrod followed by 2-4D yielded nearly twice as much as that sprayed with Bladex-Ramrod."

Marvin Muntz, Holgate, Ohio: He's well pleased with his Glencoe field cultivator ("best tillage tool we have bought yet") but he doesn't like the rear-mounted leveling attachment behind it: "Some of these leveling spike-tooth harrows are too stiff to do a good job of raking. They're just not flexible and leave the ground too coarse. They may work in trashy soil but not in fine ground."

Marvin adds that "we're getting excellent results with Amiben on soybeans followed broadcast a week after planting as a post-premerge herbicide. This method of application extends the effective weed killing power an extra week and leaves the bean field in a hand-hoed state two months later."

Wilmer Kreger, Kunkletown, Pa.: "Best designed machine to come down the road in a long while. Planting units do a very good job of plant-

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ing corn at uniform depth," says Wilmer of his Deere 7000 corn planter.

He's also happy with his Athens 131 disk ("Real good machine after installing dual tires") but unhappy with a "12 in. post hole digger sold by Central Tractor. Power takeoff shaft twisted off 3 times in the process of digging 175 holes. Company finally replaced the shaft with a heavier one."

Eugene Kaltenheuser, Elkhart, Iowa: "Dependable, lots of power, good fuel economy and a pleasure to drive," says Eugene of his Deere 8630 tractor.

Wayne Haffner, Haffner Bros., Good Hope, Ill.: "Our new 8 row Cyclo 400 planter with disk openers allows us to plant in much more varied soil conditions. The disk openers cut through trash or a light crust. In some cases, it saves us a trip over the field," explains Wayne.

He faults his Hillsboro gooseneck trailer (3 axle) for poor brakes: "The electric brakes have never worked properly. Wire connections are exposed at the tire. Connections corrode and, after we replaced them with soldered connections, we still get one set of wheels sliding before the other two take hold."

Joe Shirley, Alva, Okl.: "Everything is great on it except the cheap tires," he says of his Sooner 6 x 16 ft. stock trailer. "It pulls easy and handles well fully loaded. The wiring is well placed so that it doesn't shake loose during trips across the pasture."

Joe reports "all kinds of small breakdowns" with his Dodge 3/4 ton 4WD pickup. "Had to rebuild the carburetor 3 times in 36,000 miles and the rear brakes once. It's now using 1 qt. of oil in 500 miles — and I've only got 36,000 miles on it. And I've changed oil every 2,000 miles."

Lewis Donaldson, Hackettstown, N.J.: He's "sold" on his Ford 9700. "The first Ford tractor I've owned. The power this tractor has is unbelievable. The cab is excellent and

noise free, and it has a very good air conditioner."

Lewis is also happy with the Ford 150 pickup. "It's a 6 cyl. — have owned several Ford pickup trucks before but they were 8 cylinder."

Neil Haight, Helena, Mt.: "Your best and worst buy column is the best thing I've seen in years. And FARM SHOW is my best purchase."

Raymond Humpherys, Thayne, Wyo.: He reports "very good results" with his McCulloch portable 3000 electric generator. "I like it because it has no brushes. Maintenance has been nothing, even though the unit went through the Rexburg flood and was submerged in water 3 days."

Raymond reports poor results with "a battery additive VX6 sold by National Dynamics Corp. which guarantees no more battery trouble for the life of your car. I followed instructions carefully. Fourteen car and truck batteries were used in the test. No improvement was noticed. But, without exception, all batteries became worthless in 3 years from the time the additive was added to them."

Sam Kingma, Lowell, Ind.: "Why doesn't John Deere make a 20 in. Max-Emerge planter?" asks Sam. "I bought a Deere 7000 planter with the idea of redesigning it myself to a 20 in. planter but struck a snag or two that the manufacturer could have easily corrected so it would work."

Sam adds that his Deere 4240 tractor "has done all I expected it to do. I think it refutes the idea that the dealers tell us — that we need a size larger tractor and more dollar tractor."

Bill Kuntz, Park, Kan.: "A very good tractor for power and comfort," says Bill of his Case 1978 model 1570 tractor. He also compliments the dealer for coming out to repair some minor items.

But also is well pleased with his Schueler feedwagon B-125. "It's a simple machine. No gear boxes. Cleans out the bottom real good and can be used as a grain wagon if needed. It is sealed real good. Haven't had a bit of trouble with it yet."

Also on his "best buy" list is Conklin's Rapid Roof, which he first read about in FARM SHOW. "Purchased a five gal. can of Rapid Roof for roofing a tin shed. It sure did seal excellent and is much cooler. It's an excellent product. Does not crack."

Neal Anderson, Bowman, N. Dak.: "We've had tremendous luck with this tractor," says Neal of his 750 Versatile 4WD. "There hasn't been one bit of downtime and, today, that's what counts. We have had 3 Versatile tractors, with one of them down for only 2 hrs. due to battery failure. We're tickled. On the other hand, with the Versatile tractor in this country, service is very poor from the dealer. The dealer doesn't have any mechanics that can work on Cummins engines. The nearest service is 80 miles away — not too good if there is downtime."

Glen Carlson, Lena, Ill.: "I bought a Deere 1600 chisel plow and found it very satisfactory. There has been no clogging or bunching of crop residue, and no breakage. It operates evenly at

the desired depth. I replaced the twisted shovels with 14 in. sweeps in the spring. They prepare a good minimum tillage seedbed after one disking of cornstalks."

Charles Crane, Pleasantville, Iowa: "My son purchased some Pax waterers. The advertising terms were far beyond actual performance. Hogs would work the corks out and let themselves out of water in the summer. The waterers also were hard to heat in winter," says Charles. He adds that he is well pleased with his "best buy" Gleaner F2 combine: "It does everything I ask of it and is real quiet and comfortable in the cab. This is the second F series combine I have owned. I sure would buy another."

Bill Knoff, Nashatah, Wis.: "Why must the farmer who pays for high priced machinery make all the modifications necessary to get it to run right? I had so many problems I finally got rid of it and went to 30 in. rows," says Bill of his "Burch twin row corn planter. Everything went wrong with it. Chains kept breaking with no slack adjustments on them. Bushings were used instead of bearings. No monitor available until I adapted one to work."

Bill is well pleased with his Glencoe Soil Saver. "It's a chisel plow with twisted shovels, and with cutting disks in front. Does an excellent job of saving time and no breakdowns. Built very rugged and needs

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15 hp. per shank to do a good job. We go about 6½ - 7 mph. Rocks are no problem with the disks in front — they give when encountering obstacles."

Bill also nominates his New Holland 1400 diesel combine as a best buy. "Very well made. No problems in 3 years. Wouldn't be without the monitor. It does an excellent job of telling you when something is wrong. Only thing that could be improved is the service platform on the side of the machine — it could be made wider, and some moving parts could be made more accessible for service work."

Bill adds that his Case 1070 and 1370 tractors "have excellent cabs — both for comfort and visibility and noise. Servicing is very easy. Never any problems with the power shift."

Herbert Steinke, Vendon, Neb.: He notes that his "best buy" Deutz 8006 tractor "is well put together and runs on comparatively little fuel. Get good service from the company and dealer."