

BUYING TIPS YOU CAN USE

We asked randomly selected farmers to "tell it like it is" in nominating their "best" and "worst" buys in the past 12 months.

by Harold M. Johnson
Editor

Farmers Nominate Best, Worst Buys

"This proves that if machinery companies would cooperate instead of fight, we could have some truly fine mix and match equipment combinations," said Clarence Folkerts, Carleton, Neb., in nominating the "best buy" he's made this year.

His nomination: A "hybrid" planter, consisting of an Orthman folding toolbar, bed shaper and two six-row International Harvester Cyclo blower modules. "It's a magnificent piece of equipment for getting a lot of corn planted quickly without trouble," Clarence noted, adding that "the excellent cooperation from the IH dealer in Lexington made it possible."

Another "hybrid" earned a "best buy" vote from Murray Peterson, of Stromsburg, Neb. He built a home-made crop drier using a combination of Behlen and Neco products: "We put up a 34 ft. Behlen bin three rings high and without a roof. It has a false bottom floor with a pit underneath for even air flow and a 48 in. Behlen fan powered by a 440 Chrysler engine. We put in a Neco 'dry flow' dryer system. It will dry 600 to 700 bu. per hour and we only have to run it during picking hours."

Here's what other randomly-

caught on fire before two hours of operation because of a shorted wire. We found wires tightened down under bolt heads, thus cutting the wires and causing shorts. The whole wiring harness had to be replaced. There were bolts missing, bolts with no nuts, and pulleys with no set screws." Thanks to a good dealer, Neal got the problems ironed out. That same dealer sold him an Allis Chalmers 7040 tractor which, he says, "has done everything they said it would do. My hired help loves it and it's a pleasure to drive. It has all the power we need," says Neal, who adds that his recently-purchased Kewanee 1000 series 18 ft. disk with hydraulic wings is "the best disk I've ever owned".

Joe Elpers, Evansville, Ind., figures improper placement of fertilizer disks on his new Deere Max-Emerge planter cost him "at least 6,000 to 8,000 bu. of corn" this year. "The dealer placed the disks exactly in front of the planting disks. I questioned him two times about this placement and he said it was the way farmers are doing it now. His placement of the disks made it impossible for the Max-Emerge unit to plant at a uniform depth. The dealer, and a man from Deere, do not feel it was any fault of theirs even though I twice questioned the dealer and his foreman about placement of the disks before planting."

Several companies earned both "brickbats and bouquets" from recent purchasers of their products: These companies included:

New Holland: On the plus side, William Fetz, Maiden Rock, Wis., says he's well pleased with his model 495 Haybine: "We've cut about 600 acres over 1½ years and have only replaced three sections. We think this is remarkable." On the negative side, he's been disappointed with his Model 27 blower because of bearing problems: "Non-greasable bearings have gone out. It takes about 3½ hrs. to replace one. Another bearing went out today. We'll have to take off the whole spinner unit to replace it."

Allis Chalmers: "It does an excellent job of threshing and is a well balanced machine and nice to run," reports Donald Watt, Chaffee, No. Dak. He likes everything about the machine except two items: "The air conditioning has never worked more than two days at one time and I've had trouble with the shaft monitors." Donald also reports "no problems at all" with his Versatile 850 tractor. "Handles excellent, has a quiet cab, controls are handy and it has a good, smooth running engine with lots of power."

Bush-Hog: "Best working piece of machinery I've ever used on terraces, and an excellent, all-around disk where clay isn't a problem," says Larry Mason, Shellyville, Mo., of the company's model 1446 flex wing disk. His problem has been getting the disk to work satisfactorily in clay soil: "The wings will dig in real deep, throwing up big slabs of clay while holding up the middle of the disk where it doesn't cut at all. We have very few fields that don't have at least

selected FARM SHOW readers responding to our latest buying survey had to say about the "best" and "worst" new products they've purchased recently:

"I'm very happy with your magazine," reports Terence Blanchett, Porter, Minn., who nominated FARM SHOW as one of his "best buys". "I've found out many things of interest that I would otherwise have never known about."

Terence also listed a Deere 8350 end wheel drill as a "best" buy: "I bought this drill in the fall and seeded winter wheat. Was very pleased with the uniform depth and seed placement even at high speed," says Terence. On the negative side, he notes that "in the last two seasons I've planted five fields of Dekalb's NuKote alfalfa. None of the fields had, or have, a stand of alfalfa worth keeping. I have had much better success with Thor brand seed".

"I told the dealer it must have been made on Monday after a bad weekend," says Neal Banta, Washington, Ind., who notes that his Gleaner "F" combine is operating fine, despite a troublesome start: "It