

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

"I expected to be disappointed and I was," says Frank Walker, Orange, Virg., who nominates a "super weed killer" as one of the "worst" new product purchases he's made recently.

"One of these phone salesmen called to say he had a product that would kill Johnsongrass in corn without hurting the corn. Figured I would at least see what he had so I made a minimum purchase order of \$150," reports Frank. He says the caller claimed to be representing "Concord Chemical Company."

FARM SHOW asked Frank and other randomly selected readers to "tell it like it is" in nominating their "best" and "worst" new product purchases within the last 12 months or so. This special report is based on the first 50 responses we had received as this issue went to press.

Frank was one of several readers who said they were "fed up" with phone salesmen. "Why do we have to put up with such garbage sales at all hours of the day," reported a Michigan farmer who asked that we not use his name "or they'll probably start calling me again at 7:00 a.m. on Sunday mornings from New York."

"I was originally contacted by phone by a salesman who said he was with Trans World Chemical. He was

call me again. No cheese or stereo ever arrived, which was no surprise to me."

This same farmer listed a chain lubricant from Primrose Oil Co., Dallas, Texas, as one of his "best" buys: "It's for roller chains. When applied, it forms hundreds of threads of lubricant that work into the rollers and pivot pins. One application per day seems to be sufficient."

Deere and Company's model 7000 Max Emerge planter was at the top of several "best buy" lists.

"It does an excellent job and the dealer's service is the best," reports Robert Hales, Clinton, Ky. He's been

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disappointed, however, with the bracing on a Deere 8200 grain drill: "Put together very weak. Had to have welding and extra braces put on it after one day of use."

Elmer Heath, Anderson, Ind., likes his "best buy"—a six row 7000 Deere planter—for these reasons: "No down time, very few repairs, and its placement of seed and emergence." He faults his recently-purchased Deere model 2500 7-bottom plow (18 in.) for "not operating like it should. The front furrow wheel will not guide as it's supposed to; have had lots of repair on it for a new plow." He also hopes to have "better luck this year" with a Krause 35 ft. field cultivator which he points out, "would break on hitch braces and several welds on the wings. I didn't get 500 acres with it the first year. They've sent me tongue braces and reinforced the tongue. Also sent new wing frames."

"I'm well pleased," says Raymond Blanchard, Jr., Turkey, N.C., about his Deere model 7000 planter. "It does a real good job planting in all types and conditions of soil. I like the disc opener rather than the sword type opener because it isn't affected by trash as easily. The planter seems to be maintained and cared for more easily than my previous planter."

Several farmers nominated new tractors as their "best buy":

Robert Bennett, Meigs, Ga., likes his 4430 John Deere because "it's quiet, dependable and powerful. This is my first John Deere tractor." He faults his 8600 and 9600 Ford tractors for being noisy, and the 9600 for clutch problems.

Murray Berry, Elizabeth City, N.C., notes that his new White model 2-85 tractor is "the most dependable and economical tractor we've ever used."

Robert Wirth Ellis, Eminence, Ky., is impressed with his new 185 Allis Chalmers tractor: "It isn't too big or too small. Drives and rides with ease. Has big tractor features without huge size. Controls are easy to reach, both hand and foot."

Michael Rizzo, Cleveland, Miss., expects to use his new Woods and

selling an industrial cleaner which, he claimed, would remove all grease and oil deposits from equipment. I ordered 5 gal. When delivery came, I received two 5 gal. cans. I only paid for the one I'd ordered. They called later and asked why I hadn't paid for the other can. I told them I did not order it and did not want it as it failed to clean as represented. They offered to sell me the can for half price. I still declined and told them I would load it on any truck they sent after it.

"Last January, I was called again from New York. The salesman told me he was sending an assortment of fine cheese. He said the price of the cleaner had gone up but he had reserved 10 gals. for me at the old price but I would have to take it by March 1 to take advantage of this offer. I told him I wasn't interested. In March, they gave me an 'instant replay' of the January call, only this time it was a stereo tape player gift. By this time, my patience was very short with their high pressure and I told him not to