

BUYING TIPS YOU CAN USE

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

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Farmers Nominate Best, Worst Buys

OPINION

Tell Us About Your “Best or Worst” Buy

Send your nominations to:
**FARM SHOW, P.O. Box 1029,
Lakeville, Minn. 55044, or use
the survey form on our website at
www.FARMSHOW.com,
or E-mail your comments to:
Editor@FARMSHOW.com**

Pete Lamp, Waterloo, Ind.: “My Deines 1800 zero turn riding mower is my best buy (Deines Mfg., P O Box 266, Rasnom Kan. 67572 ph 785 731-2271). It’s equipped with an 18 hp engine and a 5-ft. front-mount deck. I’ve used it for two years without any problems. It has a tilt-up deck which I really like for cleaning the deck after use. I have a lot of trees in my yard so the zero turn feature really comes in handy. It’s priced 20 percent lower than any of the other zero turn mowers I checked out, and it’s made in the U.S.”

“I use hay tarps made by **Western Ag Enterprises, Inc.** to cover my small square bales (8121 W. Harrison, Tolleson, Arizona 85353 ph 800 347-8274). These tarps are made from lightweight poly that’s reinforced with a 2-ft. board on one side for superior strength under high winds. The tarps are designed to conform to the stack so wind can’t get under them. All of the tie-down straps are built into the hem so I don’t have to buy any rope. It comes folded so when I go up on the center of the stack and unfold it, I can just pull it out and everything falls in place. Then I go down and walk alongside it and tie it down. It has gone through 90 to 100 mph winds that blew roofs off many of the area’s barns.”

priced. It gets a lot of use.

“My **Ryobi** 14-in. metal cut-off saw is my worst buy. The motor armature burned out after only about two months of use. I called the company’s service department and was told they didn’t sell individual parts and that I’d have to buy an entire new motor. This tool is now sitting in a landfill.”

David E. Beck, Buffalo, N.Y.: “Our 1998 **Dodge** 4-door ‘K’ car, which we bought used, is a best buy.”

“Our 1991 **Pontiac** Sunbird 2-door car runs good and is also a best buy. We bought it used with about 140,000 miles on it. It has a 4-cyl. gas engine that’s easy on fuel.”

“The 1985 **Ford** pickup that we bought used is our worst buy. It’s equipped with a 302 cubic inch, fuel-injected engine. We’ve had a lot of electrical and fuel problems with this truck.”

Henry Mullaix, Independence, Mo.: “My best buy is a 1972 **Ford** 4000 tractor equipped with a 3-cyl. diesel engine and front-end loader. I bought it used three years ago. It now has more than 2,400 hours on it. No problems at all.”

“My 1965 **Massey Ferguson** 65 tractor equipped with a 4-cyl. gas engine is a best buy. I got it from my dad who bought it new and then retired. It now has more than 1,700 hours on it.”

John B. Sisco, Burchard, Neb.: A 1979 **Case** 2290 tractor rates as John’s “worst buy”. “It has about 5,500 hours on it. The rear end went out twice, the powershift transmission has gone out three times, and the intermediate shaft in the transmission fell out. I’ve had to spend about \$30,000 during the last eight years on repairs and on a new engine and fuel injection pump.”

Kevin Peters, Morden, Manitoba: Kevin’s generally satisfied with his 1980 **Ford** 5600 tractor equipped with a **Ford** 777 front-end loader. “We bought this tractor new in 1981 and have never babied it. It pulls like a mule and will come back for more. We’re pleased with how well it has stood the test of time. Our dealer has even offered to give us more money than we paid for it if we’d trade it in. On the down side, the clutch has been replaced a number of times and I burned two lobes on the camshaft. The engine was overhauled in 1993. Our biggest disappointment, though, has to be with the power steering box. A gasket on it has to be replaced once a year because of added stress caused by the loader work.”

Mark Albrecht, Cozad, Neb.: “My best buy last year was the joystick control I bought for my **Great Bend** 760 front-end loader. The loader is two years old. The first year I used it on a **Case-IH** 2096 tractor equipped with three hydraulic outlets. I was using all of the outlets to operate the loader so every time I wanted to hook up to another implement I had to disconnect the hydraulics. Then I traded tractors for a **Case-IH** 7110. It has only two hydraulic outlets so I decided to pipe directly into the pump and buy the joystick control. It works great and is much more convenient to use.”

Shilo Smith, Lyons, Oregon: Shilo nominates his 1998 **Kubota** front wheel assist tractor as his “best buy”. “We decided to buy **Kubota** instead of **Ford**, **Deere**, or **Massey Ferguson** because we felt this tractor was more user friendly, and because we liked its glide shift transmission. We use this tractor for a lot of jobs including disking, mowing, picking rocks, and running a backhoe. The only problem we’ve had was with a valve body that wasn’t shifting right. The tractor had only 60 hours on it so we took it back to

“If you put more than one tarp on a stack you can overlap the tarps like shingles and use straps across the top of the stack to keep them tight on top. A rain flap is sewn into the hem to deflect water from the side of the stack. I’ve used one tarp for six years with no problems.”

Ted Wilson, Clanton, Ala.: “One of the best buys I ever made was the Fish carburetor manufactured by **Brown Carburetor Co.** I bought it several years ago, and it has been the most reliable and cost efficient carburetor I’ve ever used. It saves greatly on fuel efficiency and paid for itself the first year I used it. Unfortunately this carburetor is no longer available, as I found out recently when I tried to buy another one.”

E. Yastrubecki, Paynton, Sask.: “I like my **Deere** 25EV chain saw which I bought new in the spring of 1984 and am still using. This saw was made in Japan by **Kioritz**. I’ve lost count of how many bars and chains I’ve worn out over the years, but this little saw just keeps on running. I use wood to heat my shop so it gets a lot of use.”

A **Deere** 318 garden tractor rates as his “worst buy”. “The rear output shaft kept breaking while the tractor was still under warranty. Neither the dealer nor the company were very helpful. I think if it would’ve been a \$90,000 tractor they’d have been glad to assist, but since it’s just a garden tractor they couldn’t care less. I’ll never buy another green machine.”

Dave Mertell, Independence, Mo.: “My 1999 18-volt **Grizzly** cordless drill works great for a 1/2-in. model and is reasonably