

## 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

**Patrick Carroll, Melbourne, Quebec:** "Belarus tractors are low-priced junk," says Patrick who owns a Belarus 500. "Everything shakes and rattles including the hood latches, the brake pedals, the toolbox cover and the drawbar hitch. They are crudely made and awkward to service. The sitting position is terribly hard on your back. In my opinion, what little money you think you save in no way makes up for the headaches and backaches."

On the plus side, he likes his **Homelite** XL chainsaw. "Although I need a large saw to cut my firewood, this little saw works great for small jobs. It's light, well-made, easy to service and the motor runs well. It's handy for cutting cedar posts, carpentry, and so on. Why use a 7 hp. saw to cut brush along a fence line?"

**Leonard Janke, Walsh, Alberta:** He nominates two "best buys". "My **New Holland** 114 Haybine did a great job on a heavy hay crop with absolutely no breakdowns. My **Flexicoil** post pounder with its hydraulic controls lets you line up your posts easily

Grand River, Detroit, Mich. 48219 (ph 313 538-2585 or toll free 800 521-6579) and **Wholesale Tool**, 12155 Stephans Drive, Box 68, Warren, Mich. 48990 (ph toll free 800 521-3420 or 313 754-9270). You get the best and the fastest service I have ever seen for anything from bearings for combines to drill bits. The drill bits are the best bargain I have ever seen."

**Louie Van Setten, Fairfield, Mont.:** His "best buy" is his 1977 TR70 **New Holland** combine. "With 1,000 hours on it we have replaced only two \$9.75 bearings. No belts have broken yet. We had one injector line break on the Caterpillar engine."

**Leo Mugan, Cascade, Wis.:** Heading his "worst buy" list is his **Deere** 15½-ft. 1000 field cultivator. "The rock shaft is not strong enough and the cultivator actually bounces on it. The only way to stop the bouncing is to stop the tractor and start out again. The company rep was not very helpful, even though I offered to pay the welding costs if he would give me the needed supports, but he didn't want to re-do the engineer's work. That might be a good idea though, if the engineers don't do their homework."

**Steve Willet, Thayer, Iowa:** "It's real handy to check cows, get cows in, and for getting into places a 4-WD won't go. Lets you have a little fun while you work," says Steve, pleased with his **Honda** ATC 3-wheeler 200E.

**Robert Fellenz, Loyal, Wis.:** He names his **Harvestore** high-moisture structure as "best buy". "After feeding dry corn and high moisture ear corn out of a conventional silo to dairy cows and having the corn become so moldy the cows refuse to eat it, it's great to have the same consistency year-around. The cows clean it all up."

"My **Deere** equipment is also on the plus side. The tractors I've owned — a 3010, 4010, 4020, 5020, 7020, and 4430 — my combines, swather, choppers, corn planters and my five 1275 wagons have all performed extremely well."

**John Frick, Morrison, Okla.:** He's upset with his "Cullor automatic cattle sprayer mineral box." This automatic device is supposed to spray the cows as they eat salt or minerals. You train them by using it as a salt feeder only at first. The problem is that every time you turn the sprayer on the cows are frightened and refuse to use the feeder. Also, it is very poorly built. The plastic parts break and the metal base bends. It's the pits."

**Delbert L. Kalkwarf, Parkersburg, Iowa:** "Deere's test farm must be a waste of money if they put junk like this on the market," says Delbert, upset with his **Deere** 220 disk. "It won't run level from front to back or side to side. Deere has recalled it twice for modifications."

On the plus side, he's pleased with his **Auger Dolly** from **Top Air Mfg.**, Parkersburg, Iowa. "For an inexpensive item, the Auger Dolly can't be beat. It makes moving and hooking up my 56 and 61 ft. grain augers very easy. Adding that third wheel sure makes it easy for one person to move an auger by hand. Truly a back and wife saver."

and drives them straight."

He had trouble with an intranasal IBR vaccine. "All directions for TSV2 from **Norden** were followed but two months after treatment, 90% of my feeder steers developed IBR. This intranasal vaccine was a waste of time."

**Allan C. Park, Wyoming, Ontario:** "Our old silo-unloader always seemed to be breaking down. It meant constant trips up into the silo to fix it. With the new **Patz**, the only time you have to go up is to lower it, or for maintenance."

**Ervin Chummey, Lore City, Ohio:** "In 1970 we bought a 70 by 100-ft. all-steel **Cuckler** building with a 20-year guarantee on the metal siding and roof. About six year later, the roof started to rust. We contacted the Cuckler Company and they sent out a company representative. He agreed it was a product failure and took several pictures of the building and said they would be back to repair or replace it. About a year later we called to see what happened. They said they had so many buildings to do repairs on that they had run out of good weather but that they would come back the next summer. To this day, they have never showed up."

**Roger W. Wessels, Fairbury, Ill.:** "I would like to nominate as "best buy" two places to buy tools and parts. They are: **Kitts Industrial**, 22384