

## 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  
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**Rodney J. Graham, Hunt, N.Y.:** “My best buy is my **Batco** 1335 hydraulic-driven belt conveyor. It’s comparably priced to an 8-in. auger, but it moves grain faster and quieter and without causing any damage to the crop. It also works great for handling beans and seed.”

**Kenneth M. Hart, Mineral, Va.:** “My 1994 **Chevrolet** 4-WD 3/4-ton pickup has been trouble-free. It has a GVW rating of 8,600 lbs.

“My **Deere** 1520 tractor equipped with a diesel engine and high-low shift transmission is still my favorite tractor, although I also own two larger and newer Deere models. The company’s older tractors had simpler features and their transmissions worked better.

“In 50 years of farming the worst product I ever bought was **Motto** high tensile barbed wire which I bought from Southern States Cooperative. The wire comes with an alternating twist between each barb. After installing several miles of this fence over two or three years I began to notice that some of the strands between posts were very slack. The problem is that if a deer or a calf runs into the wire, or a limb falls onto it, the impact causes the strand to unwind a foot or so.

that’s designed to pull the crop through and into a windrow. It will also cut alfalfa at a field speed of about 8 to 9 mph – if the driver can stay in the seat. The machine comes equipped with a seat belt and because we go so fast we use it almost all the time. The only negative is that it doesn’t work well in short, thin alfalfa or grass. But it isn’t usually profitable to harvest such a crop anyway. This swather normally lets me bale two to three days sooner because it crimps more of the crop, which causes it to dry faster and more evenly.

“The machine has a wider wheel spacing than my previous swather so I built my own trailer in order to transport it on the road. I mounted a 12-ft. wide deck on top of a truck chassis and added a dove-tail ramp, which makes it easy to load and unload. It’s safer than pulling a trailer with an oversized load.”

On the “worst buy” side, Jerry lists his **Farm Chore** pressure washer that’s powered by a 4 hp gas engine. “After about 10 hours of use the wand wouldn’t turn on. I took it back to the store and they replaced it. Then after I used it less than 50 hours again the pump wouldn’t build pressure. It didn’t have warranty coverage so I took the washer to a local industrial dealer. However, he wouldn’t even look at it because it said it was a ‘throw-away’ pump. We took it apart and found that it was made entirely from plastic and aluminum. The company doesn’t offer a repair kit. I now have a 4 hp gas engine that’s ready for use on a lawn mower or another piece of equipment.”

**Kevin Tonjes, Bancroft, Neb.:** Kevin’s a dealer for **Six Chuter** powered parachutes and says they’re a “best buy” (Sky Toys, 547 Grove Circle, Bancroft, Neb. 68004 ph 402 648-7903). “I compared the models made by several different companies before I became a dealer. This is a top-of-the-line powered parachute with the best customer service on the market. If anyone wants to learn how to fly, this is the way to go. This brand has the safest flight history on the market. These fly-



That’s because the twist reverses from right hand twist to left hand twist between each barb. The wire is very hard and difficult to splice, so to repair it you have to replace whole sections between posts. I’d be glad to give away this wire to anyone who wants to come and remove it from my fences.”

**Elmer Heinle, Hebron, N. Dak.:** Elmer’s impressed with his 1998 **Ford F-150** 4-WD pickup equipped with a V-6 gas engine and 5-speed transmission. “I like the engine and transmission, and also being able to shift into 4-WD on-the-go. If I see a spot of ice on the road ahead of me I can quickly shift into 4-WD so I won’t slip.

“My worst buy is a **Dayton** 1/3 hp electric motor that I tried using to power a small fan. The motor didn’t have enough power to start the fan, and the company wouldn’t do anything about it.”

**Jerry Hessman, Dodge City, Kan.:** Jerry bought his **New Holland** 664 round baler used with less than 500 bales through it. “The company said that because I was the second owner they wouldn’t pay for warranty and factory updates. This caused some stressful moments between me and the dealer, but eventually we did get most of the warranty work and updates taken care of. All in all it’s a super baler.

“My **Case-IH** 8850 HP self-propelled discbine equipped with a Cummins diesel engine is a best buy. This machine has a lot of capacity and will cut, crimp, and windrow 10-ft. tall sorghum at a field speed of about 6 to 8 mph. The high capacity is made possible by a 10-ft. intermeshing crimper

ing machines work great for checking out cattle, center pivot irrigation systems, crops, etc.”

**Leslie Eddy, Haviland, Ohio:** Leslie likes his **Schauer** battery charger that’s equipped with a 100-amp booster circuit and can operate on 15 amp or 2-amp charge circuits and on 6 or 12 volts. “I’ve used this charger a lot over the past 18 years, even after we ran over it and badly mangled the case. The booster circuit is handy for starting cold vehicles after warming the battery with the charger.

“The four **Firestone** 30.5 by 32 radial tires on our **International** 3588 4-WD tractor are best buys. These large tires spread the traction and weight which reduces compaction greatly.

“The **Von Weisel** 1/20 hp electric motor that powers my Sukup grain bin stirrator is a worst buy. I’ve had to periodically replace the final pair of spur gears on the gear reduction, which is understandable considering the torque multiplication with this much reduction. My Sukup dealer still sells the