

Farmers Nominate Best & Worst Buys

I paid \$2,300 for the Generac and got only a \$900 allowance toward the Winco.

"I'm unhappy with **Goodyear** tires. I have a 72 hp front wheel assist tractor equipped with Goodyear tires and although we haven't used the front wheel assist at all, the front tires have worn down to a tread thickness of only 1/4 to 1/2 inch in only 200 hours. I have another tractor equipped with Goodyear tires, but that won't happen again.

"My **Claas** rotary hay rake and my **Miller Pro** rotary hay rake both do excellent work. However, the Miller Pro model is built much heavier. It cost a little more than the Claas, and time will tell if it lasts longer. I think hay cures faster with rotary rakes than it does with conventional wheel rakes."

Midon Ackley, Marble Rock, Iowa: "Our **Dixon** riding mower equipped with a 13 hp Briggs & Stratton gas engine is our best buy. We've used it for three years to mow our two-acre lawn, and then three or four years ago we moved to town where we have a much smaller lawn. We haven't had any problems at all - not even a broken belt. All we have to do is keep the blades sharp."

David W. Wiegand, Drakeville, Iowa: "It starts and runs good and is easy on fuel," says David, impressed with his **Case-IH 5240** front wheel assist tractor. "The forward and reverse gearshift system is handy for baling and eliminates the need to grind the gears or ride the clutch. It's a handy chore tractor with a lot of power."

On the "worst buy" side, he lists his **Cam Spray** high pressure washer. "It wouldn't run for more than two or three seconds without throwing a breaker. We called the dealer and he called the factory. They said there was nothing wrong with the washer, and that the problem was that we had low voltage. We had the voltage checked and it was fine. The company was of no help and was rude and unprofessional, so we had a different company work on it. They told us the machine had not been put together right at the factory."

Jim Link, Conklin, Mich.: "My 1999 **Patz 4000** feed mixer wagon does a nice job of blending baled hay into a total mixed

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ration. It also does a good job of breaking up frozen feed that we take from feed bunks. I haven't had any problems with it and would recommend it to anyone.

"My 1995 **Gehl 1260** forage chopper is my worst buy. We've owned Gehl choppers for the last 20 years but this 1260 will be our last one. The first year we had it, all the bars on the hay head twisted. The company took care of the problem. It happened again the second year and again the company took care of the problem. However, they told us that if this problem happened again we would be on our own."

Allan Brooks, Markesan, Wis.: Allan's happy with his two **Caterpillar 35** tractors. One's a 1997 model and the other a 1999 model. "The company engineers graciously designed and manufactured extra low disturbance belts for me. These low disturbance belts are available for purchase

upon request to anyone. Compared to standard or other competitive belts, they reduce berming and compaction and also have better traction. We use the tractors on our reduced and no-till vegetable farm to do planting, drilling, and tillage work. It's a sheer pleasure to operate these efficient, productive tractors."

Andrew S. Szurek, Minneapolis, Minn.: "In 1998 I installed a 1/2 hp **Stanley** garage door opener which I bought new from Menards. I installed it on a Sunday and I goofed and did a couple of things wrong. I called a 24-hour 800 phone number the same day and followed their instructions. The door opener has been working fine ever since. I really appreciate the toll-free instruction line. They sure know their products.

"My 1940 **Farmall** Cub equipped with a 60-in. belly lawn mower still runs good."

Bill Rempp, Montezuma, Iowa: Bill's the satisfied owner of a 1999 **Deere 1780 15-row, 15-in.** soybean planter. "I bought this planter to replace a no-till drill which I had been using to plant soybeans. It's equipped with vacuum metering seed boxes which results in a very accurate and even stand. I'm able to use the same monitor in my tractor cab that I use with my **Deere 7200 12-row, 30-in.** corn planter. I've used the 1780 to plant no-till in standing corn stalks as well as in tilled ground. It plants seed at an even depth and has produced excellent stands under both conditions. The planter can be adjusted from no-till to conventional till and back by making some simple adjustments.

"However, I wouldn't want to use this planter to plant corn because I still use bags, and when the extra row units are raised in the non-use position they're in the way for filling the seed boxes. For planting soybeans I use 3-bu. boxes which can be easily filled by a bulk bean tender."

Hugo Anderson, Villisca, Iowa: "My 1999 **Reese 8-ft.** drum hay mower is my best buy. Last year we used it to mow hay that was made into 600 big bales. We spent less than \$20 on repairs. This mower is belt-driven so it doesn't have any gearboxes. It moves right through ant hills and gopher piles with no problems. It's equipped with two big discs that have small blades on them. It also winds the hay."

Will Hathaway, Turin, Iowa: "My 1997 **Deere 4 by 2 Gator** is my best buy. No expenses so far except for oil and oil filters. It'll go anywhere. The dump box is very handy."

Gary Smorstad, Decorah, Iowa: "I like my 1998 **Kinze 6-row** planter equipped with inter-plant rows. It puts seed and fertilizer exactly where I want it and is well built. I bought it set up for no-till, but it'll plant under almost any conditions. The increase in yields has already paid for this planter."

Allen Hoffman, Hampton, Minn.: Allen's pleased with his 1998 **New Holland** hay turner. "It's gentle on the hay, turning it upside down and fluffing the windrow up which really cuts down on drying time. No side delivery rake can come close to matching its performance. I can travel as fast with it as the ground will permit."

Ted Thompson, Thompson, Iowa: Ted's the satisfied owner of a 1997 **Deere 980** field cultivator. "I traded in a 15-year-old Willrich which I liked, but the Deere model is far superior. It's easier to adjust, follows the ground better, holds an even depth, and is almost impossible to plug with trash. It even

Dogs Defeat Deer In Wisconsin Orchard

Deer no longer steal profits from a Wisconsin apple grower who lets six dogs run free in his orchard to chase deer away.

Al Vignieri, Richland Center, Wis., recently told *The Country Today Newspaper* that he's pleased with the Off Limits Crop Protection system he installed to keep his deer-chasing dogs confined to the orchard.

The Off Limits system is essentially the same as the "Invisible Fence" system that people use to keep dogs around the house. The only difference is that the components are sized to work on a much larger scale. FARM SHOW first reported on the Off Limits system six years ago (Vol. 18, No. 1).

Vignieri has two blocks of young apple trees, ranging from 20 to 30 acres, that are surrounded by an underground wire that

transmits radio waves to collars that the dogs wear. When they get near the fence, a small shock stops them from crossing.

Vignieri says he has \$12 to \$15 invested in each new tree he plants, and he plants about 500 trees per acre. So he says it doesn't take much in savings to pay for the dog protection system.

To keep the dogs moving, Vignieri puts the dog house and water on one end of each block of trees, and their food at the other end.

He initially used purebred German shepherds to patrol the orchard but he has since added mixed breed dogs. He says you don't need a purebred. You just need an active dog.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Off Limits Crop Protection, 507 Bay St., Traverse City, Mich. (ph 905-983-3647).

transports easier."

Jeff Harder, Walnut, Iowa: "I'm well satisfied with my 2000 **Micro Trak MT3405** spray monitor. It ensures an accurate spraying job every time. Whenever I powershift the gears on my tractor up or down, it adjusts

"No side delivery rake can come close to matching its performance."

within seconds. I like how each boom has its own calibrated width. It counts acres and spray volume accordingly.

"I'm pleased with my **Gnuse** rear mount bucket which I purchased 20 years ago (Gnuse Mfg., Arlington, Neb). It takes all the abuse I can give it. Dirt, manure, snow - nothing stops it.

"My 1981 **New Holland TR7S** combine was one of my worst buys ever. I didn't have a lot of trouble with the combine itself, but the Ford engine in it was a joke. It was fuel efficient but was underpowered and tended to run hot. It needed a new block at 1,200 hours, and the front main went out twice at 1,900 and 2,000 hours. I finally traded it in for a 1994 **Case-IH 1644**, which I really like."

Lawrence Link, Conklin, Mich.: "My 1998 **Case-IH MX 110** is an excellent tractor. It has required only two minor repairs which my dealer took care of promptly."

Rick Robinson, Fairfield, Iowa: On the negative side, Rick lists his **Deere F510** front-mount riding mower equipped with a 38-in. deck. "I like the tractor but I hate the deck. Like other Deere decks that I've used in the past, this one leaves skips between the blades even when I make a broad turn. I've used a 48-in. deck in the past and it also left skips. Also, the grease zerks are at the bottom of the deck where they're hard to reach. The deck builds up with grass, and the blades are a pain to change because the deck can't be pivoted up."

Verne J. Schlueter, Arlington, Minn.: "I'm happy with my 1997 **Agco Star 8360 4-WD** tractor equipped with a Cummins 855 diesel engine and 18-speed transmission. "It's an affordable tractor that's also fuel efficient. The cab is quiet and roomy and has a lot of creature comforts."

Steve Fienup, Shenandoah, Iowa: "I like my 1998 **New Holland** Genesis 8670 Super Steer front wheel assist tractor. It's an excellent tractor and has both a 540 and a 1,000 rpm pto. This tractor has a lot of power and traction and has a comfortable seat and cab. I thoroughly enjoy using the joystick control that operates the tractor's 16-speed transmission. I can be running in road gear and pull the lever back into reverse without even having to hit the brakes or clutch. It's effortless.

"Last year I installed an **Ag Leader 3000** yield monitor in my **New Holland TR 87** combine equipped with a 20-ft. table. The combine is excellent and is equipped with a header terrain tracer which I really like. The yield monitor works good on level ground, but not on hills. It's not uncommon for the monitor to show one side of the combine running 30 bu. higher or lower than the other side. As a result, whenever I'm harvesting on terraces I often have to take half-cuts."

Doug Brown, Columbia, Tenn.: "I bought an old Honda 3-wheeler that had not been run for about two years. When I got it together and the engine running, it burned oil and smoked real bad. So I stopped by a local auto parts store and picked up a can of a product called **Restore** Engine Restorer & Lubricant. I put the whole can into the ATV's engine and ran it as hard as it would go. After running the ATV for a total of about 2 hrs., the engine stopped burning oil. Since then, I've run the car three or four times a week for about three months and it has not burned any oil. I don't know what they put into this stuff but it sure worked for me. I even put a can in my old John Deere tractor and it worked there, too." (Restore, Inc., 3000 NE 30th Place, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33306 ph 954-563-7001; fax 954-563-7037; E-mail: restoinc@cs.com; available at many auto parts stores).

Philip Richards, Dresden, Ontario: Philip likes his 1995 **Westfield 10-in.** dia., 61-ft. long grain auger equipped with a swing-out hopper. "It's easy to set up and load semi trucks. It's raised and lowered by hydraulics which saves a lot of cranking. We put at least 100,000 bu. through it every year and haven't had to repair anything.

"Our 1988 **Deere 4250 MFWD** tractor equipped with a power shift transmission is also a best buy. We bought it used in 1994

(Continued on next page)