

## BUYING TIPS YOU CAN USE

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

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**Gary Malone, Palisade, Neb.:** “I’d pay good money to get my old tractor back,” says Gary, who says his purchase of a 2002 Ford New Holland bi-directional TV140 tractor has resulted in 35 on-farm service calls so far with no end in sight. “We bought the tractor in November, 2003 and after two weeks the rear main seal began to leak. We took it in and 10 days later it was leaking worse. They put a sleeve on it that slowed the leak but didn’t stop it. We decided to live with the drip.

“The next problem was that we couldn’t level the front 3-pt. hitch. You’d pick up a bale and it would angle down and the bale would slide off. A mechanic looked at it 8 or 9 times. Finally a blockman came out and put a metal plate on it to make it work.

“On our old bi-directional Versatile 9030, we changed the air filter once a year. This tractor plugs up every 30 hrs. and those filters are expensive. The dealer can’t seem to fix.

“I like the engine and transmission but it goes through oil – about half a quart every 30 hrs. My old 9030 tractor never did use a drop of oil.

“The muffler and exhaust pipe have been changed three times. They burn out. The air

three bolts that had broken off. Later, more bolts broke off the front wheels.

“Neither the dealer nor a company representative ever came out to help with the problem. So last summer, with 256 hours on the tractor, we wrote a letter to the company. We told them we paid \$26,500 and got nothing but an unsafe, unusable tractor along with poor customer service. The company shipped a supply of higher grade wheel studs at no charge to our dealer, with instructions for installation, and they covered the cost. The dealer came out to our place to install the wheel studs at no cost.”

**Ed Buechler, Belgium, Wis.:** “ELK shingles are by far the worst shingles I’ve ever bought. They’re high-priced but have a long warranty. However, the warranty is totally useless. The company wanted photos, then they wanted shingles off the house. Then they came out and took more photos and more shingles to send to their so-called laboratory. When all is said and done, their warranty is useless. We’ve made many phone calls to the company, but they just drag their feet and pass the buck.”

**Jon Stende, Aurora, Minn.:** “I’d be lost without my **Farmall B** tractor. I use it to do many jobs on my 10 acres, such as to cultivate gardens, cut brush, and drag our driveway. I use a removable dump box on back of the tractor that hauls 1/3 yard of sand or 1/4 cord of wood. By attaching sides onto the box I can also use it to haul mulch or brush. The box bolts onto a pair of 3-in. angle irons that mount on two drawbars. A J-hook at the bottom of the box curls around a pipe that fits between the angle irons. The box is secured with a pipe that drops through two eye-hooks that are screwed into the front part of the box. I simply remove the pipe to dump the box.

“I also mount a gas engine-powered water pump on back to fill barrels at a nearby lake to water gardens. A jib crane lifts the barrels on and off.”

**LeRoy Young, Craig, Colo.:** “Two years ago I bought a **Rodex 4000** underground blaster to get rid of pocket gophers and prairie dogs on our ranch. After I bought it I was told the state of Colorado outlawed the use of this device because the company, Rodex Industries, wasn’t licensed to sell it in my state. Soon thereafter, the company went bankrupt and I was told I couldn’t get my \$1,400 back because the owner was insolvent. I was able to use the device only twice before it stopped working. It can’t be repaired due to non-serviceable parts.

“Now I find this company is back in business as Rodex Sales and Service. They’re advertising on the internet as ‘the original manufacturers of the Rodex 4000.’ They now sell the unit for \$1,825.

“I urge anyone who has done business with these people to call the Bankruptcy Court in Idaho and complain.”

**R.S. Duke, Charles City, Va.:** “I read in FARM SHOW about an **International Harvester** freezer (Vol. 28, No. 3). I have one of these freezers. My dad bought it in 1948. Over the years I’ve had to put two fan motors in it. Otherwise it still runs good.”

**Jon B. Coppa, MD, Patagonia, Arizona:** “My 2002 **Goldoni** tractor is my best buy. It cost only about half as much as a comparable Deere model. The tractor is 32 in. wide. The tractor’s rear lift hydraulic cylinder developed a bad leak after one year of use, but the dealer replaced the cylinder at no charge, with no hassles. The rear lift is rated at 1,100 lbs. It’s a good tractor.”

On the “worst buy” side, he lists his **Hanna/Blackstone** injector pump for soluble fertilizer. “The pump wouldn’t inject soluble fertilizer into the drip irrigation manifold at rated pressure. The same problem happened with a factory replacement. The company doesn’t seem to be too concerned with the

# Farmers Nominate Best, Worst Buys

## OPINION

**Tell Us About Your “Best or Worst” Buy**  
Send your nominations to:  
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Editor@FARMSHOW.com**

conditioner wouldn’t work. The dealer tried to tell us the cab has lots of glass so it’s normal that it would be a bit warmer. I finally took it to another New Holland dealer who fixed the problem – a seal was missing in the compressor. Unfortunately, it cost me \$1,800. Now it’s so cold in the cab I have to turn it down.

“Recently, the tractor has begun losing power after about 30 min. of use. We use it for feeding cattle and in the middle of the job, it’ll start lugging down so it hardly runs. We’ve checked the fuel pump, injectors, filters and anything else we could think of but nothing solves the problem. The dealer has already been out 5 times and can’t fix.”

**Patricia A. Peirce, Hagerstown, Ind.:** Patricia nominates her 2003 **Troy-Bilt** 22-in. string trimmer as her best buy. “My husband and I built a house where nothing has ever been before and we’re trying to clear the land. This string mower goes through grass, weeds, brush, and small saplings like nothing I’ve ever seen before. I’m a small woman, over 60 years old, but I have no trouble starting the mower or using it. If it ever goes bad you can be certain I’ll buy another one just like it. It has seen some hard work in the past two summers that I’ve used it. My sister-in-law saw it working and bought one for herself. She likes it also.”

**Kencel and Audra J. Matheny, Clarksburg, W. Va.:** They had problems with their 2002 **Landini** Globus 65 tractor but fortunately the company took care of them. “We had researched Landini tractors on the internet and liked what we read. But in the summer of 2003, while doing our first cutting of hay, Kencel found three lug bolts that had broken off the left front wheel. The dealer had to order replacement bolts from the factory in Italy and it took two weeks for them to arrive. The dealer replaced only the