

Best And Worst Buys

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given almost no trouble and are easy to clean and reassemble. Heating elements and thermostats have lasted up to 12 years."

Billy Hoffpaur, Gueydan, La.: "The machine is simple to operate and carries large loads. It only has one belt and it's easy to change," says Bill about his "best buy" **Wilmar Super 500** fertilizer spreader.

Randy Pertl, Cranesville, Penn.: "For its size and capacity, my **Emglo** portable air compressor with gasoline engine is easy to move and transport. No problems to date and is easy to service. Runs forever on a tank of gas."

Larry Tombaugh, Streator, Ill.: Larry cites his 1983 **Buick** Century V-6 diesel car and **Deutz** DX 90 tractor as "best buys". "The Century runs great and only had small

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problems with the torque converter because of heavy snow. Gets about 38 mpg. The DX 90 runs great. I can cultivate 40 acres on 10 gal. of fuel."

August Chabot, Kaycee, Wyo.: "One of our best buys is our 1984 8200 **Toyota** pickup, short bed. With 14,000 miles on it we haven't had to take it back to the dealer with any complaints. The motor is as clean as when we took it off the showroom floor. Don't have to put cardboard under it to catch leaks — there are none. Economical to drive and has plenty of power."

Kurt Hansen, Harlem, Mont.: "I've had several different makes of combines but none of them can beat the **Deere 8820** with 30-ft. platform for reliability and acres cut per day."

Kurt's disappointed with his 5580 **Hesston** round baler. "It seems to bale alfalfa alright but, when it gets to straw, it just won't make a good bale. After installing four kits which were supposed to solve the problem, it still doesn't work right."

Brad Bier, Palmyra, Mo.: "It's the best machine because it's powerful, compact, easy to maneuver and starts easily. I use it for herding cattle, scouting crops, fixing fence and hauling feed," reports Brad, pleased with his "best buy" 1983 **Honda 185S Honda** ATV.

Milton F. Schmidt, New Braunfels, Texas: "Not one single problem. I'm very satisfied with my **Massey Ferguson 699** tractor. It's economical and a pleasure to operate."

He's not as happy with his 1984 36-in. **Snapper** lawnmower. "The brake cable broke and the Firestone battery lasted nine months. For \$1,400, I expected a better machine."

Roy Mahaffey, Logan, Okl.: He's pleased with his 1973 **Power King** tractor. "This 14-hp. tractor is a real little workhorse. It's easy to work on and repair and it does a good job in the field."

Fred Krul, Arthur, Ont.: "We like the rubber mounting on the teeth of our new 18-ft. **Allis Chalmers** cultivator. It really looks like it's made to last. We also thought it was reasonably priced when compared with other makes."

Howard Rowe, Scranton, Kan.: "We purchased a new **Honda 125 3-wheeler** in 1984. Our daughter rode it about three hrs. when the valve keeper came off, bending the valve stem and breaking the end off the valve guide. I took it back to where we bought it. They put in a new valve and guide but wouldn't honor the warranty, saying we'd abused it by over-revving the engine. This repair job cost \$80. We rode it about one hour, then it went to smoking out the exhaust so I took it to another Honda dealer. He tore down the engine and told me the wrong valve guide had been put in at the other repair shop. The piston also had a dent in the top, so they put in a new valve, guide and piston for \$160. I now have a 3-wheeler with a \$240 overhauled engine at four hours.

"We do not intend to ever own another Honda because of the dealer's attitude toward their customers."

Allen Schroder, Belle Plaine, Iowa: "It's my second **New Holland** haybine. I ran the first one over 4,000 acres in 10 years with no problems. My new 489 model is even better with its floating head."

Gary Quick, Shattuc, Ill.: He's had trouble with his **Case** dual offset tandem disk. "The disk continually bumps the depth control paddle back each time you raise it out of the ground so that, after 10 acres, the disk cuts so deep you can't pull it. The dealer replaced the transport cylinders and control valves twice but with little effect. He's trying to fix it but gets very little help from the company. Otherwise, it's a good disk."

"Our 1984 **Case 2390** tractor is a "best buy". It's very comfortable, has a quiet cab, dealer service is good and I'm pleased with its fuel economy. It uses no more fuel per acre planting than the 110 hp. tractor is replaced. Plenty of power for heavy tillage."

Wilbert Kadolph, Pinkneyville, Ill.: "If anyone needs a small tractor, this is the one to buy," says Wilbert, pleased with his 1984 **Deere 950** diesel. "I've had no problems at all. Starts real well in the winter, is real easy to handle and it's easy to get on and off."

Harold Boe, Mylo, N. Dak.: "We've put about 500 hours on it and have had no trouble with it yet. We use it every day and use it for cleaning barn and moving grain out of flat storage," says Harold, happy with his 743 **Melroe** Bobcat diesel.

THEY CLAIM POOR PERFORMANCE CUT YIELDS

Canadian Farmers Launch Anti-Treflan Campaign

Nearly 100 disgruntled Canadian farmers have banded together in an effort to obtain compensation from **Elanco Products Company** for yield damage they say was caused by granular **Treflan** in wheat and barley crops.

The group of farmers, headed by **Darcy Herman** of **Hafford, Sask.**, contends that granular **Treflan** — which they apply to rapeseed (canola) crops — doesn't break down fast enough and that the residue is killing wheat crops the following season.

"My wheat yields are as low as 5 to 7 bu. per acre. Normal yields are 25 to 30 bu. In some areas, the crop's so thin you can hardly see it," **Herman** told **FARM SHOW**. "There are too many farmers with the same problem. It can't be the way we're using the chemical. There's got to be something wrong with the product."

The farmers have placed advertisements in newspapers and magazines in an attempt to locate others with similar problems in **Alberta, Saskatchewan** and **Manitoba**. They've also hired a crop consultant to help them scientifically document the extent of the problem. Eighteen of the farmers have taken soil samples and yield tests as recommended by the consultant in order to present the information to **Elanco**. If they fail to convince the company that they're entitled to compensation, they say they'll file a lawsuit and use the information as evidence in court.

Herman admits that not every farmer who uses the chemical has had problems. "It seems to be worse in light, sandy soils. We think it may have something to do with the calcium carbonate in the limestone carrier which **Elanco** started using in the chemical about three years ago. Last year granular **Treflan** was widely used in this area in rapeseed fields. It is supposed to carry over one year to control wild oats in wheat the following season but this year it killed the crop."

Herman notes that with 400 acres of affected wheat he is one of the worst off in the group. "We don't want to go to court to settle this be-

cause these cases often drag on for years. We've been meeting with **Elanco** officials and they're conducting their own tests. We're hopeful an agreement can be reached," he says, adding that so far as he knows there has been no trouble with liquid **Treflan**.

At least one American farmer has already made plans to file suit against **Elanco**. **John Wold**, who farms near **Laurel, Montana**, says he lost at least \$40,000 to \$50,000 in winter wheat yields this year.

"I've used granular **Treflan** for 6 years and never had a problem until last year, when the company came out with a new version, called **5GL**, that had a limestone carrier base. When we applied it to winter wheat last year, we got absolutely no control. I contacted the company and they refunded my money with no questions asked. This year the company introduced a new version of the chemical called **TR10** which eliminated the limestone base and doubled the strength of the chemical. Our yields dropped to just 10 bu. per acre where we normally got at least 32 bu. Our neighbors, who didn't use the chemical, had normal yields," says **Wold**, noting that at least 400 acres were affected.

Working together with soil scientist **Pete Fay** at **Montana State University, Bozeman**, **Wold** took soil samples that show a tremendously high concentration of **Treflan** in the soil. "Our best guess is that release of the chemical we applied last year was delayed until this year and, together with the increased potency of this year's chemical, killed the crop," says **Wold**.

He says he doesn't know of any other farmers in his area who use granular **Treflan** because he is one of only a few farmers in the area who practices continuous cropping. "If I hadn't used the chemical with great success for several years, I would have thought I'd done something wrong. The company won't admit we've got a problem and has tried to convince me I applied it incorrectly."

David C. Prause, China Spring, Tex.: "I bought a 13-shank **Mohawk** chisel plow 2½ years ago. It's a very good machine. I also like my **Vermeer 605 Super F** round baler. Never a problem — not even broken teeth."

He lists his 1977 150 **Ford Super Cab** as "worst buy". "It had 70,000 miles before I got it completely rebuilt and running. Good dealer, just a junk truck."

Ben Waldner, Anola, Manitoba: "I recently bought a water vapor injection system from **Action Distributing,**

Amarillo, Tex. that's designed to fit a car or truck. It's been a huge disappointment. The company promised a huge mileage increase but I'm getting worse mileage than ever."

Johnnie Crutchfield, Ardmore, Okla.: "My 1981 ¾-ton **Ford Super Cab** has a 'lemon' 400 engine and body. Body supports and bumpers are weak and bed metal tears. My 1984 1-ton **Ford** with a 350 diesel engine has been exceptional in the first 20,000 miles. However, the fuel tanks are poorly placed for flat beds."