

James P. Iglehart, Emmet, N. Dak., irrigates 10 quarters and owns eight irrigation systems. His most recent purchase is a 1980 **Reinke** Alumigator. "We're satisfied with it as it's been operating almost perfect so far."

"Valley service is very poor. My nearest service is 120 miles away and it costs \$75 just to get the service man to the farm," says Gerald Tabbutt, Pelican Rapids, Minn., owner of a **Valley** 2041 system.

"Very reliable and most owners can maintain without outside help," says Richard L. Hansen, Powell, Wyo., about his **Kroy** 1975 nine-tower center pivot. "We've had our Berkeley pump since 1975 and have operated it since then with no prob-

"Very reliable and most owners can maintain it without outside help."

lems. I don't expect any problems in 1983 either."

Steve Brownlee, Amboy, Ill., owns a **Reinke** Electrogator 100. "I am very satisfied with my system and the dealer has been very prompt and cooperative. They should change the alignment mechanism to a brass-coated adjustment rod rather than the rust-prone steel. But, with the application of a small amount of oil, the adjustment can be made quickly. I might add that I've had very few problems with the system as far as alignment. I own two **Amarillo** S-100 right angle gear pumps. They work well and the oil doesn't have to be changed as often as other models."

Clarence Davenport, Callaway, Neb., has five 1978 **Reinke** Alumigators ranging from 600 to 780 ft. long. "They all run very well with only minor problems. My only improvement would be to use better quality hose couplings and a faster travel speed for applying chemicals for weed and insect control. As for pumps, I bought 10 Layne and Bowler pumps from 1964 to 1972 and they run 500 to 1,000 hrs. a year. Have never had a problem with any of them."

"I wish there was an easy way to estimate the amount of water put on the land," says Loren Vockrodt, Brookings, S. Dak., who's happy with his **Valley** low pressure system. "It runs well under most conditions although it seems to puddle on heavier soils. I suggest that any manufacturer with a long boom on the end of their pivot put flotation tires on the last two towers of the system. Our pump situation has been frustrating. The **Valley** system was supposed to work with a 40 hp. electric motor but the 40 hp. motor always got hot on us and would kick out. But now, with a 50 hp. Western Land Roller, it seems to perform trouble free."

Leo Musil, Ravenna, Neb., is generally satisfied with his 1981 **Lindsay** Zimmatic 307/507 center pivot.



Softflow Screens

One irrigator, Gary McClellan, Vale, Ore., has invented a device to ease erosion caused by the flow of water from gated irrigation pipe. "Soft-Flow Screens" consist of doubled-up wire mesh and a sheet metal screw that is simply dropped, not screwed, into a hole drilled into the gate retainer. McClellan says you can install a hundred of them in minutes. The benefit?

Elimination of deep gouges all along gated pipe. He says they're not hard to make but that you can't put all the pieces together for the price he charges — about \$1.25 apiece.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Gary McClellan, Softflow Screens, Rt. 2, Box 3255, Vale, Ore. 97918 (ph 503 473-2904).

"After the initial bugs were worked out the system has performed well. Unfortunately, the initial erection was not as good as I would have liked, with loose bolts, bent sprinklers, unadjusted wheels and the like. Also, the spray pattern on this system is uneven. According to tapered rain gauges spaced along the machine, the variation is as much as 50%. The system is high pressure with 40 ft. between sprinklers. Perhaps if they were closer together the pattern would be more uniform. Haven't had any problem with the Sargent pump."

"There have been no problems so far but I would like more lights, showing where a problem exists, in the control panel. I have an excellent pump made in France and Arlington Heights, Ill.," says Ronald Feyrer, Hancock, Wis., pleased with his 1979 **Valley** electric and his Leroy-Somer 75 hp pump.

Clifford Lyons, Hale, Mo., likes his **Lockwood** 2200 10-tower system. "It has operated as it was represented to me, presenting no problems so far," he says.

"It needs a more precise setting for speed of travel and the guidance system could be improved by having a constant cable pull from the center, and by having a mechanical cable guide to make the cable wind up on the winch drum evenly. Otherwise, we're satisfied. Easy to operate compared to guns with a separate hose reel," says Dale Hackmann, Chamois, Mo., owner of a 1979 **Ag Rain** traveling gun.

"We've had no major trouble with our 1980 seven-tower **Valley** but they could make the drain plugs on the gear boxes more easily accessible. Our local **Valley** dealer installs motor

covers as standard equipment which Valmont should adopt nationwide. The only weak link on my system is the Peerless booster pump. It has too much vibration and we can't find out why," says Kem Bales, Muleshoe, Tex.

"We're very satisfied with our 1980

What steps have you taken to cut fuel costs?

"Both machines are under strict irrigation scheduling and one has been converted to low pressure irrigation," says Rick Start, Kensington, Minn., who owns two **Lindsay** Zimmatics.

"We switched from diesel to LP

"We switched from diesel to LP gas."

gas," says Jim Weyenberg, Glenvil, Neb.

"Since switching to low pressure irrigation, we're burning 2½ gal. less fuel per hour," says Lyle Lingenfelter, Creighton, Neb.

Robert Galusha, Fairmont, Neb., has a crop consultant that reports to him each week of the irrigating season. "We're trying to do more scheduling with moisture blocks," he says.

"We're using high pressure on rolling terrain to obtain more soak time and hopefully get more water on with no runoff," says Stanley Hueske, DeWitt, Neb.

"We have joined the scheduling plan offered by our electric company

T-L system. No problems, although moving the wheels to tow the machine is kind of a big job," reports Ken Koehl, Hancock, Minn.

Fred Zieman, Lake Village, Ark., likes his **Lindsay** Zimmatic but he doesn't like the service. "They need more qualified people to install the systems and should have the service representatives check on the actual operation of the system."

"We're satisfied with our **Thunderbird** wheel lines. They move straight, are reliable and simple. The current models are much improved

"They move straight, are reliable and simple."

over the earlier models," says Craig Evans, Blackfoot, Idaho.

David Moon, Portales, N.M., owns two 1977 **Pierce** sideroll sprinklers. "We're happy with them but they should allow the sideroll to work at low pressure. And, they should make a retrofit kit to add to the sideroll that would make it as automatic as the new **Pierce** systems."

"I'm a lot smarter this year and hope to have less problems," says John Bellio, New Castle, Colo., generally satisfied with his 1982 **Crown** American Crop King. "Manufacturers should follow up on sales of their system to ensure that buyers get what they pay for. I had to call the manufacturer for an owner's manual and information on how to operate the system."

and use a computer watering system that reads moisture blocks and feeds the information into a computer," reports Gordon McLain, Plainview, Neb.

Richard Lewis, Holbrook, Neb., cooperates with the local REA in a load management program. "The system is on a total interruptible program to level out the REA's peak demand loads and to give us reduced rates."

"Planting half of the pivot circle to soybeans and the other half to corn cut our fuel costs almost in half. We try to water at night whenever possible and to avoid windy days," says Dennis Folkers, Randolph, Neb.

Lyle Schipp, Harmon, Ill., runs his

"Prays for rain."

electric system at night to cut costs and, in addition, "Prays for rain".

Lyle E. Hovland, Rothsay, Minn., has a 125 hp. GE electric motor on his Berkeley pump. "We have adequate well capacity so, by re-nozzling to

(Continued on next page)