

clutch pedal. Nineteen wires under the floor had to be spliced, soldered, and shrink-wrapped back together.

"The 1-ft. length of burned harness was cut out and sent to the company to warn them about the fire. The dealer was helpful, but I'd think twice before I bought another Ford New Holland product."

Clint Wahrman, Atwood, Kan.: "My best buy is my 1992 **Chevrolet** 2500 4-WD pickup equipped with a diesel engine and a 5-speed transmission. I bought it equipped with a **Dew Eze** bale bed which is also a best buy. This setup has helped me get in and out of tight places where I couldn't get in with a tractor or a pickup pulling a bale trailer. It makes feeding my cattle so much easier. I can feed 400 cows in one morning, hauling 8 bales a distance of about 10 miles."

Teddy and T.J. Shambaugh, Oakley, Ill.: "We like the **Kelderman** down corn reel that we installed last year on our Gleaner R62



combine. It operates off combine hydraulics and does an excellent job. We had a lot of down corn last year and the reel really helped bring the crop in. We paid about \$2,500 for it. We could have bought a less expensive model, but we thought this one was designed and built the best. We didn't use it this fall because most of our corn stood up well. We use a forklift to lift the reel off the header and made our own storage bracket that lets us store the reel on end."

Thomas Morschauer, Sun Prairie, Wis.: A 1999 **GM** 3/4-ton pickup equipped with a 6000 Vortec V-8 engine rates as Thomas's "best buy". "It has all the power I need and is the best pickup I've ever owned. It rides great and is reasonably fuel efficient."

"My worst buy is my **Generac** electric pressure washer. It couldn't generate enough pressure, which was very disappointing. The attachments for it are flimsy and hard to put on. I called the company but it didn't do any good."

Donald Salmen, Wessington Springs, S. Dak.: Donald nominates his **Century** 110 wire-feed welder as his "best buy". "This welder is easy to use and does a great job even on heavy material. It works especially well on light tin and aluminum. It's lightweight which makes it easy to move around."

"My 1977 **Hydra Mac** 8C skid steer loader is my all-time best buy. It's a good machine and I couldn't get along without it. The motor and hydros have been overhauled once. When I move to town it'll go with me."

"My **Lincoln** 12-volt electric grease gun is my worst buy. I tried to use it on a zerk that wouldn't take grease, but the pressure wouldn't release and I ruined the gun's end while trying to get it loose. It can't even get grease into zerks that will take grease with a hand-operated grease gun."

Daniel Knutson, Centerville, S. Dak.: "I'm well-satisfied with my **Case-IH** 7110 tractor equipped with a **Westendorf** front-

end loader. It has almost 7,000 hours on it with few problems. The engine has never been overhauled. We use this tractor to pull a sprayer, and until recently it was the main pulling tractor on our farm. This tractor has a hydraulic seat, but I think air seats are far superior. The loader has been virtually trouble-free."

Paul Nottingham, Nunica, Mich.: "I'm completely satisfied with my 1949 **Farmall** M tractor. It's absolutely reliable and has no silly gadgets or gimmicks. It has two qualities that are very much lacking in modern tractors - it's rugged and simple. When worked hard, the old girl does gulp gas but I don't know of any practical remedy. I don't think fuel economy was a major consideration in 1949."

Jerry Czebotar, Pasco, Wash.: "My 1978 **Deere** 2240N is a good tractor. However, I think Deere's new 5000 series tractors are built too light and have too much plastic on them."

Allan Osmundson, Story City, Iowa: "My 2002 **Ford** F-150 Super Crew pickup is my best buy. I like the way it rides and handles."

Joy Smith, Griswold, Iowa: Joy's had problems with her 1997 **New Holland** GT 85 garden tractor equipped with a mower deck. "I bought it for \$10,500 and less than four years later the gas tank began to split along the seam, which I considered to be a manufacturing defect. The dealer installed a new gas tank for \$215 and ever since then the tractor hasn't run right. I've had to spend more than \$300 on additional repairs and now the tractor is still in the shop. The company says they haven't had any other complaints about split gas tanks, and therefore won't pay for the required parts and labor."

Jamie Wong, Milton, Ma.: "It's an excellent tractor that works better than advertised," says Jamie about his **Kubota** B7300 4-WD equipped with a front-end loader. "It's reasonably fuel efficient and easy to work on. A great rig for plowing snow. There are a couple of problems, however. Sometimes the fuel gauge works and sometimes it doesn't. The gas fill cap should be near the side of the tractor instead of on top of the hood. Also, I wish it had power steering. I made my own bale forks, a digger blade for plants, a weight barrel, and cab roof. I also installed a CD player."

Karl Retzlaff, Morris, Minn.: "My **Uni Hydro Ironworks** 85-ton iron worker is my best buy. It's amazing how many uses this machine has - everything from shearing to punching holes, and even making clean holes in rubber belting for stalk chopper and combine applications. The company also provides next day service if I happen to break a punch."

"My **Century** Mig 240-amp welder works great."

"I had some problems initially with my **Century** 50-amp plasma cutter, but it has worked well for the last year."

Frank Damschen, Pelican Rapids, Minn.: "My son purchased a used 1981 **Massey Ferguson** 4880 4-WD tractor last spring. This tractor is a pleasure to drive and easily handles a 40-ft. chisel plow at 6 or 6 1/2 mph. I think this tractor was at least 10 years ahead of the competition when it was built."

Bill Short, Hamilton, Mo.: Bill isn't happy with the **Drill Doctor** that he uses to

"Pest Light" Company Responds

"**FARM SHOW** ran a report from an Iowa farmer in the last issue complaining about our product, the B-Alert strobe light for chasing away pest animals. The man said he used the product in his sweet corn patch but it didn't work," says David Scheiding, president, B-Alert, Inc., Arcanum, Ohio.

"After first calling **FARM SHOW** to get the man's number, I called him. When he told me how he had been using it, the problem became clear. I discussed with him how the light should be used in a sweet corn patch:

"Center the lights in each half acre, using a new alkaline battery every 16 hours. When the corn forms on the stock, place a strobe on a scarecrow above the corn and turn it on at night each week for two to three weeks. Two weeks before the corn is ready to harvest, place another strobe light 12 to 24 in. up from the bottom of the stalk and turn both lights on one to two nights each week prior to harvest."

"As stated in the man's complaint, we do charge a 25% restocking fee. As a small



manufacturing company, we feel we have to do this. We're not a K-mart or Wal-Mart.

"We have testimonials from both customers and stores which we would be happy to share with anybody interested. We are willing to work closely with anyone who buys our product to make sure it works as promised."

Contact: **FARM SHOW** Followup, David Scheiding, President, B-Alert, Inc., 8516 Graw Rd., Arcanum, Ohio 45304 ph toll-free 877 955-2600 or 937 884-9615; Website: www.b-alertinc.com.

sharpen metal-cutting drill bits. "It works too slow for sharpening 250 to 300 bits at a time, which I sometimes have to do. The per unit cost to sharpen bits is too high compared to other drill bit sharpeners on the market. If you want to sharpen extremely hard Cobalt bits, you need to add a special diamond grinding wheel to the unit. But that grinding wheel doesn't last as long as others on the market."

Harold Fratzke, Cottonwood, Minn.: "Our 2001 **Chevrolet** Impala drives and rides beautifully. It has all the features of more expensive cars."

Duane L. Stinemetz, Marysville, Ohio: "The Disrupter kit that I installed on my Case-IH 1660 Axial-Flow combine is my best buy (**Estes Mfg. Co.**, Box 379, 102 S. Jefferson, Flanagan, Ill. 61740 ph 800 235-4461 or 815 796-4461). It's a poor man's



straw chopper that keeps material flowing through Axial Flow combines equipped with either a standard or specialty rotor so they don't leave "ropes" of green stems in the field. You can't even tell where a combine has been in the field because residue is spread so evenly behind it. It eliminates the need for a straw chopper and stops rotor losses. It's also easy to install. It does everything the company says it will do.

"The kit consists primarily of a set of nine 3/4-in. thick hardfaced steel lugs that bolt to the grate section of the rotor. It also includes a set of cylinder bars with every other tooth removed and a set of scalloped rotor bars, both of which help feed straw through the combine."

Aaron Combs, Momence, Ill.: "My 1979 **International** 1086 tractor has a quiet cab with a good heater and air conditioner. It's a good-sized tractor that's big enough to pull

heavy tillage tools, yet it's small enough for mowing and pushing snow. At times the transmission can be a little hard to shift. I guess I can't complain because the transmission technology is 35 to 40 years old. The tractor is equipped with an air ride seat which is a real back-saver in rough fields. I added two Hobbs lights to the rear fenders. They help a lot at night."

Dorothy McDonald, Driftwood, Ontario: "My 1976 **Massey Ferguson** 265 tractor equipped with a diesel engine has performed well through the years. It has almost 10,000 hours on it, many of them hard and rough hours. I use it to handle 5 by 6-ft. round bales. One problem was that the front wheel rims used to break out around the bolt circle. I reinforced them by welding on a complete 16-in. dia. circle of 3/8-in. thick steel. No more problems there. But then either the spindles or wheel hubs would break. The company now provides a heavy-duty spindle and hub which has solved the problem."

Matt Baumli, Maryville, Mo.: "My 1999 **Case-IH** 2366 4-WD Axial Flow combine is my best buy. It has a lot of power and has been trouble-free. It doesn't lose any grain over the rear sieves even in heavy corn and beans. This machine handles like a Cadillac. "My early 1950's **Deere** No. 5 mower has had very few problems over the years. All I've had to do is replace a section or guard once in a great while."

"My 1999 **M&W** 797 Clipper 9-ft. disc mower is my worst buy. It doesn't work well in big weeds. I paid \$6,000 for it. The first summer I used it I had to spend \$2,000 for repairs, and the company wouldn't help pay for anything. We had to replace the hex shaft, gears and bearing, and all the belts. We also had to reweld part of the frame where the original welds came apart. Another problem was that the blades and bolts broke off. It all resulted in a lot of downtime. This mower is one of the most troublesome pieces of equipment I've ever owned."

Ben F. Prochnow, Menomonic, Wis.: "I like my 1997 **Deere** 4455 4-WD tractor. It works great just like the dealer said it would."

David Moore, Coleman, Mich.: "I'm

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