

drive between fields and to repair equipment in the field. When buying an ATV, consider the type of work you're doing. Good suspension is a must. Four-wheel drive ATVs are more versatile than two-wheel drive models, depending on climatic conditions. Reverse gear is definitely a big plus, as are hydraulic brakes. We pull our ATV behind our corn planter and fertilizer wagon, using a home-built removable bracket which we installed on the ATV's front bumper. We made the bracket from two old plow shares and a length of 1 in. pipe. The 4-wheeler follows the pull of the hitch and turns with the vehicle."

Jack Easterly, Sidney, Neb., says he's satisfied with his 1986 Polaris Trail Boss 2-WD 4-wheeler. "We use it much more than we thought we would. We use it for rounding up cattle, checking cows during calving, carrying calves, fixing fence, moving electric fence, measuring fields, moving elevators, scouting fields, carrying tools and running from one end of the farm to the other. It's easy to get on and off, and we often do things while sitting right on it. We like the variable speed transmission, large foot rests, suspension system, short turning radius, power and 4-wheel stability. Maintenance is minimal. However, it's inconvenient to shift our model from forward to reverse and a speedometer would be handy. We used an old combine sieve to make a basket for the front rack to carry small tools and bolts. We attached a rod bent in an "L" shape to our measuring wheel and inserted the rod in a pipe attached to the rear rack. This allows us to measure fields with the measuring wheel rolling along beside. We also mounted a hitch on front which can be raised and lowered with a crank. We use the hitch to pick up one end of an elevator and move it from bin to bin. We sometimes wish we had 4-WD but we're not sure it would be worth the extra cost. I highly recommend the variable speed transmission and a big footrest that keeps your foot from slipping off under the tire."

O.B. LeBlanc, St. Paul, New Brunswick, says his 20-year-old son had an unusual accident while riding his Honda 3-wheeler. "He was riding on a logger's road when a black bear appeared in front of him and he struck it. Luckily, he had a helmet on because he struck his head on something and the machine, himself and the bear all ended up in a pile. When he came to, the bear had gone back into the woods. My boy got a few bruises and it cost \$79 to straighten out the forks."

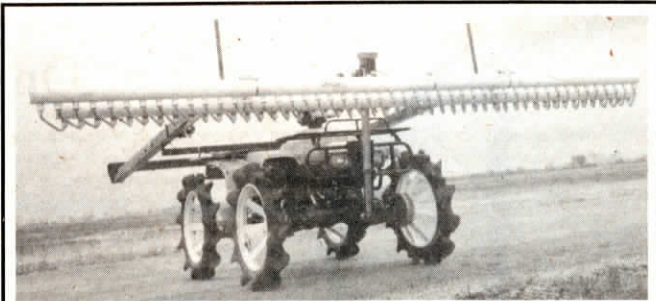
Robert Bigham, Pinckneyville, Ill., says

he's generally satisfied with his 1982 Heald Hauler Model HH-1216 but that it has nevertheless had some problems. "The hydraulic brake system gives trouble and it comes with a lawn tractor size battery. I built a steel box under the bed opposite the gas tank to carry an automotive 12-volt battery. This battery delivers more start power and powers our 12-volt seeder. This rig has a bench seat for two and the truckster bed dumps manually. It isn't a sports vehicle - highway speeds are a little slow. Also, it could use a slower gear for fieldwork. The variable speed belt drive slows the machine as it adds torque for heavy pulls, making it hard to maintain constant travel speed. We use our machine for cattle feeding and care, fence repair and inspection, in-field tire repair, and seeding clover. We bought a Cyclone 12-volt seeder which holds 2 or 3 bu. but I can carry 300 or more lbs."

"Starts good and performs well," says Elmer Grossen, Hillsboro, Ore., about his 1985 Honda 125 TRX 4-wheeler. "We use it to check our gopher traps, carrying traps, flags, and other equipment. We also pull a slug bait spreader. If our ATV was equipped with 4-WD or a differential it would probably cost too much. Don't buy a big powerful ATV unless you know why you want it. My brother got dumped off his Honda 250 3-wheeler into a ditch. The machine caught on fire and burned to a total loss. He was lucky he didn't get pinned down and lose his life."

"They should increase the tubing size and weight of the rear carrier, also double the battery size and reposition it in front of the engine. The battery is too small for any real workload," says John Little, Emeryville, Ontario, who isn't pleased with his 1985 Honda TRX 250. "It starts poor in most weather. If fuel stands in the carburetor for more than a week, we have to drain it in order to get it started. We use this ATV mostly for spraying but also to seed clover on 300 acres. It does a good job of spot spraying in wet spots where a tractor can't go. When buying an ATV, look for a good starting machine in cool weather. Reverse and low gear range are a good idea if you want to spray with your ATV."

Robert Weber, Harrison, Ohio, operates an irrigated vegetable and alfalfa farm where he finds many uses for his 1987 Honda Big Red. "It takes the place of a pickup and operates much cheaper. It's a real plus for moving sprinklers and hauling crops out of the field, especially when it's too wet to get through the field with anything else. We pull a trailer with wide tires so it doesn't cut any ruts. We seed alfalfa using a rear mount



You'll like these "go anywhere" mud wheels for ATV's. "They out-pull conventional balloon tires and do less damage to broadcast crops. We've tried to get stuck with them on an ATV and we couldn't. They're virtually unstoppable," says distributor Roger Bowman, noting that there's a lot of interest in the narrow, high-clearance wheels for rope wick and spot spray work in standing crops. Bowman also makes sprayers for ATV's as well as a first-of-its-kind rope wick applicator for ATV's. Height of his Wickmaster rope wick can be adjusted on-the-go via a 12-volt electric actuator. "Why use a tractor when an ATV will work all day at speeds of 5 to 8 mph on a single tank of gas?" says Bowman. Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Bowman Mfg. Co., Inc., Rt. 3, Box 705, Newport, Ark. 72112 (ph 501 523-2785).

12-volt seeder. I'd suggest buying a transmission with a low enough first gear for wet or soft conditions, large wide tires for flotation, and a pto to eliminate the need for a separate gas engine to power a sprayer or other equipment."

"It's cheaper to feed than a horse and saves a lot of gas and wear and tear on the pickups," says Richard Dubbert, Martinsburg, Mo., owner of a 1985 Honda Big Red ATC 250ES. "We use it to check fields, crops, fences, and cattle, and to sow clover seed. We traded a Bush Hog grass and fertilizer spreader for a Herd GT-77 electric spreader. It works great, allowing us to seed 100 acres of red clover a day. It's easy to set and operate."

"This machine needs a better carburetor so it will run better in cold weather," says Virgil Storm, Lucas, Iowa, who otherwise is pleased with his 1987 Suzuki 250 4-WD ATV. "I use this machine at calving time, rain or shine, as well as to check livestock all summer long. I use a small tilt trailer to pick up rocks and haul them to the ditch, and to carry fencing material around the farm. It's also handy for moving augers from bin to bin and for moving empty farm wagons."

Everett Hinrichs, Lytton, Iowa, says his 1985 Honda 185S should have heavier motor mounting brackets. "We could use a reverse gear at times but maybe not enough to justify the cost. We use our 185S to check fields for plant growth and to move machinery from one site to another. We use a pull-type lawn sprayer with a ground drive pump. I'd suggest buying a 4-wheeler with 4-WD as well as a belt or harness and some type of roll bar to protect younger operators. I welded and bolted some square tubing to the ATV's front fork where I attached a tow bar. The bracket also provides a small area for carrying a lunch bucket or water jug."

Paul Bernau, Fountain, Minn., is pleased with his 1988 Deere AMT 600. "We use this rig to trap pocket gophers, hay, check cattle and fences. It starts good in cold weather. However, they should make the parking break easier to release."

Everett Snortland, Conrad, Mont., is satisfied with his 1986 Honda 350 FourTrax. "The only improvement I can think of would be an instrument attached to the transmission to help measure acres planted to certain crops. We use our 350 to scout fields for weeds and insects, to pull cargo trailers, and to haul tools and parts to the field. We own a small sprayer and trailer."

Lewis McCarty, Delta, Colo., is satisfied with his 1988 Yamaha Teripro and Big

Bear ATVs. "The Yamaha Terrapro is the only ATV that has a pto. We used the pto and a fine-cut lawn mower to top 10 acres of white onions. We saved \$300 per acre compared to hand topping, and in three days we saved almost enough money to pay for the ATV. We also use the pto to operate a 150-gal. sprayer in onion fields and in ditches. We use the 4-WD Big Bear to move irrigation pipe. As for buying tips, buy a machine equipped with high and low range and if you plan on doing slow work, buy one with an oil cooler."

"Our 1982 Honda 110 been tough and trouble-free. We use it to check the siphon tubes and pumps on our furrow irrigation system," says Joe Wisecaver, Buhl, Idaho. "We had a Kawasaki 200 3-wheeler and my wife and small son were riding it. They hit a chuck hole and my wife's foot slipped off the peg and the rear wheel ran over it causing a serious foot injury. Make sure your ATV has safe foot rests, a smooth throttle control and power enough to do the job you want it to."

Dennis Umbrell, Elizabethtown, Penn., is satisfied with his 1987 Suzuki 230. "The dual-range transmission is easy to handle and after 1,600 miles is still trouble-free. We use our ATV to haul feed, hay and straw to different barns and to pick up stones and check on field conditions."

"We like the high and low transmission range but especially the reverse. Simply depress the right brake pedal, then pull the high - low handle into reverse," says Curt Vogler, Rock Port, Mo., about his 1987 Yamaha 350 4-WD. "However, this ATV isn't easy to service. In order to remove the engine drain plug, you have to remove the bottom engine guard. In order to remove the filter cover and element, you have to remove the foot shift lever. In order to remove the hoses, you have to loosen a clamp. There are several parts to the drain plug. The filter assembly has to be aligned at assembly, and to check oil flow you have to loosen a hard-to-get-at oil gallery bolt in the cylinder head. It's a Mickey Mouse setup. We use our ATV to spot spray or chop thistles in pastures, to check emerging corn and bean stands, to check cattle, and to haul hay and gardening tools. You can quickly hop on and off an ATV without having to clutch or change gears each time."



New from Kimpex is a front-mounted 48-in. mower (three 16-in. blades) to fit most 4-wheel ATV's. It's free-floating to prevent scalping and powered by a 12-hp. Tecumseh engine with electric start. Push arms maneuver the mower independent of the ATV. Has front and rear caster wheels (8 in.) and rear scalping rollers. Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Kimpex USA, Ltd., 100 Walnut Street, Champlain, New York 12919 (ph 518 298-8222).