

a good job," reports Jay, pleased with his 1988 Millermatic 200 wire welder.

Clifford Aikens, Jr., Clymer, N. Y.: "We use our 1989 Deere 855 hydrostatic drive tractor and loader to clean free-stall barns and to put bedding in the stalls. It works great. The 4-WD provides lots of traction," says Clifford.

His worst buy is a set of high speed electric drills purchased from Chicago Industrial Tools. "They won't hold an edge and break easily. I consider them junk."

Victor Barrick, Carlisle, Penn.: Victor nominates his 1988 Deere 5730 self-propelled forage harvester as a "best buy". "It chops haylage, corn silage and high moisture ear corn fast."

On the "worst buy" side, Victor's unhappy with his 1988 Silo Matic Gemini II silo unloader. "It vibrated and bounced so bad that it fell apart, and the pieces fell into the blower and tore it up. The dealer worked on it several times, then told me I didn't fill the silo right. I finally had to dig two bunker silos."

Lawrence Link, Conklin, Mich.: Lawrence's "worst buy" is his 1989 Gehl chopper box model 970 equipped with an extension feeder. "While I'm feeding chopped hay into a bunk feeder, the hay gets under the cross conveyor chain and plugs it up, leading to broken parts and down time."

His "best buy" is a 1988 New Holland 311 baler equipped with a bale thrower. "It's a great time saver."

Benton Cochran, Atoka, Okla.: Benton's had trouble with his 1989 GMC 515 2.5-liter pickup. "It's designed with a computer that runs the engine at about 2,000 rpm when it should be idling. At times it works right but at other times it goes wild. The dealer says he can't do anything about it. Also the rear end has a loud whine, but the dealer says that's normal for this pickup and won't do anything about it either."

James Haak, Belview, Minn.: "The V-6 engine starts perfect and has lots of power, and I really like the transmission because I can downshift it to pass," says James, pleased with his 1988 Eagle Premier LX. "It gets 25 to 32 mpg and the climate-controlled cab is comfortable and quiet. No trouble at all."

Larry Beyer, Marengo, Iowa: Larry says his Case-IH 4800 26-ft. field cultivator heads his "best buy" list. "It has excellent clearance and never plugs in disked corn stalks. It also folds for transport so I can get it through a 16-ft. wide gate."

Gene Wiemers, Melbourne, Iowa: Gene's happy with his 1989 Case-IH 900 series 12-row 30-in. semi-mounted planter. "It's well built and plants accurately. I set it to plant eight 36-in. rows of corn. For soybeans I add extra units to plant fifteen 36-in. rows with 18-in. skip rows. The big seed hoppers save a lot of work, and the trash whippers and depth gauge wheels work great."

Larry Downham, Galveston, Ind.: "It's the best pickup I've ever owned," says Larry, pleased with his 1988 GMC 3500 4-WD pickup. "It's very comfortable and the 350 engine and transmission, equipped with a 4:10 gear ratio, has plenty of power to pull my tandem gooseneck trailer. It has pulled more than 20,000 lbs. When it's not pulling the trailer it gets 16 to 18 mpg."

Douglas Dewing, Grantsburg, Wis.: Douglas likes his 1987 N-Tech mechanical piston manure pump (N-Tech Inc., 5 Berger Ave., Barron, Wis. 54812). "It's the least expensive of all the brands I checked out and is simple and dependable. It doesn't take any longer to clean the barn at -30°

below than during nice weather."

On the negative side, "My 14-ft. Kovar Pony Drag is difficult to raise onto wheels. The wings don't stay down and it has only three rows of teeth."

Ernest Adam, Beaver Springs, Penn.: "My 1986 Chevrolet Celebrity 4-door 4-cyl. car gets 35 mpg and has excellent power on steep hills."

Russ Keast, Henderson, Iowa: "The only problem we've had with it is hauling the grain away fast enough," says Russ, pleased with his "best buy" 1988 Case-IH 1640 combine. "This combine is unbelievable in its simplicity, capacity, smoothness of operation, grain quality and operator comfort."

"Another best buy is my 1988 M & W 72-in. zero-turn diesel lawn mower. The deck is out front and I can maneuver it anywhere. It makes yard work fun."

Dean Taylor, Blissfield, Mich.: A Morton pole barn rates as Dean's "worst buy". "The crew that built it made a lot of construction mistakes, but the local salesman said he couldn't do anything about it and constantly dragged his feet on fixing anything. After I wrote to the company president, however, everything was fixed the way it should have been in the first place."

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Dean's "best buy" is his 1987 Deere 4425 combine. "It runs smooth and is an all-around good performer."

Raymond Swenson, Brooks, Minn.: "My best buy of all time is a 1981 Volkswagen Rabbit diesel car. It has 260,000 miles and is still doing great."

"Another best buy is my 1984 Gleaner N7 combine. It has tremendous capacity, a quiet cab, and is nice to operate."

On the negative side, "Shop tools from Harbor Freight and Salvage are inconsistent in quality. Some tools seem okay, but others break easily."

John Wolf, Schleswig, Iowa: John says his 1989 Deere 4450 MFWD tractor heads his "best buy" list. "It has good power and the front wheel drive works great in loose soil conditions. I also like the power shift transmission for cutting silage."

John Hass, Rock Rapids, Iowa: "My 1989 Ford Taurus rides and handles well, is fast, and has good fuel economy."

Oliver Oswald, Eureka, S. Dak.: "My worst buy is my Black & Decker power hand saw. It burned out after only a few hours of use. The repair man said it wouldn't last long. It didn't."

"My 1981 Ford F-150 4-WD pickup equipped with a 6-cyl. engine is a best buy. It handles and steers better than some cars I've owned. No problems."

"Another best buy is my Mirafont energy-free super insulated cattle waterer. I've used it for several years without any freeze-ups."

Maurice Hinman, Carter, S. Dak.: "It's well-built and well-insulated," says Maurice, pleased with his Morton pole frame shop building. "We installed an L.B. White heater in one corner which keeps the floor temperature above 40° even when the out-

side temperature is 25° below."

Gehring Farms, Inc., Hartford, Wis.: Their "best buy" is a 1978 Deere 4640 tractor. "It has power to spare and all we've replaced is the battery and water pump."

"Our 1987 Ford F-250 4-WD pickup is another best buy. It has good fuel economy and handles like a car."

Lincoln baler twine heads their "worst buy" list. "Until now this twine has always been dependable, but the quality in 1989 was so poor that we had to discard some of it. It was thick in some spots and thin in others which meant nothing but trouble in square balers."

Robert Peralta, Red Creek Ranch, Crowheart, Wyo.: "My 1983 International 3688 tractor is trouble-free."

Maria Lansdowne, Sointula, British Columbia: "Our Rockomatic rock rake saves hours of backbreaking work. It even picks up sticks left over from land clearing projects."

Gordon Goertzen, Windom, Minn.: "It has stood up well under adverse conditions and cuts what others can't," says Gordon, pleased owner of a Hesston 6600 swather. "Our Farmhand Stackmover is built solid enough to move a house."

On the negative side, "Our International 1150 grinder is prone to breakdowns. It's built far too weak."

Donald Hartman, Palmer, Iowa: "My Deutz-Allis 8050 tractor equipped with front wheel assist is the nicest tractor on the market. It has a comfortable cab, a good radio, good lugging power, and remarkably low fuel consumption. You have to drive it to believe how well the front wheel assist works."

Thomas Yoder, Haven, Kan.: A 1988 New Holland 514 manure spreader heads Thomas' "best buy" list. "It does a very even job of spreading and is simple to use and trouble-free. The sides and floor are covered by a lifetime warranty regardless of how many times it changes hands."

Dan Feige, Wentworth, S. Dak.: A 1989 Demco TMC (tractor-mounted caddy) heads Dan's "best buy" list. "We wanted a cost-effective way to cut custom application costs, save a trip over the field, and make better use of our time. This sprayer does just that. It allows us to apply most of our grass herbicides preplant and incorporate them at the same time which results in excellent grass control. We use an optional spray boom to apply postemerge herbicides."

Dan says his "worst buy" is Basagran herbicide. "My experience is that Basagran and sunflowers are not compatible."

Hubert Hegtveldt, Mabel, Minn.: "My Vermeer bale carrier and unroller is a best buy. It's foolproof and simple to use."

Gene Larson, Westbrook, Minn.: Gene's disappointed with his 1988 Chevrolet 4-WD pickup. "A lot of little things have gone wrong with it. The seat is uncomfortable and I dislike the radio and heater controls."

"My Deere 7720 Titan II combine is trouble-free and a pleasure to operate."

E.W. Chapin, Jr., Battle Creek, Mich.: "I love my Owatonna 595 round baler. Anyone can make a perfect bale with it. I hope Gehl, which recently bought the company, doesn't ruin this fine machine."

Lee Vander Velden, Little Suamico, Wis.: Lee is pleased with his 1979 Jamesway V-III silo unloader. "The ring drive is easy to operate and keeps the unloading from ever getting stuck like a surface drive machine. It works great in the cold too."

"My 1979 Allis-Chalmers 175 tractor is

another best buy. It's big enough for plowing on my small farm, yet is small enough for little jobs. I really like the fast hydraulics at low engine speed."

Verlyn Lapour, Alcester, S. Dak.: Firestone 12-SL-15 implement tires head Verlyn's "worst buy" list. "I bought four new wagons equipped with these tires and the sidewalls separated on every tire. The company did nothing about it. No more Firestone tires of any kind for me."

Verlyn says his 1989 Case-IH 4800 Vibra Shank 24-ft. field cultivator equipped with 9-in. sweeps does a "super job. It pulls level and has good trash clearance. Last fall we went through corn stalks that had been chisel plowed and we never plugged once."

Jos Wihlm, Sheffield, Iowa: "I'm pleased with its accuracy and simplicity," says Jos, owner of a 1987 White 5100 Field Boss planter.

On the negative side, "I bought a new tractor in 1978 equipped with B.F. Goodrich radial tires which lasted only 700 hours. I replaced them with another set which didn't last any longer. I then switched to Armstrong bias-ply tires which now have about 1,500 hours on them."

Dennis Rodgers, Dunkirk, Ind.: Dennis likes his 1988 Case-IH 7120 front wheel assist tractor. "I'm impressed with the engine's power, and the cab is superior to the competition."

John Melin, Hutchinson, Minn.: John's "best buy" is his General Electric cordless phone, model 2-9522. "We use it in our barn. It has good tone and range and a convenient recharging caddy."

Dennis Kanasevich, Eaton, S. Dak.: "It doesn't have the bells and whistles that all of the new combines have, but it does a good job and is easy to handle," says Dennis, pleased with his 1976 Massey Ferguson 760 combine. "I haven't replaced one chain or sprocket during 1,600 hours of use. The paddle elevator is relatively trouble-free and the stone trap is easy to empty. The 254T Perkins engine is well matched to the combine's capacity."

Charles Bieber, Mamou, La.: "My worst buy is my 1984 Ford F-250 4-WD diesel pickup. When the rear end went out at 52,000 miles, the company wouldn't honor the lifetime warranty so I let my local Ford dealership repair it. At 151,000 miles the rear end went out again so I took the pickup back to the same dealership. They said the problem was that the carrier bolts backed out and that it wasn't covered by the warranty. I called the area representative, but he said the dealer had the final word on accepting a lifetime warranty claim. As a customer I do have the final word. No more Fords."

Paul Knudsen, New Ellington, S. Dak.: "We've been pleased with its overall per-

"As a customer I do have the final word. No more Fords."

formance on barley, wheat, corn, and soybeans," says Paul, whose 1984 Deere 6620 combine has nevertheless had some problems. "It's got more than 1,000 hours with only minor repairs. However, the header and the right side of the platform are hard to see because the cab isn't centrally located. Also, fan speed should be adjustable from the cab. The Dial-O-Matic corn and grain

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