

Ken Cox, Farmer City, Ill.: "My 1988 M & W 1165 Earthmaster tillage tool is state-of-the-art and works perfectly. Last year I used it on all my corn stalks, bean stubble, and set-aside alfalfa. I don't plan to ever use a moldboard plow again."

David Bartels, Brunswick, Mo.: David likes his 1987 Buffalo 4630 8-row 30-in. cultivator. "It's unquestionably my best 'herbicide' because two cultivations give me season-long control and it cleans my toughest ground - something no other machine has ever done."

Mike Beach, Wisner, La.: "It does all of the jobs I expect of it," says Mike, satisfied

"It uses very little gas and is a lot easier to catch than a horse."

with his 1981 Honda 200 3-wheeler ATV. "We use it mostly to round up cows. It uses very little gas and is a lot easier to catch than a horse."

Scott Donze, Streator, Ill.: A 1986 Chevrolet K-20 pickup heads Scott's "worst buy" list. "A lot of things went wrong on this pickup before it even had 35,000 miles. The water pump and fuel pump went out, the paint flaked off the hood and front fenders, the rear end went out twice, the door handle broke, the body molding and trim came loose, the front end went out of alignment, and two tires were faulty. When I open the driver's door it rubs the front fender. The windshield washer hoses won't stay on and the engine burns one quart of oil every 900 miles."

Phillip Thompson, Scottsboro, Ala.: "It places all the seed at the same depth for faster emergence," says Phillip, pleased with his International 800 Series pull-type 6-row narrow planter. "This planter is designed so I can use it for conventional tillage or no-till. The seed flow monitor saves a lot of time and headaches."

Dwayne Brewer, Red Bud, Ill.: Dwayne says his "best buy" is a 1988 Deere 722 Mulch Finisher. "It's the best leveling tool I've ever pulled and does a great job of incorporating chemicals at high speeds. It saved me enough field trips to pay for itself in one year."

Bruce Ward, De Funiak Springs, Fla.: "My 1987 Deere 4450 tractor is my best buy ever. It does all of my heavy work yet handles so well I can cultivate with it comfortably."

Earl Krewinghaus, Venedy, Ill.: Earl says his 1985 Deere 2950 tractor heads his "worst buy" list. "The air conditioner belt is too long to run on two pulleys. It loosens up just enough to make the air conditioner

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wobble which causes the belt to tear. We tighten the belt frequently, yet we still have to replace it about twice a year."

Bob Gates, Lincoln, Calif.: Bob has had trouble with his 1986 Chevrolet 3/4-ton pickup. "The major problem was excessive oil usage - one quart every 500 to 700 miles. After 1 1/2 years of fighting and arguing with General Motors, I decided to take a loss

and buy a Ford pickup which I'm happy with. It's hard to understand why General Motors won't satisfy a customer to secure a long term buyer. You couldn't give me a General Motors product now."

Merl Montel, Pierceton, Ind.: "It's large enough to do some heavy work but small enough to take care of most of my utility work," reports Merl, pleased with his 1978 Allis-Chalmers 185 tractor which he purchased two years ago. "I mounted a heavy duty loader on it which makes it an all-around tractor. Too bad they quit manufacturing this tractor."

Paul Baiuto, Streator, Ill.: Paul nominates a 10-year-old E-Z-Go electric golf cart as his "best buy". "It's a great little rig for running around the farm. I use it to check the mailbox at the end of my quarter-mile long driveway and to fix fences. I can carry tools on it and a helper if need be. It's quick and has a smooth ride. Doesn't cut up my lawn or pasture even when it's wet or soft."

John Kellen, Rushmore, Minn.: John's "worst buy" is his 1983 Deere 2940 tractor. "Although I like this tractor overall, the gear system is one big headache. The shifting handle vibrates and I've had problems shifting from high to low."

Donald Hoffart, Plainview, Neb.: Donald has had bad luck with his 1988 Chevrolet S10 pickup. "It idled so fast I could hardly drive it. Something went wrong about every 1,000 miles. The dealer has been working on the pickup about three times a month for the past six months, but it's still no good. General Motors won't replace it."

Art Johnson, Far Hills, N.J.: "My worst buy is a 1988 Chevrolet 4-WD 1-ton pickup equipped with a 7.4 liter engine. It was in the shop 15 weeks out of the first seven months that I owned it. The dealer installed a new engine that wasn't fit to run. Two hoses were missing, two bolts were left out and the intake manifold was cracked. The pickup went back to the dealer twice for repairs. I got no satisfaction from General Motors at all. I've made more than eight calls and now have hired an attorney. However, we're hearing that our state's lemon law doesn't cover trucks, only passenger vehicles."

Gene Sanders, Dalton, Neb.: Gene's "best buy" is his Air Foil grain chaffer made by Loewen Mfg. Co., (Box 820, Altona, Manitoba, Canada R0G 0B0). "These air chaffers really made great combines out of our three Deere 8820s. They do a beautiful job of cleaning grain. It's almost impossible to find wasted grain behind the combine."

Paul Weyer, Baileyville, Kan.: Paul is happy with the large white boar that he purchased in 1987 from Lieske Genetics. "This boar has lived up to all of the company's claims and has improved the carcass characteristics of my hogs in both grade and yield. He's gentle but is an aggressive breeder, siring large uniform litters."

Marvin Van Syoc, Mt. Pleasant, Iowa: "My Woods 214 14-ft. bat-wing rotary mower is tough. We use it on pasture and conservation reserve ground. No matter the cutting height, it always runs level and makes tight turns without any knocking from the pto."

On the negative side, Marvin's disappointed with his Astro 30 by 32-ft. shop building. "The roof leaked. I called and wrote the company several times. They promised to come out and repair it. However, on my last call they informed me that the building was no longer under warranty.

I said 'No one explained to me that if you could delay coming out until the warranty expired, you wouldn't have to fix the building.'"

Ray McNeil, Pansey, Ala.: A new type of rasp bar manufactured by Allis-Chalmers for Gleaner combines is Ray's "best buy". "These rasp bars are made with larger ribs and wider spacings between the ribs. They gave my F2 Gleaner new life, boosting capacity and making it a pleasure to combine in weeds. I highly recommend them for anyone who grows soybeans."

Dale Diede, Pingree, N. Dak.: "Our 1988 Wilrich 4400 chisel plow has more trash clearance, faster hydraulics and more shank trip clearance than any other plow."

Ron Hanmer, Govan, Sask.: Ron's pleased with his 1988 MacDon 36-ft. combine header (MacDon Industries, Winnipeg, Canada). "We mounted it on our Case-IH 1680 combine and it performed perfectly on a crop too short to swath. We harvested 2,000 acres at 5 to 7 in. off the ground and broke only two knife sections."

Harold Love, York Co., New Brunswick: "My International 5088 tractor is a best buy. I especially like the good seat and

"Deere has some very formidable competition. It's about time."

air conditioner."

Blake Martin, Hugoton, Kan.: "It's a high production machine," says Blake, who owns a 1988 Hesston 8400 swather equipped with a 16-ft. header. "In good crop conditions we remove the header's rear bottom shields which allows dirt from gopher mounds to drop to the ground."

Larry Short, Rochester, Texas: "My 1989 Case-IH 7140 MFD tractor is the finest tractor I've ever operated. Deere has some very formidable competition. It's about time."

Don Latch, Effingham, Ill.: Don's "best buy" is his 1984 Hesston 1880 tractor. "This tractor is compatible with all my equipment, and my local dealer has provided excellent service."

Kem Colgin, Kincaid, Kan.: He likes his 1987 Kawasaki KLF 220 4-wheeler ATV. "I use it to spray and plant, move equipment to fields and do chores. It's never given me a minute of trouble and is a great play machine when the work is done."

On the "worst buy" side is a Century Power Mate wire feed welder, model 117-032. "It gets hot and kicks off after 10 or 15 min. of welding, even though it's plugged into a 30-amp outlet and requires only a 20-amp outlet, according to the company. This welder is also too expensive to run. A 4-lb. roll of flux cord wire costs \$30. To make the welder work right, you have to spend another \$80 for a gas conversion kit, rent a bottle and buy gas."

Joe Polizick, Lawrenceburg, Ky.: Joe has had trouble with his 1988 Ford F-150 pickup equipped with a fuel-injected 305 engine and a 4-speed manual transmission. "It uses too much oil, the throttle often sticks, the dash gauges don't work right, the fuel pump makes a loud noise whenever the fuel level is low, the gas mileage is less than advertised, and the front tires were out of alignment when it was delivered. Also, dealer service has been extremely poor."

Max Stratman, Minden, Neb.: Max is pleased with his 1988 Sukup auto dry computer monitor for his grain dryer. "The computer allows accurate drying and saves time and money. There were some problems at first, but service has been great."

Paul Bingham, Weston, Idaho: Paul likes his Knight 790 Little Augie feed mixing auger. "We bought it used four years ago and it's made us more money than anything else we've ever bought. Our dairy cows have been more consistent milk producers and stay in better health. We recently traded it for a Knight Reel Auggie 2250 which we also like."

Bud Schriber, Attica, Mich.: "It has amazing capacity for a small baler and offers smooth operation and convenient maintenance," says Bud about his "best buy" 1988 New Holland 311 baler. "It's an all-around good machine."

Rex Young, Bourbon, Ind.: "My worst buy is my Deere 220 center fold disk. It does a poor job of leveling and the frame is too heavy and rigid for the gangs. I've broken countless blades and gang bolts as well as two tongues. I traded it for an International disk two years ago and have had no problems."

Robert Schoenbeck, Red Bud, Ill.: Robert's had problems with his 1988 Kinze Econofold planter. "The first day the bearings started to go out and the row units planted unevenly. However, my dealer took care of all the problems."

George Caves, Canandaigua, N.Y.: "I wished I had read the Farm Show article on repowering Deere 4-WD tractors with 855 Cummins engines (Vol. 12, No. 6) before I replaced the engine on my Deere 8650 tractor with another Deere engine. It would have been nice to have used a Cummins engine."

On the positive side, George likes his Westfield 51-ft. grain auger. "It runs smooth, has good safety shielding and a wide wheel base."

John Plathe, Bellingham, Minn.: John doesn't like his Ritchie SS hog fountains. "The self-tapping screws on the fountain's

"The company has more or less admitted they built the waterer too light. Small consolation now!"

lid and brackets are a nagging problem. They're constantly working loose, allowing the lids to be ripped off. The heating element under the trough is also a problem as it falls off with little difficulty. I've purchased five of these waterers over the last several years and all of them have had these problems. The company has more or less admitted they built the waterer too light. Small consolation now!"

Vernon Dailey, Emerson, Ark.: Vernon says his 1988 Hardy 12,000 b.t.u. wood burning heater (Hardy Mfg. Co., Rt. 4, Box 156, Philadelphia, Miss. 39350) saves him about \$120 per month on electricity and is a "best buy". The furnace can be installed as far as 100 ft. away from the house or other building being heated. It keeps all smoke, ashes and wood trash out of the house, yet it can be hooked into your present central duct system. "It heats hot water in the house and

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