

to keep fan belts tight. You can't operate the tractor at idle to run an elevator. You have to run it wide open to keep the heat light from coming on.

"I have spent about \$8,000 in repairs in less than 3,500 hrs. The next time it gives trouble, I'll have to park it because there's no way to keep up with repairs. In my 40

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years of farming I've put 8,000 to 10,000 hrs. on other tractors with no problems."

Randall Bergan, Williams, Minn.: "One of my best buys ever is my 1977 Versatile 800 tractor. It's the best tractor I've ever used. No trouble at all, lots of power, good on fuel, quiet to run and, after 11 seasons, it still looks like new."

On the negative side, "My new 1985 Chevrolet 4-WD pickup has been nothing but trouble. The seat fell apart, the rear seals leak grease into the rear brakes, and both the front and rear brakes have been replaced (rear brakes twice). The truck would not stay in 4-WD and the motor missed and had no power. I took it back to the dealer and all he did was replace the rotor and distributor cap. I finally took it to a neighborhood garage and it's run well the last 10,000 miles. Maybe all it needed was a better mechanic."

Willard Jurgess, Bad Axe, Mich.: "My new 1988 Chevrolet 4-WD is the perfect pickup. It rides like a car. The 350 fuel-injected engine has plenty of power and gets 18 mpg."

Ray Merrill, E. Orland, Maine: Ray names his 1987 PZ Zweegers HS360 tedder-rake as "best buy". "It's wider than the older model so we can ted 2 windrows at once from our mower-conditioner. Since it rakes to one side we can double or triple our windrows. No breakdowns."

On the "worst buy" side, "Zip-Penn carbide-coated saw chain does not stay sharp one bit longer than regular chain and you can't get it anywhere near as sharp in the first place. Costs 2 1/2 times as much as regular chain and is worthless in performance. However, regular Zip-Penn chain is excellent."

Darroll Kramer, Pine Island, Minn.: "My 1986 Ford XL1504-WD pickup rides and drives like a dream. It has a 351 engine which gives me plenty of power for pulling wagons."

Richard Folkmann, Newhall, Iowa: He nominates his 1987 "Manure Master" from Mash, Inc. (Mash Inc., Mike Hosch, Rt. 2, Parkersburg, Iowa 50665) as "best buy". "The Manure Master is an electric-powered scraper to clean dried caked manure off concrete floors. It's a great time and labor saver. We've had no trouble at all."

Richard has had trouble with 27 by 8.50-15 Goodyear tires on a new skid-steer loader bought in 1987. "It's almost impossible to turn on dry concrete. We had the dealer check the hydraulic motors and controls, but they were okay. When it's on a slick or greasy surface it turns better. I feel the tires are made of a softer rubber that won't slide and wears fast. Our old skid steer loader had Goodyear tires with a different tread that worked better."

Gregg Kresha, Osceola, Neb.: "Our

Calc-N-Acre field computer for tractors and combines (Micro-Trak Systems Inc., Box 3699, Mankato, Minn. 56002) tells miles per hour and acres covered. It's easy to install, transferable from tractor to combine, and sells for less than \$150. Comes in very handy when fertilizing, planting and harvesting. It's a must for any custom operator."

Donald German, Peever, S. Dak.: "We're happy with our 1987 Miller heavy-duty loader from Miller Loaders Inc., Larchwood, Iowa. It has a full 8-ft. bucket with grapple. We use it to feed cattle and to handle gravel. It's very stable with even over-sized and heavy loads."

Henry Applebury, Chillicothe, Mo.: "My worst buy is a Hico brush cutter equipped with a 75 hp. gearbox made by Howse Implement Co., Inc., Laurel, Miss. In less than 25 acres of cutting, the platform the gearbox sits on fell apart. The company said they couldn't help because no one had ever had the problem before. The dealer finally agreed on his own to furnish me another platform and it was twice as heavy as the original one. I lost 2 1/2 months of cutting time but it's now a fair piece of equipment."

On the "best buy" side, Henry's pleased with his 1986 Partner 500 chain saw. "It's easy to start and well-balanced. I've owned and used several name brand chain saws in the past and this has been the most economical."

R. Gene Zimmer, Sycamore, Ohio: "Our 1987 Ford Escort automobile is our best buy. It was delivered in top condition by the dealer. We get good mileage (33-34 mpg) under local conditions. It's comfortable and has good power for a compact car."

Herb Halstead, Monroe, Ore.: "My best buys are a one-year-old 128 Massey Ferguson baler and a 925 Massey Ferguson mower-conditioner. We baled 18,000 bales of hay and straw with the baler and had very little trouble. The mower-conditioner cuts everything from 3-ton per acre alfalfa to 1/2 ton per acre weeds and brush. The best thing about it is the way it cleans itself if weeds wrap around the roller. On my old conditioner, I had to cut weeds off with a knife. With this machine, you just use a hydraulic cylinder to spread the rollers apart and it unwraps long wrapped grass itself."

George O. Bliss, Avon, Ohio: He's happy with his 16-hp Simplicity mower. "I bought it because it has rollers all along the back edge of the mower which prevent it from scalping as much as mowers with only two caster wheels. It also starts good in cold weather for use with a snow blade."

Michael Lasnier, Ste-Brigide, Quebec: "Our new continuous flow 1986 Law grain dryer is incredible. You have to try it to believe how well it works. It reduces fuel use 25%, is gentle on grain, and works fast with up to four times the capacity of my old, comparably-sized dryers. Works great."

David Fricker, DeValls Bluff, Ark.: "The best tractor I've ever owned is a 1967 Case 930 Comfort King. It's got more than 6,000 hrs. on it with no major down time. I changed the electrical system with a generator over to a Ford electrical system with an alternator to get enough electricity for night work."

"The best dozer blade I've ever used is an 8-ft. Waldon that mounts on my Case 930. The blade support frame remains on the tractor all the time. The blade mounts on the support frame with two pins."

Ronald L. Whipkey, Louisville, Ohio:

"My best buy is a 1982 Ford F150 4-WD pickup with a 300 in-line 6-cyl. engine. Even though it's five years old and has more than 90,000 miles on the odometer, it still runs like a top. Hasn't had any major problems and doesn't have a bit of rust on the outer body. You can bet our next truck will be a Ford, too."

Ralph L. Odden, Lake City, Minn.: "My 6-year old Husqvarna model 65 chain saw with a 20-in. bar is always easy to start, has plenty of power and is very dependable. I've done lots of custom sawing with it, in addition to my own work. It out-performs any other saw I've owned or used."

Marcel Quелlette, Grand Falls, New Brunswick: "Our 1986 LZ401 Vicon 4-meter wide air seeder is a best buy. It's been free of maintenance, is easy to adjust, and it'll seed up to 100 acres a day."

Dave Neiding, Berlin Heights, Ohio: "The cab on my 1986 Ford F-350 pickup is as quiet as some cars I've ridden in. The 460 cu. in. engine has plenty of power, fuel economy is excellent and the truck handles well under even the worst weather conditions."

Elton C. Gates, Monroeville, Ohio: "We do a lot of stubble mowing and it worked well. We have no complaints and it was priced fairly," says Elton, pleased with his "best buy" 1987 Woods 214 mower.

Robert J. Scott, Danbury, Iowa: "We're happy with the Cam Spray 330 MT high-pressure washer with a 5-hp. Honda gas motor we bought at our Case/IH dealer. I've owned it for a year and have had no problems whatsoever. It will run all day at 1,200 psi without a hitch. The motor is extremely easy on gas. We use it for everything from washing cars and tractors to cleaning out hog sheds."

Sherrell Bean, Lamar, Mo.: "My 1983 Chevrolet K-20 3/4-ton 4-WD pickup with 6.2 diesel engine and 4-speed transmission is a piece of junk. I've owned several K-20's over the years and the decline in quality is disgusting. I own 12 other diesel-powered vehicles or machinery so I know what a diesel engine should be like. The GM 6.2 engine is pathetic. Both heads have cracked, it 'ate' its cam and lifters, and has had various failures in its starter, injection pump, front-drive assembly, and transmission. All this happened despite a good maintenance program that included oil testing."

On the plus side, "We're pleased with Reldan and Attilic insecticide for stored grain. It's an expensive treatment but worth it."

Cletus Vetter, Hicksville, Ohio: He compliments his 1987 Suzuki 4-WD ATV. "We practice no-till farming and this ATV lets us get into fields early to apply herbicides. We like the 4-WD and it has a slow speed for spraying. We haven't had any trouble so far. I built my own 6-row sprayer with a 70 gal. tank and flotation tires."

On the "worst buy" side, "We had trouble with the 1985 construction of our Walters 60 by 126-ft. pole building. I like the design but the workmanship is a different story. There are leaks in the roof and rubber seals have blown out of the vented ridge, letting snow blow in. The eave spouts leak and water runs over where there are no downspouts. I told company representatives about the problems at the Ohio Farm Science Review in the fall of 1986. They said they'd take care of it but nothing happened. Last fall I talked to them again at the show and again nothing happened. Since then a secretary has called three times to say they

were coming but they never showed up."

Ken Nelson, Ft. Collins, Colo.: "The extended warranty for our 1986 Case 2292 tractor is our worst buy. The tractor is great but we bought the extended 4-year, 1,800-hr. warranty. The problem is that the tractor has the new hour meter that registers 'true' hours. In other words, 60 min. of operation adds up to one hour. Old meters were based on engine revolutions and you could cultivate at an idle and put on only one or two hours a day. Now it's easy to put 12 to 14 hrs. a day on the tractor. The 1,800 hrs. were used up in one year."

Ken's "best buy" list is headed by his Donaldson post driver he bought from a local farm supplier. "It's made in New Zealand and drives the post in much quicker than you can drill a hole. The thing I like is that the post is in tight when you drive it."

"Also on the best buy side is our 1986 Ford F-250 pickup with a 302 fuel-injected engine. We have 67,000 miles on it and we haven't even put new spark plugs in it. It has plenty of power, starts quickly in all kinds of weather, and does not cough or sputter even on a cold morning. Drives and handles very well."

William A. Munson, Utica, Ill.: He's happy with his 1987 Makita cordless electric drill. "It's small, lightweight and powerful. The battery recharges quickly and the level on top is convenient for drilling pilot holes for hinges and doing other jobs in and around feedlots and other isolated locations."

Sammy Allen, Lambertson, N.C.: "Rated at 145 hp., this is the most powerful and fuel efficient tractor we've ever owned," reports Sammy about his "best buy" 1987 Deutz-Allis 7145 with front-wheel assist.

Lyle Bengstrom, Bonanza, Ore.: "Our made-in-the-U.S. 1987 Polaris Trail Boss 4-WD ATV is a pleasure to operate whether doing chores around the farm or packing hunting or fishing gear. The hi-low range and no-shift variable speed transmission make this vehicle easy to ride and control."

Wilbert Sindt, Van Horn, Iowa: "My best buy is my Deutz 6206 tractor. It's very economical. One thing I don't like are the small brake pedals but you can't have everything."

Elmer Malmkar, Grant, Neb.: "As far as I'm concerned they could not improve on my 1978 Massey Ferguson 750 tractor. It's simple to operate and maintain."

Gary Swenka, North Liberty, Iowa: "We bought our Hesston 766 tractor to replace our Long 610 tractor, which was a lemon. Nothing major went wrong with the

"Lots of little problems like oil leaks and a 3-pt. that could not handle big bales."

Long but there were lots of little problems like oil leaks and a 3-pt. that could not handle big hay bales. So far we're very pleased with the Hesston. The shuttle gear shift is handy and we like the front-wheel drive. My only complaint is that it would be handier if it would turn shorter."

John Deyo, Battle Creek, Mich.: He's happy with his New Holland 489 Haybine

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