

give me a spare one till I brought in a broken one. That was an inconvenience because I farm Sundays and evenings when the dealer is closed."

Lonnie J. Wallace, Jerico Springs, Mo.: "I bought a 180 amp Lincoln welder in 1967 and it's been an all-time best buy. I run a tractor repair shop so it gets a workout. I'm also pleased with Sears Craftsman tools. They're built the best and replacement parts are easy to get. Snap-On tools are the worst. I'd break a ratchet every two weeks or so. The Snap-On dealer said he couldn't do anything for me. Sears ratchets last about a year doing the same work and when they finally get to the point where I can't fix them, I get a free new replacement ratchet from Sears. Snap-On won't do that for me."

Edwin Brown, North Street, Mich.: "Our Van Dale silo unloader is stuck half the time. It's not designed right. The drive wheel pushes it into the silo instead of getting behind and pushing it around," says Edwin.

He also had trouble with Firestone rear tractor tires. "Cords on the sidewalls broke even though the tires always had enough air pressure and only a thousand hours use."

On the "best buy" side, Edwin's happy with his Deere 4430 and 4230 tractors. "The 4430 has 3,200 hrs. on it and has never used any oil. The 4230 has 3,100 hrs. on it and also never uses oil. I haven't spent any money at all for repairs except for filters and oil."

Stuart A. Glover, Wilson, N. C.: He likes his Farmhand bale accumulator system. "My son and I have found this to be a remarkable system for our situation. All we need to harvest hay is someone who can drive our tractor."

Randy Jacobs, Alden, Minn.: "The Magrath livestock prod has a very hot spark that really gets hogs moving. Before owning one we really worked to get hogs loaded. Now they can't wait to get on the trailer."

Thomas W. Rhodes, Horseheads, N.Y.: "Our 1982 Case 1690 broke down every spring and fall each of the five years I kept it. A hydraulic line cracked at the pump 4 or 5 times. The drive shaft to the hydraulic pump broke once in the second year of use."

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Two soft plugs in the block rusted through and I had to split the tractor to replace one of them. The crankshaft pulley loosened up twice completely stripping splines from the pulley and rounding off splines on the crankshaft. The second time the crankshaft pulley came off, we traded for a 1986 Ford 7710, which is my best buy. It does everything we want it to and we've had only one small problem which the dealer took care of immediately. Very roomy, comfortable cab. The more I use it, the better I like it."

Richard L. Newton, Marengo, Ind.: "The LT30 Woodmizer sawmill, which I bought three years ago, is the best piece of equipment I have ever owned. It's easy to operate, seldom needs adjustments (which are easy to make in any case), and performs just as the company says it should. The company's great about providing updates on their research and the findings of other

mill operators. Service is tops."

James C. Carden, Seligman, Mo.: "I now have 4,000 miles on my Fish carburetor and most of them have been nothing but trouble, expense, poor performance, and poor mileage. I was sure that sooner or later I could get it running right but I have just about given up. It's one of the worst buys I've ever made."

Delbert Spire, Maryville, Mo.: "My worst buy is a Miracle Span building, which we put up ourselves. The salesman said he would be out to supervise the job at least until we got the first arch up and for a while after. When the time came, no one showed up. Steel bolts on the building started to rust after 1 1/2 years, sending rust marks down the roof."

Robert K. Church, Centerville, Mo.: He's pleased with his 1985 New Holland 846 baler. "It's fast and easy to operate. Trouble-free operation and no problem getting bales started."

Justin Mackay-Smith, White Post, Virg.: "We've had a lot of trouble with the Supreme Forage Challenger unloader in our 25 by 80 Harvestore silo. It climbs up on the forage instead of staying on the floor. Repair efforts have been going on for a year and the latest seems to have helped, but we have wasted a lot of time, and therefore money, on this."

On the "best buy" side, "Our Deere 3960 forage harvester, which we bought used, does an excellent job chopping alfalfa to a uniform length and is easy to maintain. It's especially easy to sharpen the knives and the electro-hydraulic controls are very convenient."

Charles McDonald, North Lancaster, Ontario: Charles says his Allis Chalmers 180 diesel and Gleaner K combine are both "best buys". "Both have been relatively trouble-free over the years. The tractor has over 4,500 hours of mostly hard labor on its reliable, excellent motor. The combine is always reliable, easy to service and it does an excellent job of threshing."

He's also happy with his Homelite XL-1 chainsaw. "Since purchased in 1969 it's cut a lot of wood each year, giving trouble-free service except for an inconsistent chain oiler."

On the "worst buy" side, Charles nominates Goodyear "Power Torque" rear tractor tires. "The tire itself is all right but the tread design leaves the tractor behind when you need bite the most. In wet ground, the tire lugs fill up completely, leaving you stranded in the field. Fortunately Goodyear has changed its tread design since these tires were made."

James J. Anderson, Herman, Minn.: "This is my third Deutz tractor and the best one yet. For fuel economy and durability, the air-cooled engine is the best. Very satisfied," says James about his "best buy" 1987 Deutz-Allis DX 6.30.

Gene Larson, Westbrook, Minn.: "Ciba-Geigy's Dual herbicide is a great product but I can't figure out why these chemical manufacturers must use a rebate program instead of a cash price discount."

Gene's "best buy" is a David Manufacturing Co. CalcuDry grain drying system. "The reason it's so fast and successful is that it's stirring the top corn while taking corn off the bottom."

Henry Hrytsay, Gilbert Plains, Manitoba: "My best buy is a 1987 Roper 16 hp. hydrostatic garden tractor-mower. It handles great and with hydrostatic drive you have the correct speed required at your fingertips. You never have to grind gears when

shifting from forward to reverse."

Elmer Schrader, Westside, Iowa: "We bought a GMC pickup in 1977 that's got a Delco maintenance-free battery that still works good. Hard to believe."

Paul Singleton, Bruceville, Ind.: "Kopper's high-tensile fence system, which consists of posts, wire and insulators, works great. It's easy to erect, has high-quality components, looks good, requires no maintenance, and the charged wires never ground out. I wouldn't put up a woven or barbed wire fence again if you gave it to me."

Roy B. Meyer, Batesville, Ind.: "My 1982 International 184 riding mower is the poorest excuse for a mower ever built. The deck vibrates, burns belts, and cuts uneven."

"It's the poorest excuse for a mower ever built."

The steering is loose, the engine burns oil and it's got little power."

Roy's pleased, though, with his 1986 International 1620 combine. "It's got a lot of capacity, is gentle on grain, has a comfortable cab and the 1010 grain head makes combining beans a pleasure. The only problem is that when combining wheat it chops the straw up too fine."

Archie J. Ricke, Arcadia, Iowa: He's pleased with his 1987 Dodge Ram 50 pickup. "It's got excellent power, a smooth ride, good handling and it gets good mileage. Our dealer has a lot to do with our satisfaction. Exceptional parts and service."

Michael Yascolt, Pinconning, Mich.: "My best buy is the Lincoln welding school in Ohio (22801 St. Clair Ave., Cleveland, Ohio 44117, ph 216 481-8100). It's a great way to become an expert welder."

Paul Matheson, Embro, Ontario: "I don't think many Americans are familiar with our best buy, Texaco's "Floatcoat". We use it to "undercoat" farm equipment as well as cars and trucks. I started undercoating years ago, spraying the underbody and inner panels of cars with used motor oil to preserve car bodies from damage by the salt on our roads in winter. The oil stopped the rust but ate away window and door rubber moldings. We now use Floatcoat rust inhibitor. It looks almost like rear-end fluid and sticks wherever it's sprayed. It's almost impossible to wash off, even with a high pressure washer. I heat the product in an oven before applying it with a special undercoating gun. Once a year we high-pressure wash all of our farm equipment and spray it with this product. Our 1972 New Holland manure spreader, for example, still looks like new, including the apron chain and floor."

Scott Vander Wal, Volga, S. Dak.: Scott's pleased with bi-fold doors from Vari-Dor, Badger, S. Dak. "We built a machine shed out of some big stud-wall graneries. We bought bi-fold doors for it because they're relatively inexpensive compared to fiberglass overhead doors. Also, the opening doesn't have to be absolutely square because the door hangs on the outside instead of in the opening. They also don't have snow and ice problems like sliding doors."

Orville Knutson, Windom, Minn.: "It'll take care of up to 50 miles of fence,"

says Orville, pleased with his "best buy" 1987 Parker-McCrory Parmak super energizer fence. (Parker-McCrory Mfg. Co., 2000 Forest Ave., Kansas City, Mo. 64108). "It cost only 1/3 as much as an imported fence at \$129.95. It's low impedance so it won't start a fire and will shock even if covered with wet grass or weeds. It even shocks if the wire's off the insulator and touching a post."

LoRoy Zenner, Belgrade, Minn.: "One of my best buys ever is a 269 New Holland baler bought new in 1967. With only the normal minor repairs, it's worked faithfully for nearly 200,000 bales."

Joe Britt, Junction City, Kan.: He's happy with his 1987 Dodge Caravan with a V-6 fuel injected engine. "It has plenty of power and gets an average of 24 mpg. and goes as high as 30 mpg. I've never gotten less than 20 mpg. It rides and drives beautifully. I also owned a 1985 model and it was also a good buy but this new model is quieter and handles better with a smoother ride. I had it to the mountains twice this summer and it kept up with the big boys right up over Loveland pass."

Verne D. Phillips, Rushville, Ill.: "My Poulan 14-in. chainsaw is light, inexpensive and easy to handle. I can't say enough good things about it."

Daryl Beaudry, Elie, Manitoba: "We purchased our 1984 Case 2394 tractor new and we're very pleased with it. It's comfortable, powerful, and we have a good dealer. The salesmen back their product," says Daryl about his "best buy".

William G. White, Glanworth, Ontario: "We've got about 12,000 hrs. on our 1968 Ford 5000 tractor with no major repairs. All it's needed are batteries and general tune-up. It'll do nearly 2 days planting on one 20-gal. tank of fuel."

Karl Connell, Newport, Neb.: He lists his 1980 International 241 big round baler as "best buy". "It doesn't cost a lot to operate and maintain it and it makes 1,300 to 1,500-lb. prairie hay bales and 1,300 to 2,000 lb. alfalfa bales, depending on the quality of the crop."

Tom Svancara, Buhl, Idaho: "I'm greatly satisfied with my 1983 International 1460 Axial Flow combine. It has a lot of capacity and it's easy to change in minutes from one kind of crop to another. That's important because I do a lot of custom work. It does a nice job in all crops. The cab on this machine is probably the nicest one on the market. It's clean, quiet and the controls are handy. This is the second Axial Flow I've owned and I really like it but some improvements could be made. It needs more lights and better brakes. I would like to see them open up more of the rotor cage. And the auger on the 810 grain head should be larger. When you get in bearded wheat it tends to build up in front rather than feeding in smoothly. I think the head on the new 1600 series incorporates this improvement. I originally had a problem with my first IH 863 cornhead. It was flimsy and shattered a lot of corn. I now run a 643 Deere header on it. Works great."

Roger Hillestad, Bow Island, Alberta: "I haven't had a single mechanical failure in the field in 415 hrs. with my 1986 Deere 7720 Titan II. Good capacity and it's easy to adjust and calibrate. I'd like to see a factory-installed cleaning fan speed adjustment in the cab. I installed an aftermarket control

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