

Best And Worst Buys

(Continued from preceding page)

tion of hay because of the 'open throat' design. It's far easier to unclog damp hay out of than earlier Vermeers. However, the method of wrapping twine around the bale should be improved."

Wayne Smith, Lethbridge, Alb.: A 1987 Deere 530 round baler tops his "best buy" list. "It made picture-perfect 1,500 lbs. bales and there wasn't a bad one in the lot. It cut my haying time down to 1 week—a job which usually took 3 to 4 weeks with small square bales."

"Other best buys include a 1968 Massey Ferguson model 36 swather and crimper I bought used in 1976. I've used it on a large hay crop every year since. Another best buy is a 1973 GMC 3/4-ton, heavy-duty pickup I purchased used in 1978. It now has 120,000 miles on, and has needed no major repairs."

Frank Yender, Nemaha, Iowa: "My worst buy is Ag-Pac computer software. I put a deposit down to look at Crop & Beef, Field Records, and Farm accounting programs. It's taken about 4 1/2 months to get a refund when they guaranteed money back within one month. The software didn't fit our operation."

Ken Turbett, Winnipeg, Man.: "As best buy I'd say that a Fairford 100 by 51 metal machine shed fits the bill. It's saved us thousands of dollars in machinery trade-in values in the ten years we've had it."

"A more recent best buy is a 75-hp. 1986 Deere 2750 tractor with mfwd. It's fantastic for all kinds of loader work and doesn't get stuck in the winter."

Jerry Barnes, Danville, Ill.: "In 1985 I bought a new Chrysler LeBaron with a 2.6 liter, 4 cyl. engine. The engine on this car never ran right. Although it would start good and run down the road fine, you never knew if it would accelerate at a top light or cough and die. After many return trips to the dealer and near misses at 4-way stops, I traded it for a 1987 Chevrolet Celebrity with a 2.8 liter V-6 engine which is a nice car with a good engine."

"I also like my 1987 4WD Chevrolet 1-ton pickup with 454 engine. I'd owned a 1983 Chevy 1/2-ton with a 305 engine but it was always short on power. With the new truck we have plenty of power and load

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capacity. Can pull heavy loads with no problems.

"Another best buy has been an International 1460 combine. I've had it 9 years and it's still a reliable machine that's relatively easy to work on. It may not have all the advanced gadgets as the new ones, but it doesn't have a payment book in the cab either."

Jim Sherman, Andrews, N.C.: "The money I've spent trying to solve adaptor plate, heat and engine problems has cost more than any fuel savings I might have received had I got any," says Jim, disappointed with M3 and M5 Fish carburetors. "The manifold adaptor plates warped, allowing loss of vacuum. Also, the lines,

pump and float bowl are so heat sensitive that fuel tends to vaporize in the line before it's in the carburetor bowl, even when wrapped in insulating tubing."

George Stewart, Fayetteville, Tenn.: "My 1987 Case 885 tractor with 2250 loader has its pluses and minuses. It has plenty of power and works well to clean out low barns. Minuses are the hydraulic control location, drawbar height, and ease of filter change and oil addition with the bucket on. Also, the steering radius is more than I like. Loader is excellent for moving round bales and manure handling. I also like the ease of mounting."

As "worst buy" he nominates his 1987 Iseco hi-lift bale mover. "The bolts were grade two in the third arm. They broke while picking up the first bale. The lift crimped 2 hydraulic lines on the tractor and the hinge points are built too weak. It works alright after replacing the grade 2 bolts with grade 8."

"I do like my 10-20 Grain-O-Vator with hydraulic controls. It's worked well with no major breakdowns. My New Holland equipment, including a 315 baler with model 80 thrower, 512 manure spreader and 478 haybine all work well. They've been trouble-free and the haybine, bought new in 1976, cuts 300 acres a year and still does a good job of cutting and conditioning hay. The only problem has been the chains that drive the rollers."

George also likes his 1982 International 800 4-row plate planter and Lifetime hydraulic hog trailer. "Planter's seed placement and no-tilling ability have been excellent. The only problem has been the fertilizer drive chain and that the disk openers wear too fast. We've used the trailer almost every day for six years with no problems."

John Latulipe, Bombay, N.Y.: "My Skill 4-in. portable grinder is lightweight which makes it good for sharpening lawn mower blades, mower sections, etc. Also helps smooth out my sloppy welding."

Donald Salmon, Lyn, Ont.: "My Black & Decker Dust Buster has hardly any suction and is very messy to empty."

"However, I like my 2.3 cu. in. 16-in. bar chain saw made by Poulan for Sears. It's lightweight, dependable and inexpensive to buy and operate. I can operate it with one hand when necessary."

James Kirk, Vinton, Iowa: "Motorola radios have been very useful. The price was reasonable and service excellent."

"My worst buy was a Lawn Boy 3100 string mower. It was purchased several years ago and has been used approximately 10 hours. It was uncommon for it to run satisfactory for over 5 minutes at a time. An effort to trade it in on another model was unsuccessful because the dealer wouldn't allow anything for a trade in."

Richard Zwazchka, Comfrey, Minn.: He likes his 1980 Allis Chalmers 816GT 42-in. mower. "The only maintenance has been replacing the mower drive belt and the safety switch on the mower pot. However, I'd like it to turn shorter and second gear seems too slow for regular cutting and third is too fast. One change I made was to make the seat higher."

Mike Morris, Del Rio, Texas: "I've used my Black & Decker 14-in. 'Professional' chop saw to cut everything from drill

stems to 16-ga. purlins with very good results. However, I'd like to see more thought put into the back-up clamping device."

"My worst buy is a Sears 2-hp. 7 1/2-in. power saw. Blades are hard to tighten, it seems to lack power and the safety switch is very unhandy. I could cut much faster with my old 1 1/4-hp. Skil-Saw."

Edward Smith, Poplar, Mont.: A 1972 Ford 3/4-ton 4-speed camper special pickup is his "best buy". "I've been looking for a pickup of this vintage and shape for some time as they're heavier and tougher than the new models. They're also simpler and easier to work on, smooth riding, and nice on the road."

Ronald Zook, Danvers, Ill.: "My 50-in. Deere 218 mower is a good, dependable machine. But, it's easy to hit the ignition with your foot when getting on. The key should be moved or recessed."

Rocky Stehle, Theodosia, Mo.: "My 6206 Deutz tractor has 2,400 hrs. on it and has never been touched for repairs except for oil changes and greasing. Badger equipment is also excellent. I like my tandem axle silage wagon as well as a silage blower. Another good buy has been a 1985 Big Red Honda 3-wheeler. It's never given one drop of trouble in two years and starts every time. An excellent buy for the money."

As "worst buys" he names his Weed Eater and a 510 Deere round baler. "The weed eater was junk from day one. It never did start. I've spent \$80 on it, not including the purchase price. I couldn't get the baler to make good round bales. The roller in front would plug up with any size stick. If hay was a little damp, it wouldn't bale. Traded it for a Deere with a bale monitor and open throat and am very pleased."

Virgil Sommer, Harvey, N. Dak.: "We're well satisfied with our 1986 Deere 330 18-hp mower. We really like the water-cooled diesel engine with hydrostatic

drive."

Kevin Mohrman, Quincy, Ill.: "My 1987 Northwestern Bell cordless telephone has a full 1,000 ft. range and keeps a full charge for 48 hrs. before needing a recharging. It has 3 channel choices in case of interference."

"An ATT Nomad 4000 cordless telephone worked fine the first 3 months. Then it started slowly downhill to the point that it had a 100 ft. range instead of 1,000 ft. and, instead of working 8 to 10 hrs., you could only receive 2 calls and then it would start fading out."

Leonard Dicke, Sheridan, Ill.: "We love our Big Stinky fly trap (J.L. Price Products, P.O. Box 9, South Milwaukee, Wis. 53172) with 1 gal. glass jar. It uses a special scent to draw flies into a 1-gal. plastic jug, where they die. We fill it up once a week. There are no longer any flies around the house."

D.F. Campbell, Pearl, Miss.: "My Homelite ST-155 grass trimmer with 25 cc, 2-cycle engine is easy to start, runs good and has plenty of power."

Earle Duncan, Felton, Del.: "The plastic parts cracked and the threads stripped out of the housing. It just wasn't quality equipment," says Earle, disappointed with his 110 McCulloch chain saw.

Fred Hillstrand, Harlan, Iowa: My 1982 Volkswagen Rabbit diesel now has 100,000 miles on and has only cost oil and filters. No wonder we have to limit foreign auto imports."

Leon Downey, Ridgway, Ill.: "My worst buy is an original equipment AM-FM radio in a 1986 Mercury Grand Marquis LS car. The radio has an ignition noise on the AM band. The dealer's service manager has tried different radios, a new antenna, and replaced the distributor cap and rotor. I'm now ready to keep my 10th appointment to get it fixed."

You Asked For It

A year or so ago you featured a set of crop dividing fingers for grain heads. They looked like spring tines and mount toward the inside of the crop dividers at either end of the head to deflect crop material into the reel and keep it from wrapping. They sold for about \$45 a set. (Kenneth Knott, Ft. Jennings, Ohio)

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, K & M Manufacturing Co., Renville, Minn. 56284 (ph toll-free 800 992-1702 or, in Minn., 800 328-1752).

We're looking for replacement paddles for the clean grain elevator in our combine. What's the address of the company featured earlier this year that makes plastic paddles that help stop plugs? (Dean Chinn, Clarence, Mo.)

The paddles sell for \$3.50 apiece. Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Kuchar Sales, P.O. Box 595, Carlinville, Ill. 62626 (ph 217 854-9838).

Who makes the mobile straw pelleting machine that makes pellets on-the-go in the field for use as livestock feed or fuel? (G & E Livestock, Rock Springs, Wyo. 82901).

For information on the mobile straw cuber featured in Vol. 10, No. 3, contact: Bernewode Designs Ltd., Menmarsh Road, Worminghall, Aylesbury, Bucks. HP 18 9UP England (ph 08447 8801).

What companies make subsoil shanks to replace standard bottoms on moldboard plows? (Michael Leisler, Rt. 1, Clifton, Kan. 66937).

There are at least three companies that we know of with the shanks. Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Star Mfg., 1801 11th Blvd., Freeport, Ill. 61032 (ph 815 235-7750); FARM SHOW Followup, Eagle Engineering & Mfg., P.O. Box 295, Welcome, Minn. 56181 (ph 507 728-8271); or, FARM SHOW Followup, Ron Prong, Till-Tech Systems Ltd., R.R. 5, St. Thomas, Ont., Canada N5P 3S9 (ph 519 775-2405).

Sometime back we read an article about a company that puts two fans together end to end for faster bin drying of grain? Can you supply their address? (Carl Berkentias, R.R. 1, Ashton, Iowa 51232).

The two fans are hooked end to end but turn in opposite directions. They reportedly deliver twice as much air into the bin as two fans operating separately. Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Sheltek Systems, P.O. Box 324, Rocanville, Sask. Canada SOA 3L0 (ph 306 645-4300).

Could you please run the address of the company that makes the Bish head adapter for mounting a corn or grain head from one company on a combine of a different make? (Dan Fitzsimmons, Mankato, Minn.).

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Harvey Bish, Bish Farm Supply, Giltner, Neb. 68841 (ph 402 849-2261).