

Best And Worst Buys

(Continued from preceding page)

forms well in the snow. It gives an added feeling of safety over small cars. However, performance of the 4.3 V-6 engine and 4-speed transmission is marginal."

David Heng, Gilman, Iowa: "My best tractor is a Deutz 140A. Good power, fuel economy and easy to operate. The front wheel assist sure makes a difference on time spent in the field. We had some fuel pump troubles but the dealer took care of them."

"Our worst tractor is a David Brown 1410. Vibrates so much you can't keep light bulbs in. The 4-speed range and 3-

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speed transmission make it difficult to get the right speed range on the go.

"We used to have a 704 Uniharvester with a 717 combine which we thought was great until we traded for a New Holland TR 75 combine. It was like going from a Pinto to a Mercury Grand Marquis. We've harvested in less than half the time with few breakdowns. Real easy to operate. It has a Ford diesel engine which is a little under powered under full load and on hills but is good enough for me. Uses 1.25 gal. fuel per acre combining beans."

W.C. Smith, Jesup, Iowa: "When Ford says quality is Job I, they aren't kidding. I'm very satisfied with my 1986 Lincoln Town car."

Dean Koepp, Veblen, S.Dak.: "A 4-WD 4-270 White tractor bought new in 1985 is my best buy. I can't really find anything I'd like to change. It's fun to drive and comfortable to ride in. The Caterpillar 6-cyl. engine has good lugging power. I like that it's easy to service and that it doesn't use transfer cases like some other 4-WD's. The power shift didn't shift right at first but the dealer fixed it in just a few days."

"My worst buy was a seed cleaner sold by the JSX Corp., called the Whizzer. It's lucky if it can do 1/4 what they said it could do. I made a down payment of half the selling price and then they decided not to deliver it. After many months, and lots of worrying, I finally got one but I had to drive 350 miles and make a deal with the manufacturing firm. They were also being taken to the cleaners by the same JSX Corp. In the meantime I contacted the Better Business Bureau and the Attorney General. I was impressed with the Minnesota Attorney General's office. I still get letters from them. The last one stated that the owners of the company were all in jail."

Bob Tweedie, Delisle, Sask.: "Despite a cracked weld on the swing arm frame and a small problem with slipping canvasses which the manufacturer corrected, my Willcar Autotran 25-ft. swather with sliding table is a best buy. Simple to maintain, easy to transport and lays a nice single or double swath."

He nominates his 1982 Adja silver dye spray marker as "worst buy". "It's messy to mix dye, marker solution settled overnight and filters plugged. It also didn't leave a mark that I could see well

enough when used on a truck-mounted sprayer."

Harold Bratland, Hythe, Alb.: "Versatile tractors are my best buy. I bought a 1968 D-118 and a 1974 800 used. They get good fuel economy, are fairly easy to service and repairs are reasonably priced."

Lawrence Dool, Thorsby, Alb.: "I bought my 1968 Ford 630 combine in 1980. It'd been parked for about 7 years when I bought it. All it needed was a fuel pump and a battery and it took right off. I've used it for 6 years with no additional repairs. With its 50-in. cylinder and Melroe pick-up, I don't think there's another combine that can compete with it capacitywise."

He nominates his Sears Craftsman electronic 3/8-in. drill as "worst buy". "The automatic chuck doesn't work properly, the switch fell out several times, it powers out and the variable speed goes up and down on it. In other words, it's pure junk. You'd expect better service for a \$139 drill, especially since my \$30 Black & Decker that's 17 yrs. old outperforms it by a long shot."

Gary Struyf, Thedford, Ont.: "The only enjoyment I got out of my 1978 6-cyl. Jeep J-10 pickup with 3-speed stick shift was when I handed the keys to the dealer for a new Ford. The Jeep could hardly pull 3 empty wagons down the road. At 42,000 miles, it had rust holes in the box as big as eggs and the rest of the body was rusting badly. Couldn't keep exhaust systems on it. And, every time it rained, your feet got wet. The ride was so rough your head would hit the cab roof."

He's happier with his Kalo 12-v. hand-held Mighty Mixer for soybeans. "I plant solid seeded soybeans with a Tyc drill. The mixer does an excellent job of mixing beans, Anchor seed treatment and peat inoculant. Sure beats using a paddle to stir the beans."

Kevin White, Keeling, Virg.: Kevin nominates his 1982 Massey Ferguson 285 tractor as "best buy". "It has 38-in. rear wheels for adequate ground clearance to cultivate 2-row tobacco. Starts easily in cold weather, has short turning radius, good weight distribution and excellent fuel economy. Also has good drawbar horsepower, roomy cab and good visibility under the tractor."

John Nelson, Brayton, Iowa: "I had 10 Vermeer balers before this one and had minimal problems with them. But my worst buy was a 605J Vermeer baler. The grease seal fell out of the gearbox, and the bottom broke off of the tailgate cylinder. I had problems with the tailgate coming unlocked while baling and problems getting it locked on sidehills. It also had a broken roller, problems with a roller moving on a shaft and rubbing on the baler, broken shaft in a roller, and numerous broken welds, including on the bar that holds the baler together. The twine arm would bend every time a little hay would stop on the pickup. One light on the monitor wouldn't work, the chain oiler used about 2-gal. of oil a day and the chain tightener wouldn't stay on. After many calls and a couple of trips to the factory, they finally agreed to take the baler back for a price."

You Asked For It

EDITOR'S NOTE: Looking for the manufacturer or marketer of a product you'd like to buy or get repaired? Or for an item you read about in a previous issue of FARM SHOW?

We'd be happy to do what we can to help. If we don't have the answers, we can probably put you in touch with who does.

Contact: Research Dept., FARM SHOW Magazine, P.O. Box 1029, Lakeville, Minn. 55044 (ph 612 469-5572).

I saw a report in Successful Farming magazine (March, 1987 issue) about a new row-independent forage chopper. Would you put an article about it in FARM SHOW. They did not explain how it works. (Harold Jackson, 9646 Bliss Rd., Lake Odessa, Mich. 48849.)

FARM SHOW first learned about this first-of-its-kind forage chopper at its initial unveiling at the 1986 RAI farm show held in Amsterdam. We carried a full report on the machine a year ago (see FARM SHOW's Vol. 10, No. 2,



1986 issue, page 23). Billed as "the machine for all fields and all chopping situations that gives you the work freedom of a self-propelled combine," the new row independent Champion 3000 from Kemper can be mounted on a tractor with reverse steering, or front PTO and 3 pt. linkage, or on the power unit of a self-propelled forage harvester. Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Kemper Maschinen Fabrik, Andre Raes, Factory Representative, P.O. Box 1380, Litchfield, Conn. 06759 (ph 203 567-4660).

What's the address of Gilson Brothers that makes riding mowers for Montgomery Ward? I need parts for my mower. (Michael Yotch, Box 503, Essex Jct, Vt. 05452).

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Gilson Brothers Co., P.O. Box 152, Plymouth, Wis. 53073 (ph 414 893-1011).

Where can I get information on the Hypermax turbo charger kit for a 6.9 liter diesel engine? It was mentioned by a reader as a best buy in Vol. 11, No. 2. (Roger Meikle, 4555 Hwy. 42, Sturgeon Bay, Wis. 54235).

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Hypermax Engineering Inc., 38W563 Rt. 72, Gilberts, Ill. 60136 (ph. 312 428-5655 or 428-5882).

Who makes the chain saw attachment that lets you dig trenches in the soil? (Lawrence Hoelsing, Mapleton, Iowa 51034).

The "Mini Trencher" attachment for chain saws with 14 and 16-in. bars was featured in FARM SHOW Vol. 10, No. 6. Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Rose's Mini-Trencher, P.O. Box 832, McMinnville, Ore. 97128 (ph 503 472-5003).

Where can I get parts for my Brady 2500 field cultivator? (Wilbur Egert, R. R. 2, Prophetstown, Ill. 61277).

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup,

Hiniker, P.O. Box 3407, Mankato, Minn. 56002 (ph 507 625-6621)

Where can I get more information on "stand-up" gardens? They were circular, about 3-ft. high, and could be ordered in various sizes. (Lee Baldwin, Box 585, Hallock, Minn. 56728).

Stand-up gardens were featured in Vol. 10, No. 3. Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Frank Roberson, Stand-Up Gardening, Rt. 1, Box 54, Millville, Minn. 55957 (ph 507 753-2358 or 2356).

What's the address of the Kansas farmer who sells seed corn that grows 17-ft. tall? (Wendelin Schumacher, R.R. 1, Trenton, Ill. 62293).

The gigantic corn is bred specifically for silage and is developed from 8 different crosses. It produces twice the tonnage per acre as conventional varieties and at lower plant populations. Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Leonard J. Juhnke, Sedgwick, Kan. 67135 (ph 316 772-5638).

In Vol. 11, No. 2, you gave the address for the Miniature Tractor & Implement newsletter. However, my letter was returned due to an insufficient address. Can you help? (William Hardecop, 10300A Immanuel Rd., Yorkville Ill. 60560).

The complete address is: FARM SHOW Followup, Raymond E. Crilley, Miniature Tractor & Implement, 1881 Eagley Rd., East Springfield, Penn. 16411-9739.

Where can I get information on the 1/64th-scale shed for mini-farm toys? (Mike Steffen, 410 Arthur St. S.W., cascade, Iowa 52033).

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, John and Madalen Price, Rt. 1, Box 159, Lizton, Ind. 46149 (ph 317 994-5718).

We're looking for a used Stockland model 50 grader. These graders are perfect for grooming racetracks because they pull behind a regular farm tractor and do a job nearly as nice as you could do by hand. The company used to be in Minnesota but was bought out by a company down South. Can anyone help? (Pat Taddeo, P.O. Box 90, Jamaica, N. Y. 11417 (ph 718 843-0096).

What's the address of the British company that makes a mobile straw cuber for making cubes out of hay or straw on the go in the field? (Robert Garrigan, Rt. 1, Hickman, Ky. 42050).

The first-of-its-kind straw cuber was featured in Vol. 10, No. 3. Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Bernwode Designs Ltd., Menmarsh Road, Worminghall, Aylesbury, Bucks. HP 18 9UP England (ph 08447 8801).

I'd like to buy a good used 3-pt. mounted, pto-operated hammermill to run off a 30 to 40 hp. tractor. Can anyone help? (Ben Dullinger, 457 2nd Ave. S., Waite Park, Minn. 56387 (ph 612 252-1447).