

## BUYING TIPS YOU CAN USE

Randomly selected farmers "tell it like it is" in nominating their "best" and "worst" buys.

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Dave Sabin, Oxford, N.Y.: "I first saw an ad for the Phasecom flat plate satellite antennas from **Future Communications**, Colorado Springs, Col., in a farm magazine last summer. I sent the company \$1,500 for a dealership. Last September, they sent me an order form. I ended up sending \$2,525 for three of their \$600 flat plate antennas. They said the price had gone up. I repeatedly contacted the company about getting the units. They kept saying that they would be sent in a couple of weeks. Finally, in December, I received the receivers, low-noise amplifiers and feed horns, but not the antennas. I've called the company and asked for a refund but haven't received any further information. I'd like to get my money back."

John Adams, Marathon, N.Y.: "I don't know if they're a viable company and I don't care. I don't want to do business with them and I'd like to get my money back," says John, disappointed with his dealings with **Future Communications**. "Last spring I sent them money for a dealership and in September paid for three of their flat plate units. When I got the dealership the company told me that the closest dealer was 120

certified letters stating that if they'll send materials back to the company, they will get their money back.

Gene Welch, an investigator for the Colorado Springs District Attorney's Office told **FARM SHOW** shortly before this issue went to press that the office has received eight written complaints in regard to flat plate satellites and/or dealerships and is now looking into the matter.

If you have a complaint with the company you can contact: **Future Communications**, 740 Citadel Dr. E., Suite 202, Colorado Springs, Col. 80909 (ph 303 591-9683); or the Colorado Springs District Attorney's office, Economic Crimes Division, 326 S. Tejon St., Colorado Springs, Col. 80903.

Phillip Curtis, New Vienna, Ohio: A **Stihl** BG 60 blower tops his best buy list. "It's the best way to clean my machine shed floor and quickly cleans up around the grain dryer. It's also a wonderful way to 'spruce' up our patio and garage floor."

Harry M. Roy, Middlebury, Ind.: "Our **New Idea** 272 Cut-Ditioner does a good job cutting and conditioning hay. It would be practically impossible to plug it up. The only drawback is that it pulls harder than other makes and models of hay cutting equipment.

"We also like our 3-wheeled **Heald's** Hauler. We bought it new in 1978 and have used it almost every day with virtually no maintenance. Handiest mini-pickup you could ever have on a farm."

L.E. West, Gatewood, Mo.: "My 11-hp. **Roper** mower never gives any trouble. Cuts weeds and grass 4 ft. high."

Frank R. Lupinski, LaGrange, Ohio: "I've had problems with the brakes on my 1980 F-250 **Ford** pickup ever since the day I bought it new. The ring pin bearings are also bad."

Frank likes his **Kuhn** hay tedder. "Reduces hay drying time by one-third to one-half. It's gentle on the hay, too."

LaVerne Schriock, Shields, Kan.: "Our 8050 **Allis Chalmers** tractor has lots of power and handles just like a car with a nice big cab. We get great service from the dealer."

Morris Fitzgerald, Owosso, Mich.: He nominates his **International** 5100 grain drill equipped with press wheels as "best buy". "In the two years I've used this drill, I've planted oats, wheat and soybeans, both solid-seeded and in rows. I've always had good germination and even stands."

Ken Brown, Calgary, Alb.: He's well-pleased with his 1983 **Dodge** 150 pickup. "Gets 20 to 25 mpg. I'd certainly buy another Dodge. It's the best truck I've ever owned."

James F. Burton, Tilley, Alb.: "The big problem with my 1986 **Chevrolet** 1/2-ton, 4-WD pickup is that you need your own bulk fuel station to drive it. It's amazing that they can fly to the moon but they can't make a 1/2-ton pickup that'll get 25 to 30 mpg."

James is pleased with his 1986 **Claas** 96 Dominator combine, though. "Performs well, is fuel

# Farmers Nominate Best, Worst Buys

## OPINION

miles away from me. I've since learned they set up at least two other dealers within a 30 mile radius. As for getting the antennas — I kept getting the run-around from the company as to when they were being shipped. Finally, I called them in early November and asked for a complete refund. A George Ryan at the company told me that it would be impossible to do so."

**Editor's note:** **FARM SHOW** Magazine published an article on the flat plate satellite in Vol. 10, No. 4, 1986. The plate reportedly hangs on the side of a house or mobile home. Last December, we learned from disgruntled customers that there have been reports in at least three publications dealing with satellite technology questioning **Future Communications** and its dealings.

Paul Brent, a vice-president for the company, told **FARM SHOW** in late December that shipping delays were caused by problems with vendors and suppliers. He also stated that "product has been shipped out". However, he declined to provide **FARM SHOW** with names of people receiving product, citing "a confidentiality agreement". Brent told **FARM SHOW** that everyone who has asked for a refund has been sent