

efficient and has good workmanship. It runs so smooth that if the header isn't running, you can't tell if the machine is on."

**Burge Schwerdfeger, Coolidge, Kan.:** "I like the layout of the tractor, its easy maintenance and all around comfort," says Burge, happy with his 1979 **Versatile 855 4-WD tractor.**

**Larry A. Mullenix, Herbert, La.:** "In 1984, we purchased a new **3788 International 2 + 2, 4-WD tractor.** This tractor's never worked a full day without a breakdown. We've had trouble with the air conditioner, hydraulic lines, 'U' joints, and instrument panel. Also, only one fuel tank ever worked and the high/low range torque converter went out three times. Traded this lemon in with only 1,000 hrs. on it."

He's had better luck with his 1985 **Case 2390 tractor.** "No down time and just regular maintenance after 1,700 hrs. Cab's roomy and quiet."

**Jon Ramsey, Scott City, Kan.:** "I'm pleased with **Surge System (P.O. Box 3361, Lubbock, Tex.)** flow valves purchased for a flood irrigation gated pipe system. With the limited head of water from our irrigation wells, these valves allow us to get a more even distribution of water over the fields, and do it faster."

**Dee Croft, Anthony, Kan.:** "I'm well-pleased with my 1984 **Ford Ranger pickup.** Works great to check cattle, has good acceleration, is easy to get in and out of, and gets good mileage. Also like the fact that it's American-made."

**Jeffrey Simon, Blanchard, Mich.:** He's unhappy with his 1983 **Deere 16A flail chopper.** "We can't keep the main drive pulley tight to the shaft. We've had this trouble on the chopper many times."

**Wes Schroeder, Collinsville, Okl.:** "Our **Wick Building,** constructed for machinery storage in Feb. of 1986, is very well-built and attractive. Doors are all-steel and lumber is of good quality. Best part of the building was the price. Even my banker encouraged me to not pass up this deal."

"My A & L 650 grain wagon by **Parham Industries** isn't a 'worst' buy, but I've been disappointed that the swivel clevis has broken three times because it doesn't flex enough on uneven ground. I've now slotted and reinforced the holes."

**Elvin H. Nagle, Annville, Penn.:** "My best buy is a 1984 **Deere 55U chain saw.** It's very economical and has a fast cutting speed. I'm well-pleased."

**Moses Hoover, Ronks, Penn.:** "Our best buy **Resco welder** mounts in place of the regular alternator in our truck and lets us weld, boost-charge batteries or run power tools on 110 volts."

**Frank Klasek, Oakley, Mich.:** "We'd like to nominate **Blazer herbicide** as worst buy. We sprayed 1½ qts. per acre plus 1 pint crop oil on 22 acres. We had some leftover so we sprayed 5 acres over again with 1½ qts. When we confronted the company about the weed infestation they said 'tough'. We would have gotten the same results if we'd sprayed with plain water. Needless to say, we will not use Blazer again."

**Jay and Mark Bottolfson, Vermillion, S. Dak.:** "Our worst buy is hog equipment from **Fairfield Mfg.** Our nursery gates corroded and were useless in just over two years. Our stainless steel nursery feeders have been heavily modified and then work only marginally, and our stainless-steel finishing feeders were junk and were replaced. Our best buys include concrete **Bohlman feeders** and **Chore Time flex-auger feed systems.** We've owned five of these feed systems for five years and have only had to replace one control switch."

**Dean Fitzsimmons, Redfield, Kan.:** He cites his **Makita cut-off saw** as "best buy". "With its adjustable vice, it works great to make angle cuts."

He nominates his 1986 **GMC 1/2-ton pickup** as "worst buy". "It's my last GMC. Gas mileage is very poor and it has an engine rattle that no one

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can locate. Dealer did what he could but the factory wouldn't help."

**Lloyd I. Leamon, Lafayette, Ind.:** "My 8 and 12 piece punch and chisel sets from **California Contractors Supplies, Inc.,** are no good. The center punches flattened the first time I used them and the chisels wouldn't cut anything but sheet metal."

"My best buy is a 1985 **Ford 1710** with FWD and a **Dual 105** quick attach loader. Tractor starts easily and the synchro manual shuttle transmission works very well. Controls are easy to reach. We use the tractor to clean hog and cattle barns, mow fence rows and walnut trees with a 5 ft. rear-mount mower, and to haul hogs with a hydraulic hog trailer. Does everything we want economically."

**R. Arlen Kirkwood, Topeka, Kan.:** His "best buy" is a 1985 **Deere 530 baler.** "It's so easy to operate that, after just a few bales and learning how to watch the monitor, anyone can make near perfect bales every time. There's no problem starting a bale and it'll handle nearly any amount of hay run through it."

**Marvin E. Jackson, Slaughter, La.:** "FARM SHOW has some of the best information on equipment I've found."

Marvin's not happy with his **Sears 11-hp. lawn mower.** "I'm sorry I ever bought this mower. I've had nothing but problems. The transmission went out. I had to buy a new one and it's still not performing right. The valve retaining clip came loose and had to be replaced. I've had \$600 of repairs on a \$1,200 lawnmower."

**Leo Sorensen, Creighton, Neb.:** "My 1983 **Chevrolet Impala** went through 4 windshields in 34,000 miles. They just cracked down the middle. After the third one, we found a high spot that caused the cracking. Otherwise, the car runs great."

"My best buy is an 8-row **Deere Max Emerge planter.** We get a good stand and the planter performs great. It puts the seed at accurate spacings and we get even stands because of the opener and press wheel designs."

**Robert Harris, Leavenworth, Kan.:** "I'm very pleased with the way my 1982 **Ford 450 4-row Danish** tine cultivator handles under all conditions. It always gets good penetration."

**Clyde Hathcoat, Brashear, Tex.:** His best buy is a 7-ft. 10-in. **GMD 66 Kuhn rotary mower.** "I was having trouble cutting my winter cover crop with a sickle mower due to dampness but the Kuhn went through it non-stop."

**I.L. Powers, Eustace, Tex.:** "My **Honda 250 3-wheeler** is the most useful piece of equipment on the farm. Starts quickly, handles well and uses little gas. We use it to pen cows, check cattle and check fence."

"We're also well-pleased with a 1984 **Chevrolet 1/2-ton pickup** with a 305 engine. Gets good gas mileage and has a comfortable ride."

**Don Campbell, Aurora, Neb.:** "I consider my **Eversman 240** minimum tillage system the best purchase I've made in 30 years of farming. My labor and expenses have been cut and yields have gone up substantially. In five years and 4,000 acres, I've never had any trouble with the rig. The knives that run on the ridges only show half wear. There's

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real quality and engineering in it."

**Steve Fink, Independence, Mo.:** **International 1300 series mowers** with 9-ft. bars are his "best buys". "We have two of these mowers and have never had any trouble with them — even after mowing 900 acres of rough pastures and hay land."

**James Cooper, Slippery Rock, Penn.:** "My best buy is a **Hardy (Rt. 4, Box 156, Philadelphia, Mass. 39350)** outside furnace featured in **FARM SHOW.** I bought it in 1983 to heat an old 3-story farmhouse. After using it for three seasons, it developed a small leak. Since I purchased it from the factory, I called their service department for advice. They came out and picked up the furnace, fixed it and returned it to me. They also updated it to the latest design with new and better controls. This was done 2 yrs. after the warranty had expired."

**Rick Pugh, West Winfield, N.Y.:** "I'm very pleased with my **Deere 450 Hydra Push spreader** because you can adjust the rate of spreading with a turn of a knob from within the cab. The best part is that when you're done, you're done. There's no waiting for clean out. I'm also very pleased with my **Deere 714-A forage wagon.**"

**Kenneth Cramer, Morrison, Mo.:**

He cites his **Deere 4425 combine** as both his "best" and "worst" buy. "It has the capacity of a large machine and controls and adjusts are convenient and easy to use. However, the tires are too small. We had a wet fall and this machine was helpless in soft ground. We'd like to get a rear assist drive for the rear wheels but our dealer says they aren't available."

**Mark Aulbach, Hartford City, Ind.:** "My **International 5100** grain drill sows grain evenly. It has individual press wheels on the cutters that can be individually adjusted, unlike most I've seen."

**Kenneth Burks, Comanche, Tex.:** "I couldn't keep enough bearings around here for my 605 **F Vermeer baler.** I ran it three years and put countless bearings on it along with two drive sprockets and two drive chains."

He's pleased with his **Deere 503** round baler. "I ran the first one three years and put only two bearings on it. The second one is a year old and we haven't had any troubles."

**Allan Spicer, Ft. Burwell, Ont.:** "My purchase of a 1984 **AMC Jeep Cherokee** has turned out to be a nightmare. The vehicle itself is excellent. However, poor parts inventory, dealer service and failure of AMC to back up the vehicle contributed to the nightmare. I've lost count of the rear windshield assemblies I've replaced. A master cylinder leak led to clutch and transmission replacement. Although, I've enjoyed 2 previous AMC purchases, I urge others to avoid dealing with the company because of the poor warranty and zero cooperation in the post-warranty period."

**Dick Maier, Rochester, N.Y.:** "I'd like to nominate our **Hopper Topper** for our 915 **International combine** as best buy. It covers the bin area and is made out of fiberglass. Installation takes only minutes."

"I'm also very pleased with my 1986 **Ford Ranger diesel pickup.**"

**Garr Wayment, Burley, Idaho:** "We've driven our 1986 **Isuzu pickup** 26,000 miles with no problems. It started all last winter without using a block heater. They could improve seat quality, though."

**Wayne Malmgren, Melfort, Sask.:** "In 1980 I purchased a **Chevrolet 1/2-ton pickup** with a 5.7 liter diesel engine. The only repair it has required is an electronic sender which cost about \$200. No other tune-ups or repairs have been needed. Truck gets good mileage and starts well. I now drive a 6.2 liter **Chevrolet Silverado** that also runs great."

**Valley Vidrine Jr., Eunice, La.:** "Our best buy is a 1985 **Versatile 835 tractor.** I've used it for one complete year with no downtime. It's an easy tractor on which to perform everyday maintenance."

**Gregg Danford, Bladenboro, N.C.:** "The first spring the fuel lines on my 1983 **Deere 4850 MFWD tractor** cracked twice. Deere put a new set on the following fall. In the fall of 1985, a valve dropped. That cylinder was rebuilt by Deere. Less than 50

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