

Best And Worst Buys

(Continued from preceding page)

it's almost no work to run," says Emery, pleased with his **Deere 6630** combine equipped with teflon pads under the header.

Neil A. Easley, Saltville, Virg.: "This tractor sticks to the side of a hill better than any tractor I've had. It burns only 1 gal. of fuel an hour for heavy plowing and disking," reports Neil about his "best buy" **Hesston 566** tractor.

Edward Ketter, Tipton, Kan.: "My 1984 **International 3688** is best buy. This tractor has more than 800 hrs. with no downtime. Hydraulics are superior to any tractor that I've had. Forward air flow cooling keeps all engine heat off of the cab so it requires far less air conditioning."

Lyle Wirth, Prophetstown, Ill.: "I use this tractor for all my field work

and so on. It's self-diagnostic for equipment problems and is IBM compatible so we can run many other programs."

He's not as happy with his **Radio Shack 43-550** cordless phone. "I got this phone so I wouldn't miss calls while out around the farm. Range seemed poor. When it did ring, I couldn't talk or hear properly even when relatively close to the base."

Joe Jantz, Meno, Okla.: "It was in the shop 6 weeks in the first 4,000 miles. Ford wouldn't do anything. You never know when it'll quit running," says Joe, upset with his 1985 **F150 6-cyl Ford** pickup.

He had good luck with his **Ford** lawn tractor. "My wife thinks it's the best."

Gary Dinkel, Culver, Ore.: "I bought my 1981 2090 **Case** tractor when it had 1,000 hrs. on it. It's performed with no problems for the past two years with the exception of a fuel cap which leaked. Fuel economy is excellent, power is good, the power shift works great, and the cab is as quiet as any on the market. My only complaint other than the fuel cap, is that the hydraulics and pto controls are awkward to handle."

Kenny Thomason, Altus, Okla.: "I have a new **Deere Titan II 7720** combine that loses too much grain no matter what adjustments are made. I've consulted at least 5 dealers, 2 factory men, and have even had Deere mechanics out in the field trying to adjust it. So far, none of the suggested settings have upgraded the performance level of this combine. I have a 1978 7700 Deere combine that outperforms this machine by a wide margin. The problem with the 7720 is that excessive wheat chaff builds up on the straw walker openings and doesn't allow grain to pass through, so it rides out over the straw walkers. I've gotten a lot of complaints from my custom harvest customers. I bought this combine with the understanding that it would outperform the 7700 by 25%. I feel the company made misleading claims and that the productivity of this machine has been grossly misrepresented."

Martin Riggle, Gnadenhutten, Ohio: He nominates ridge runner attachments from **Sukup Mfg.** for his **White 5100** corn planter as "worst buy". "Sales literature incorrectly stated that attachments would fit with 'just four bolts' when, in fact, major modifications were required. Dealer was some help but factory assistance was very poor. They sent the wrong parts, parts for other planters, or didn't send any parts at all. Blueprints sent with specifications for the extra toolbar required didn't include all the cutting and drilling needed to make it fit. After many calls to factory, and time spent redesigning, we finally got the units to work, although they plug up with stalks under certain conditions."

Reader Letters

The tractor loader mounted on an old truck shown in your last issue (Vol. 10, No. 4) is an excellent idea that goes back many years. We're still using the last conversion built by my uncle in the late 1950's. He mounted a **Dual C100** stacker on a 1938 Chevy truck chassis and a sweeter outfit there never has been for stacking loose hay. It also works well for cleaning manure out of corrals when the manure has been dozed into piles. I've even built a boom for it. Works great for taking engines off combines for overhauls.

The 1938 Chevy truck chassis has stood up very well. It still has the original transmission, drive train and rear end. We did replace the transmission bearing a few years ago. The truck is equipped with a 1952 216 engine which we just overhauled. The only real problem we have is finding used 700 by 20 and 750 by 20 tires for it. Tires don't last long in the hay field. Getting other parts hasn't been a problem. The **Dual** stacker has also given excellent service.

My advice to farmers making loader-truck conversions is to choose a truck which was built in sufficient numbers so that a supply of parts is available for many years. You could be using it a long time.

John Ruff
Logan, Kan.

We appreciated the report in your last issue (Vol. 10, No. 4, page 24) on our power assist **Honeysuckle** auger for loading thick, heavy sludge into vacuum wagons. Unfortunately, there was a slight error in the pump's capacity. It should have read as follows:

"We've successfully tested the **Honeysuckle** in pits where the solids were so thick that high pressure agitating and loading pumps would no longer prime. In one case, a farmer was pumping with a new 3,350 gal. vacuum wagon. After removing everything the wagon could, there remained 4 ft. of solid material. In an 8 hr. period, using the **Honeysuckle**, he was able to remove another 43,550 gals. of material and the unit was still pumping when we left."

Phil Ruyle
Rt. 1, Box 141 A,
Medora, Ill. 62063
(ph 618 729-4465).

Thanks for the article in Vol. 10, No. 4 about my stainless steel drainage tile guards. Unfortunately the phone number was incorrect. The correct number is 812 591-3914.

Stephen Wilson
Rt. 2, Box 355,
Osgood, Ind. 47037

I appreciate seeing articles in **FARM SHOW** on new things for handicapped farmers. I'm handicapped and find

we're not treated like other people. Most companies don't or won't make things for us to use. Seems like all equipment is made so people have to lift everything and backs are ruined. It's the No. 1 time loss injury in the world. I look forward to seeing more handicapped new products and ideas in future issues of **FARM SHOW**.

Bruce Avery
Topsham, Vt.

I am 82 years old and have retired from farming. I'm blind but still enjoy having **FARM SHOW** read to me.

Paul Kent
Rd. 5
Waynesburg, Penn.

Thanks for the article on our low-cost tire liners in Vol. 10, No. 3. Since that time, we've moved and now have toll free numbers. Readers can contact us at: **FARM SHOW Followup**, Gempler's, P.O. Box 58, 706 Third Ave., Monroe, Wis. 53566 (ph 800 382-8473; in Wis. 800 362-8898).

Steve Schlecht
Gempler's

I noted with interest the article in your last issue (Vol. 10, No. 3) about Swiss cow bells. Thought you would like to know there is no need for your readers to write to Switzerland to get them. We keep them on hand all the time in several sizes. If desired, we can order custom-made bells with names, birthdates, anniversaries, etc. on them as well.

J.E. Lehman
Lehman Hardware & Appliances
4779 Kidron Road
P.O. Box 41
Kidron, Ohio 44636
(ph 216 857-5441)

I was interested in your report on Ian McCuaig's manure system (Vol. 10, No. 4) because I visited his farm three years ago before building my own manure handling system. We subsequently built a similar system with a concrete culvert measuring 6 by 10 ft. from the end of the stable cleaner to the lagoon. It has worked without problems for the last two winters. However, your report failed to point out the most important part of the system, at least in our cold climate. The exhaust fans from the barn must be arranged to blow warm air from the barn into the enclosed area over the culvert so that it will travel over the surface of the flowing manure to keep it from freezing. Also, as shown in the accompanying drawing, the outer end of the culvert should be fitted with a baffle to keep wind from blowing into the culvert.

Harold Merson
3269 Route 138
Ormstown, Quebec
Canada

"This tractor handles everything like it was out for a Sunday drive."

and it handles everything just like it was out for a Sunday drive," says Lyle pleased with his 9600 **Ford** diesel tractor.

Edwin R. Sherman, Coupeville, Wash.: "I wouldn't call my **Vicon KM-240** a worst buy since it's a good mower-conditioner. But, I've had trouble with the way the inside shoe is attached. I finally had to remodel the whole set-up. I understand newer models have been changed."

Edwin likes his **Stihl 032** chainsaw and his **TW-5 Ford** tractor. "I wanted to buy another brand but the local dealer sold me on **Stihl**. It's dependable and easy to handle. My tractor only has 200 hrs. on it but it's a real pleasure to drive. I like the 2-door cab and everything else about it."

Leonard Peters, Monmouth, Ore.: "It paid for itself in one day harvesting turf grass seed. It also works well in oats and wheat whether harvesting on the level or on hills. My grain losses were practically zero in over 100-bu. wheat and oats," says Leonard pleased with his "best buy" grain deflector manufactured by **Leland Harris** (Rt. 1, Miami, Mo. 65344, ph 816 529-3408).

George Massie Jr., Louisa, Virg.: George nominates **Roundup** herbicide as "best buy". "Did a good job killing Johnsongrass even after it was stored for three winters in an uninsulated building."

Bill Hawbaker, Geneva, Ind.: "My **Blount** mix-mill computer cow feeder matched with a **Columbia 256** computer does an excellent job feeding individual cows. Has several management options to help spot cows that are off-feed, ready to breed,

