

through in 5,000 miles or less and I can't work the heater fan switch with gloves on. This truck is designed for suburban housewives, not working farmers. In spite of my past loyalty to Chevy trucks, this is my last one."

Tom Martin, Covington, Ind.: "The **Alkota** pressure washer model 2102 made by Alkota Cleaning Systems, Inc., Alcester, S. Dak., really does the job cleaning farm machinery. It can be used with both hot and cold water and can induct soap into the system. It can also be used as a steam cleaner. I've never had to use it as a steamer because it does such a good job hot pressure washing. There are dials for heat and soap which work great. Very easy to drain and maintain."

Gary Fugh, Fisher, Ill.: "I found out recently that most of the cash value life insurance policies that I originated in the 60's and 70's were very poor deals when compared with today's insurance products and economics. I ended up cancelling all my old insurance and replacing it with term insurance. I invested the cash value received from the policies in mutual funds at much higher rates than the 3 to 5% the old policies were paying. I strongly suggest everyone sit down with an agent they can trust and review their life insurance situation, especially if they have policies that date back several years."

"My best buy is my **Allis-Chalmers** 8030 front-wheel assist tractor bought in 1985. It's hard to believe the difference that the front-wheel assist makes. It's almost like having another tractor pushing you when the FWA is engaged. Makes you feel that you're getting full benefit of the fuel you're burning."

Russ Twedt, Rudyard, Mont.: He nominates his 1985 **Dodge** Caravan with 2.2L engine as "worst buy". "Although this mini-van is a very good vehicle in most respects, it's a deathtrap when there's any substantial amount of snow lying on the road."

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Airflow buries the motor in snow and the air intake also fills up with snow, stalling the engine. Also, the throttle linkage has frozen twice on the highway. Although the dealer's service manager has tried everything he can to remedy this situation, Chrysler Corporation will not let him re-route the air intake or build a splash pan underneath. Numerous complaints to Chrysler have so far yielded no results."

James L. Miller, Dexter, Mo.: Heading his "best buy" list is his 1985 **Mayrath** swing away 62-ft. grain auger. "It's simple to operate and easy to remove from grain bins. I like not having to back up perfectly to unload. The Swing-Away hopper can be easily moved into position. Excellent product."

Ivan Runyan, Coin, Iowa: "My **Ford** 5000 all-purpose tractor is an asset to my farming operation. It has always started easily for a diesel and is economical on fuel. Has a comfortable seat, steers easily and is a pleasure to drive. Even though it has 6,900 hrs. on it, it's still going strong."

Ivan's also happy with his 1984 **New Holland** 451 mower with 9-ft. cutter bar. "This mower is easy to mount or take off the tractor. It performs well even in the thickest grass or hay. It's quiet running and easy to keep in perfect running condition. Has given very little trouble and parts are usually available at our local dealer."

Ray Tauker, Earlville, Iowa: He says his 1984 **Radio Shack** Tandy 1000 personal computer is his "best buy". "We like it because it's very compatible with IBM and because it's got a very good keyboard. To improve it, they should make it accept expansion cards that fit IBM because there is so much of that type of third market material available."

Rex Mosher, Shreve, Ohio: "I like my 1984 **Farmtronix** computer. By using it to monitor feed consumption, we've been able to give our high-producing cows more feed without wasting it on lower producers. Next time, though, I'd buy a more expensive computer with more capacity."

Ricky L. Kirkpatrick, Cottonwood, Tenn.: "I wouldn't give up any of this equipment unless it was for new equipment from the same company," says Ricky, pleased with his **New Holland** 273 Hayliner, 56 rake and 451 mower, all bought during the past 10 years. "Very dependable products that perform admirably on my own place and for custom work. Very pleased."

Lawrence Link, Conklin, Mich.: "My 1982 **International** 786 tractor has plenty of power, is economical on fuel, easy to operate, provides reliable starting even in winter, and is comfortable for long hours in the field. It's a very good all-around tractor."

Lawrence has had trouble with his 1984 **Chevrolet** 4-WD ¾-ton pickup with a 4-speed transmission and 292 engine. "Between 200 and 1,600 miles I replaced the light switch, cracked head, power steering unit, all power steering shafts, one front hub, and had loose bolts in one front wheel. It does not shift well, gets poor gas mileage, has a poor body and is, in general, a poorly-built truck. Very disappointed but have good dealer support."

Verna Gould, Springfield, Minn.: "I'm happy with my **Trail Blazer** hand-operated walk-behind sickle mower. Works great to keep fence rows and roadsides clear of weeds or any other out-of-the-way mowing job too tall for a conventional mower," says Verna.

Sam Martin, Union City, Mich.: Sam's pleased with his **Hiniker** ridge-till cultivator. "It takes out weeds other cultivators miss, is easy to hold on the row, works through trash with little plugging, and handles stones with little maintenance."

Alfred N. Chace, Sr., Greenwood, N.Y.: "One of the best buys I ever made was a **Stihl** chainsaw model AV41. I've owned it 5 years and have never had any trouble with it in any way. It's always ready to do business."

On the negative side, Alfred says his "worst buy" is a **Homelite** chainsaw. "It gave me nothing but trouble from day one. I had had it only one week when the crankshaft broke. The company put in a new shaft free. I used it a while longer but

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could never keep the starter tight. It finally broke free and wound up, breaking the casting and putting it out of commission for good."

Bradley Piper, Olmstead, Ky.: Heading Bradley's "best buy" list is his 1984 **White** 5100 planter. "It's very accurate and I've had few problems with the planter over the past 2,000 acres. In my opinion this planter is one of the best machines on the market for both conventional and no-till planting."

R.J. Rhea, Rome City, Ind.: He's had trouble with his 1985 **Dodge** 100 pickup. "From day one there was a vibration which, after dozens of trips back to the dealer, hasn't yet been corrected. The engine has never run tight — it jumps and jerks — and mileage is bad. At 13,000 miles it started using oil. In cold weather the auto transmission malfunctions."

Jim Haines, Bremen, Ind.: "It seems like it's impossible to get seed and plates that match close enough to get it to plant accurately. Also, the little covering discs and the disc opens break and bend easily. I'm very disappointed with it," says Jim about his "worst buy" **International** 800 plate type corn planter.

Jim is pleased with his 1984 **Case** 2394 tractor. "It rides well thanks to the fine hydraulic seat. It has plenty of power so that you hardly ever need to shift down in the tough spots. We feel it's just as good as our old John Deere. Unfortunately we lost our dealer in the shuffle of the merged Case-IH company but our new dealer is doing a satisfactory job."

Allan Zimmerman, Compton, Ill.: "We're well-pleased with our 1985 **Deere** 4650 tractor with mechanical front-wheel drive," says Allan. "It fits into our operation very well. The mechanical front-wheel drive helps with traction and eliminates slippage when pulling big loads. The 15-speed power shift transmission lets the tractor be shifted up or down without clutching and makes the tractor easy to drive and easy to teach to others. I enjoy using the tractor to pull my 800 bu. Kinze auger wagon during harvest when I need to be able to start or operate under load and shift up and down. Wouldn't buy another

tractor without power shift."

Bruce Loudon, Kalispell, Mont.: He's had good luck with a **Glean-Buctril** tank mix for use on small grains. "I've been fighting catchweed and 'henbit' on 200 irrigated acres for the past 8 years using other chemicals that just barely kept the weeds in check. Glean-Buctril does a good job on both weeds as well as easier-to-kill broadleaves. Does the job at a substantially lower cost and gets the second growth, too."

Jerry Malean, Downing, Wis.: "The only machinery I ever bought brand new is also my worst lemon. My **Kelly Ryan** manure spreader, made by Blair Mfg. Co., was already 'frozen up' when I got it. I had to take it back to the dealer who used a torch to loosen it. It kept 'freezing up' no matter how much oil and grease I poured into it. I wrote to the company for instructions and never even got a reply. I kept grinding it down until finally I could operate it. What a disappointment."

Jon E. Otts, Canastota, N.Y.: "My best buy is my 1967 **Dodge** 2½ ton truck. I'm the third owner and it still runs great even during the coldest weather when nothing else will start."

"My worst buy is a tire changer from **Wiko Industries Inc.** The tool for getting the bead off the rim and reseating it is worthless. The 'O'-mount bead seater, which is used for mounting tubeless tires, is worse. It won't stay up against the rim of the bead to hold the tire in place. It's always slipping down, allowing air to escape," says Jon.

John Behrens, Clare, Iowa: "My **PK** bean bar is easy to mount and very well built. The new plastic wands with turned down nozzles are much lighter and easier to use than the old metal type for spot spraying in the field."

Betty Garwood, Dakota City, Neb.: "We recently bought a 1985 **Kaypro** 4885 PC and so far it looks great. We plan to use it for bookkeeping, cash flow analysis and recordkeeping."

Melvin McMillan, McCall Creek, Miss.: "It's virtually maintenance-free and never plugs up even in thick, wet or blown-down hay," says Melvin, pleased with his 1985 **Kuhn** rotary disc cutter. "It's fast and although it cuts only a 6½-ft. swath, I can cut as much hay in the same amount of time as I did before with a 9-ft. conventional cutter-conditioner."

Melvin's also happy with his 1984 **Ford** 4610 tractor. "It's performed perfectly with no problems in over 800 hrs. I've only had to replace an O-ring that blew out in the hydraulic pump. I couldn't ask for anything better than this machine."

Ronald Lee Lawfer, Kent, Ill.: Ronald's had good luck with his **Surge Information** computer feeding system. "The computer feed system has reduced feed costs 25% this past year. Production has increased in the herd, especially among first calf heifers. It allows cows to eat several small meals a day instead of two large ones. The computer also automatically adjusts individual cow rations

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