

the old 8-speed power shift. The extra speeds come in real handy when you're plowing or chiseling. Really like the front-wheel assist, too. Makes it seem like a bigger tractor than it actually is and helps prevent rear wheel slippage."

Roy Neset, Tioga, N. Dak.: "My 1984 GMC Suburban with a 6.2 litre diesel is a best buy. It's comfortable and economical, getting 20 to 25 mpg. Plenty of room for the whole family."

Gary Stripe, Garden Grove, Iowa: "My New Holland 489 mower/conditioner mows under almost any condition when it's working. However, it has been the worst lemon I ever owned. In the first three years I replaced the main gearbox twice at my own expense. Finally this year New Holland notified their dealers about the defective gearbox and they replaced mine. All the tin-work, doors and shields are falling apart and the tongue with enclosed driveshaft keeps cracking and breaking. Also, inside the tongue on the drive shaft universal joint is a grease zerk that cannot be reached without removing the tongue from the machine. I have the price of two conditioners invested into this one, and all I have to show for it is one worn-out machine."

Bob Hellinger, Devon, Mont.: "My best buy is our new Apple IIC computer. The software I have been able to get is so easy to use anyone could pick it up in a short time. It's adaptable and I find new ways to use it on our farm and in our home all the time. I pride myself on my good farm records and the computer makes it easy to recall anything you want to look up, such as checks, addresses, inventory of grain, planting records and so on."

Dale Hallett, Carstairs, Alberta: "When we got our 4-in. Makita 9505B grinder we wondered if it would ever be used because we already owned a 7-in. angle grinder. We have since found it to be one of the most used tools in our shop. Very handy for light grinding and tight spots. It's our best buy."

"Our worst buy is a Black & Decker 3/4-in. variable speed, reversible drill. After only four months of occasional very light use the switch went out. Its replacement lasted only 6 months."

Les Viszked, Delhi, Ontario: "Lots of power, good working range transmission, starts well and runs great. No major or minor problems," says Les, pleased with his "best buy" 1981 International 684 tractor.

Mitchell Parker, Laurel Hill, Florida: He had trouble with "a 6-ft. Hi-Co rotary mower made in Laurel, Miss. The first time the pto was engaged the shear pin broke. I replaced the pin with a no. 5 bolt and it sheared within an hour. I replaced it again and it sheared within a 1/2 hr. I replaced it again and the gears stripped in the gear box. Also, a welded-on brace that attaches to the 3-pt. hitch came loose. After only 3 hrs. mowing I was left with \$700 worth of junk."

Gerald Mullaney, Orient, S. Dak.: "In 1977 I bought a GMC 4-WD 1/2-ton

pickup with full-time 4-WD. It now has over 100,000 miles on it with just normal service."

"I also bought a Deere 4450 tractor in 1984 with a 15-speed power shift transmission and it's been great. Not even a small oil leak."

On the "worst buy" side, Gerald has had problems with a 1978 50 by 80 Butler Farmstead building. "When it's raining it's hard to tell sometimes if you're inside or outside. It was supposed to be for grain storage

"When it's raining, it's hard to tell sometimes if you're inside or outside."

but grain doesn't keep very well when it's rained on."

Larry Senga, Saskatoon, Sask.: "We're more than happy with this trouble-free vehicle," says Larry about his "best buy" 1985 Ford Bronco XLT. "It has a 302 fuel-injected engine and automatic overdrive transmission. Excellent gas mileage, ample power and easy starting."

Joe Manternach, Cascade, Iowa: "My best buy has to be my Motorola business band radio that I bought in 1983. There's no interference from other radios. The only time we hear it is if we are using it ourselves."

Dick Purdue, Kell, Ill.: "My 1982 Honda 3-wheeler is my best buy in 30 years farming. I still love it but I bought a 1984 model, too, because they've added a reverse gear. The 1985 and 1986 models are a step backwards. They've eliminated the hi-low transmission and attempted to compensate by substituting disgustingly low gears. What was a 10-speed is now a 5-speed geared too low for turning cattle, and other chores."

"My 160, 13 1/2-ft. Bush Hog rotary cutter has recorded more downtime than running time due to failure of the 4 rear wheel spring mountings. The company's warranty has proven worthless. For value received, it's the most expensive machine I've ever owned."

Wayne Susina, Elkhorn, Wis.: Wayne's "best" and "worst buys" are both Massey Ferguson tractors. "Our MF 2675 had to be the world's worst buy. In 4 1/2 years the engine blew up two times. It used 4 to 5 quarts of oil per 8-hr. day, and 6 to 8 gal. of fuel per hour. The pto went out twice, the brakes once and the dip stick broke doing some \$2,000 damage. After Massey Ferguson put a lot of money into it under warranty, and we had spent \$1,000 to \$1,500 per year, MF gave us a real good price on a new 3545 tractor and we didn't have to fix the engine on the 2675 before we traded it in. The 3545 has lots of power, uses no oil and runs on 4 gal. fuel per hour. Starts in any kind of weather and the front wheel assist is great. The MF cab is the best in the

agricultural machinery industry.

"Another good buy is our 7600 Ford tractor with cab," says Wayne. "In four years it's required no repairs. Rated at 80 hp. it performs like 100. Hauls manure all winter and always starts, even at 30° below zero. Gets used almost every day."

"Our 7807 Deutz is also a good tractor. It's as inexpensive to operate as the manufacturer claims."

Daniel Wilde, Burlington, Tex.: "The rear end has a reduction gear protected by an aluminum housing. The housing doesn't stand up to normal use and allowed the gears to separate so that they wouldn't mesh properly. I had been reluctant to buy a Ford but it had a good price and was powered by a Briggs & Stratton engine, which I thought was important," says Daniel, about his "worst buy" 1984 Ford 830 riding lawnmower.

He's been pleased with his Deere 315 tandem disk harrow. "I needed a disk that could plow through milo and wheat stubble because I was tired of having to add weight to my old disk and then have the centers of the discs break out. This is a real good plowing and finishing disk and the 1/4-in. thick, 24-in. dia. discs on 8-in. centers really do the job."

Steve Hemm, Sheffield, Iowa: "My worst buys have been subscriptions to several leading farm magazines. I dropped all subscriptions to publications that for years promoted expansion and bigness. I'll probably go broke but not as fast as some people who borrowed on their inflated equity."

Rick Bunnel, Welda, Kan.: His New Holland 114 center pivot swather is both his best and worst buy. "It does a good job of mowing with little vibration. The two 7-ft. sickles are easier to maintain than one 14-ft. sickle. However, it took trips to three dealers before I finally found a needed special center guard. It seems like all parts have to be ordered."

James F. Dougherty, Lake City,

"I believe sloppy workmanship is the cause of these problems."

Iowa: "I believe sloppy workmanship is the cause of these problems," says James, disappointed with his Franklin stainless steel 4-drink hog waterer. "It has air leaks which cause it to freeze up unless water temperature is kept very warm. Also, almost every bolt on the lids has broken and been replaced."

"Another worst product is our Rohn round hole farrowing stall feeders. The holes in the feeders aren't big enough for sows to get their heads into. They can't reach the bottom 3 in. of feed. I had to bend the feeders out so they could reach."

On the "best buy" side, James had

good luck with his Lester farrowing and nursery building. "Very well constructed, easy to clean and maintain and very durable. Also, the Shendoah stainless steel nursery feeders we installed in the building are a good buy. They're easy to adjust, clean and small pigs readily eat from them."

Daniel S. Bornreger, Westby, Wis.: Daniel's "best buy" is an Ames aluminum scoop shovel. "They claim it's the finest in the world and I believe it lives up to the claim because it's so much stronger than other shovels and doesn't cost much more."

Bryce Hoffman, Monroe, Ind.: "It has plenty of power and gets 25 mpg driving back and forth to work. Last winter it started when my gas engine truck would not," says Bryce, happy with his 1982 Chevrolet C-10 diesel 6.2 litre pickup.

Emmett Blomquist, Dillon, Mont.: "We bought a 1984 Isuzu 'pup' diesel pickup 13 months ago and have had absolutely no problems after 14,000 trouble-free miles. Gets 38 mph in all kinds of driving around the ranch, town, and on the highway. Has required nothing but regular maintenance."

Steve Robinson, Mechanicsville, Iowa: Steve's "worst buy" is his 1982 Ford F250 4-WD with a 400 cu. in. engine and 4-speed transmission. "The original motor in this truck was junk. It had virtually no power. It was supposed to be big enough to be used for pulling 5th wheel trailers but, after 30,000 miles, it had to be overhauled. Then, at 65,000 miles, I replaced the engine. Now I finally have a truck that will do what it was intended to do."

Steve's International 4500 28-ft. field cultivator, equipped with a Krause coil tine harrow, heads his "best buy" list. "I've used it for 4 years with no trouble. Does a good job of leveling ground and has excellent trash clearance."

Pat Sullivan, Victor, Iowa: "It'll take a long time to wear this outfit out," says Pat about his Kinze 400 bu. auger wagon. "It's built tough and rides well through the field, easily keeping the combine on the move. It's definitely a best buy."

He's also pleased with his Kinze 6-row, 30-in. spaced double frame planter. "The planter is also built very heavy and has plenty of weight for no-till planting. You can mount units on the front bar to plant narrow-row beans."

Pat's had trouble with a 1978 Massey Ferguson 1505 4-WD tractor. "The pto went out three times running a sprayer pump. It has a noisy cab, the hydraulics growl and whine, the fuel gauge on the side of the tank cracked three times, and the door broke loose twice."

Bill Schaupt, Merrill, Wis.: "My 7-hp. Troy-Bilt rear tine rototiller does everything the company said it would. Works great."

Bob Mathiesen, Billings, Okla.: "I'd like to nominate my 1983 8050 Allis Chalmers tractor as best buy. Its cab is quiet, cool, clean, roomy

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