

count balance. I have also used Lotus to balance rations, record feed usage, land buying and renting feasibility, create dependable cashflows, and for word processing. I've done all this in less than a year with little previous computer experience and with no outside help. The users' manual is very good."

Arville Stende, Maynard, Minn.: He nominates his **Versatile 256** tractor with bi-directional controls as his "best buy". "I've had this tractor only 4 months but have found it to be the most useful and practical I've ever owned. The rear-mounted loader handles any farm chore easily and the

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best part is that you're seated very close to your work and can see what you're doing. Entire machine is a pleasure to operate."

William Brooker, Ottawa, Ill.: "The hydraulic cylinders were so hard to connect and disconnect you needed a big hammer and punch to handle them. It took the company a year before they were fixed right. The company wouldn't acknowledge my complaint even though the dealer knew about the problem," says William, disappointed with his "worst buy" 1982 **Deere 4440** tractor.

He's pleased with his 1980 and 1984 **Oldsmobile Delta 88** autos, both with 8-cyl. engines. "The 1980 has 70,000 miles and gets 23 to 25 mpg. The 1984 has 11,000 miles and gets 21 to 23 mpg. No problems of any kind."

Robert Bodie, Coaldale, Alb.: "Our best buy **Massey Ferguson 885** self-propelled swather is well put together. Most of the drives are hydrostatic, which is a big improvement over mechanical drives."

Jeff Peairs, Slaughter, La.: "This **Chevrolet C-20** heavy-duty, ¾-ton 4-WD diesel pickup has plenty of power and is well-made. The 6.2 diesel engine is easy to service and gets 18.5 mpg. I really like the on-the-go shifting to 4-WD. I'm well-satisfied."

Norman Imholte, Clear Lake, Minn.: "Since we bought our first **Supreme** silo unloader just over two years ago we've spent countless hours repairing and trying to get enough feed out for 60 cows. Several times we've had nothing for days, causing milk loss of at least 200 lbs. per day. The labor and parts on these machines in two years could break a bank. No farmer can afford this great of an expense to unload a sealed unit. The makeshift cover does not seal. I hope the haylage doesn't spoil. I've contacted the manufacturer and had no response."

Norman's pleased with his **Honda 200 4-wheeler**. "I've run it every day since we bought it 9 months ago. Very stable for hauling small items and doing chores around the farm."

Norman Heitstuman, Uniontown, Wash.: "We'd like to nominate the

Kirshann Melroe end move grain drill, now known as **Lilliston** as a best buy. We traded **John Deere** drills for a **Melroe** and are happy. The wheel disk and wheel provides better depth control and the built-in end move feature is valuable. Comparing parts prices, the **Melroe** parts cost 50% of equal **Deere** parts and last up to eight times as long."

William Gable, Ft. Wayne, Ind.: "I'm glad I bought my 1983 **Ford ¾-ton** diesel pickup. The truck is durable, well-designed and gets good mileage with plenty of power. It's the best-riding pickup I've ever owned."

Bill Fischer, Fremont, Wis.: Bill's unhappy with his **Same** tractor. "Too many small problems. Seems there is always something wrong with it. Seals and manifold gaskets leak, the air conditioner, heater, and pto all failed, and various switches and controls quit working. Parts are very expensive. We do, however, love the 4-WD option. Dealer has been very helpful."

On the plus side, Bill was so pleased with **H & S XL** forage boxes that he became a dealer for the company. "It's well-constructed, operates very smoothly, and the **H & S Co.** people stand behind their products 100%."

Marvin Holsing, Cresbard, S. Dak.: "Although nearly all of our equipment is **Deere** and I'm well pleased with it, I'm disappointed with my **850 Deere** tractor that's made in Japan. The salesman said it would do anything that our **Ford 8 N** that we traded to him would. The tractor runs nice but the rear wheels are too small and the hydraulic system is inferior to the **Ford's**. Plus, this tractor will not pull the cultivator we always use to cultivate trees."

Marvin's happy, though, with his 1979 **Dodge** pickup with 6-cyl. engine and 4-speed transmission. "We haul an 8½ ft. overhead camper on it and always get about 15 mpg on trips. We also have a 1982 **Dodge** Rampage pickup that gets better than 30 mpg. It hasn't given any trouble and is fun to drive. With its front wheel drive, it's good in snow and ice."

Richard Alexander, Washington, Ohio: "My best buy was a subscription to **FARM SHOW**. I look forward to each issue and then give it to my neighbor."

Jerome Delvo, Langdon, N. Dak.: "Baling hay with my **Vermeer 605G** is a pleasure. It seems to work well with any type of hay. We baled 735 big bales of hay and straw without any problems or breakdowns."

Arthur Harms, Pine Bluffs, Wyo.: Arthur nominates his **Homelite 240** chainsaw as "best buy". "I cut a lot of wood with it last fall and didn't have any problems. Starts easy in any kind of weather."

Fred Welch, Wallaceburg, Ont.: "It has lots of power, gets 25 mpg and starts well in cold weather," says Fred, pleased with his **Ford 250 HD** diesel pickup.

"Another one of my best buys is my 2-85 **White** tractor. I bought it nine years ago and it's still in super working condition."

Neil Perseke, Dawson, Minn.: "My

best buy is a model 2084 **Dittson** snowblower. Works great with my 175 **Allis Chalmers** tractor."

Mel Larson, Simmie, Sask.: He's unhappy with his **Aztec** straight wall steel building. "Most of the galvanized building sheets were oxidized upon receipt. The company said they'd go away in time. They didn't tell me they would turn into rusty areas."

Mel's well pleased with his 1976 **Allis Chalmers 7060** tractor with power-direct transmission. "It's easy on fuel, using about 1/3 of a gal. per acre and hasn't had any major repairs in over 3000 hours of operation. Another good buy is our 1981 **Allis Chalmers N6** Gleaner combine. After a few bugs the first season, it performs very well compared to any other rotary we've put it up against."

Norman Welch, Virden, Man.: "My 2090 **Case** tractor works fine and service is great, but it's only a year old and still on warranty and the company tells me it needs an update on the rear end which will cost me about \$600. If I don't get it done, the tractor will be worth less when I trade it in. I feel this is their problem, not mine."

On the "best buy" side, Norman nominates his ¾-ton **J-20 Jeep** with 4-speed transmission. "It's marvelous. Delivers 12 large round hay bales at a time on a fifth wheel trailer with no limit of power and traction."

Bill Hunt, Davison, Mich.: "Our 24-ft. wide, 4600 series **Wil-Rich** coulter-chisel plow is best buy. It's very reliable and easy to service. Does an excellent job tilling corn stubble."

James Williams, Newton, Ga.: "My **Poulan 3400** is hard to keep running and impossible to start after it's run for awhile. I've had different shops working on it for two years but still have problems."

"On the plus side, my 1976 **Deere 4430** tractor does a great job. There's been a minimal amount of downtime with no major repairs. Most repairs were made here on the farm. My **Deere** dealer is very helpful and will even help you make your own repairs over the phone. However, it does burn a lot of fuel."

Norman Jantz, Webb City, Mo.: "It makes the heaviest and tightest bales I've ever seen and they're all almost perfect," says Norman, pleased with his **Deere 530** round baler. "I've baled 3,500 acres with it and have only had two bearings go out. I also like my **Deere 1424** mower-conditioner. I've mowed about 1,000 acres without any problems."

James Langseth, Worthington, Minn.: "It's new so few things have acted up and dealer service is good. We're happy with its operation and the grain quality," reports Norman, happy with his **Farm Fans** Model 120 grain dryer.

Bruce Calahan, Carleton, Neb.: "I haven't had a bit of trouble with my 1985 **Ford 250 4-WD** pickup. I installed overloads and it still rides good and carries a heavy load. However, it only gets about 10 mpg."

Harris Engebretson, Thompson, Iowa: "The shifting mechanism on my 1086 **International** tractor is a disappointment. The gears clash

when trying to shift. The hitch is also far out of the way, making hookup difficult," Harris reports, noting that he's happier with his **International 5288** tractor. "They improved the shifting gears over older models. Plus, the cab is roomier and quieter."

Albert Janzen, Miami, Man.: "I'd like to nominate my **Ford** tractors as best buys. I presently own three — a **TW10**, **TW15** with front wheel assist and a **6610**. All three are well-built, trouble-free, and economical. They have plenty of power and are a joy to operate."

J.R. Blakely, Melfort, Sask.: He names his model 30 **Deere** chainsaw as "best buy". "It's easy to start, fast-cutting, easy to service and light to handle."

John Toppen, Ada, Mich.: "With this mower I can mow more grass with less gas in less time than any mower I've had before," says John happy with his 8-hp. **Dixon ZTR 422** mower.

Gordon Samples, Clinton, Kent.: "My **Allis Chalmers Gleaner N5** combine produces the best grain sample I've ever had. I was surprised at the machine's capacity compared to the **Deeres** I'd been running. The headers are excellent and maneuverability exceptional."

Duane Pearson, Ogilvie, Minn.: "We bought our 1981 **Case 5806** tractor with loader used last spring and haven't been sorry. It has good power and weight for loading. The hydrostatic drive is reliable and fast. It's more maneuverable than our previous loader tractor, a **Ford 3400**."

Gordon Powers, Arlington, Minn.: "The first year I had it, it was in the shop more than the field. It took me three years to get rid of it. I can easily see why the company is out of business. This tractor had a malfunctioning hydraulic system when it came

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from the factory and it took the dealer weeks to find the problem. By that time so many components had been damaged that it never operated properly," says Gordon, disappointed with his 1979 **International 1086**.

He's happy with **Volvo** cars. "The quality of these cars is readily visible but the payoff is the long life with low maintenance costs. I traded my 1974 **145E** when it had over 100,000 miles. The car still drove like new and only had a couple of rust spots. I now have a 1983 **Volvo DL**."

Oscar Matzinger, Oregon, Ill.: "My number one best buy is **FARM SHOW**. It's truly a farmer's magazine — not a herbicide, fertilizer and insecticide advertisement," says Oscar.

He also nominates his 430 **Case** tractor and **Troy-Built** roto-tillers as best buys. "The **Case** is the biggest little tractor we've ever owned. We

(Continued on next page.)