

Best And Worst Buys

(Continued from preceding page)

bought it new in 1967 and it's never needed a major overhaul. The tiller has been a joy to operate for all large garden work. We do 3½ acres with it. It's a flawless machine."

James Martin, Millersburg, Ind.: "We have a lot of stones. Most rotary hoes either pick up a stone and tear out the crop or they disintegrate. With our 15 ft. **Deere 400** rotary hoe we can run in 6th gear wide open and really tear out the weeds. The hoe's spring-loaded with two wheels on a Roll-a-matic type mounting.

"I'm well pleased with my 1970 **Deere 4020** diesel. In 15 years I've never had a problem with it."

Stanley Miller, Lake Park, Minn.: Stanley's pleased with his gooseneck stock trailer made by **DN Trailer Sales**, Aldrich, Minn. "I get compliments on this trailer wherever I go. It's made well. The gate latches are strong and double safe. The two doors roll smooth and easy, and all the latches fit perfectly. I'm well satisfied."

Ben Fisher, Chinook, Mont.: "My very best buy in 35 years of farming is a 1977 **David Brown** tractor with loader. It's used mostly for stacking and feeding 1000 lb. round bales. In over 3,000 hours of use, I've had a total repair bill of \$25 for a radiator repair.

"I'm also pleased with my **Valmar** granular spreader. Does a real good job spreading Fargo Granules for wild oat control. It's very accurate, trouble-free and works well for broadcasting alfalfa seed."

Ben's luck with his 1977 **Dodge** ¾-ton 4-WD wasn't so good. "With less than 1,000 miles, the spark plug wires started shorting out. The dealer would replace these under warranty one at a time if I'd make the 50 mile round trip to his shop. After three such trips, he still wouldn't replace the complete set. The electronic ignition unit had to be replaced several times. U-joints went out and, at 14,000 miles, the automatic transmission quit. The dealer said it was a factory defect, but I still had to pay the \$650 repair bill. The engine used oil from the very first day — up to a quart in 60 miles. After three years and 24,000 miles, I just about gave it away on trade on a 1979 Chevy 4-WD. The total warranty I got on the Dodge was the three spark plug wires."

Don Low, Blackfalds, Alb.: "My **Stihl 024 AVEQ** chainsaw starts and runs well even in the coldest weather. It's fuel efficient, well-balanced and easy to handle."

Don has mixed feelings about his **Mix-Mill** feed mill with solid state control panel. "Although I'm very pleased with the Model D mill itself, the solid state controller has been nothing but trouble. Get the regular control panel and save yourself some money. Service from the dealer has been excellent."

James Ferguson, Canby, Minn.: He's unhappy with his "Model 120 H transfer pump and model FM 100

herbicide meter for bulk herbicide made by **Great Plains Industries**, Wichita, Kan. After using soybean herbicide, the 15 ft. hose used to fill the sprayer turned stiff and as hard as a board. The meter fittings, which I think were dealer-assembled, leaked chemicals which stained the back of my new truck box. The dealer has assured me it'd be repaired for the 1985 season."

On the plus side, James lists his **Hiniker Computer Facts-Sprayer Control**. "It works great. It's a good, reliable, dollar-saving addition to spraying. My **David Mfg. Co.** model 84 grain dryer is also a best buy. It dries corn efficiently, quickly and conveniently."

David Manning, Pilot Mound, Man.: "Our best buy is our 7721 **Deere** combine. It has lots of capacity and does a good job no matter what crop we're threshing. We also like our 4440 **Deere** tractor. It has lots of power and makes a real good team with the combine."

Darrel Harstad, Valley City, N. Dak.: Darrel lists his 1983 **Ford Escort** and his **Troy** rototiller as best buys. "The car gets good gas mileage and you can't beat front wheel drive on snow and ice. I've had the rototiller ten years and have spent less than \$8 on it. Does a wonderful job."

Roger Weslowski, Davin, Sask.: "My **White 2-110** tractor is both a best and worst buy. The tractor itself is very good. It has lots of power, excellent handling and a super cab. But service has been lousy. When it was returned from the 150 hour check-up, it would not run properly. I finally got it running properly by myself, and White has been stalling for eight months now over compensation to me. For a paltry few hundred dollars, they've lost a loyal and longtime customer."

On the "best buy" side, Roger nominates his **Valmar PT 240** granular applicator. "It's easy to service.



"For a few paltry hundred dollars, they've lost a loyal customer."



clean-out and fill-up. It covers a lot of acres in a day and is extremely accurate in applying granular chemicals."

Burton Graves, Sandusky, Mich.: Burton lists his **Gehl 99** forage blower as "best buy." "I've never been able to plug it with any crop — corn silage, haylage or hay. It has high capacity and is built extra-heavy. The twin wheels work well to break up bunches."

Howard Carlson, Callender, Iowa: "We really like our **Deere 235** disc. It doesn't ridge and has spring-loaded scrapers.

"We've also had good luck with our **White 12-row** planter. It has less

moving parts to repair, plants beans evenly in the row and rides smoothly."

Jeff Duorak, Stuart, Neb.: He's well satisfied with his 1982 **Deere 8640 4-WD**. "We traded a 7520 **Deere** for this tractor because we needed more horsepower. We've put more than 1100 hours on it and not a thing has gone wrong. It's a very fuel efficient machine."

Jeff had some trouble with his **International 1466** with front wheel drive. "This tractor has dealt us a fit. The pto went out twice and we had to rebuild the engine on it."

Randi Suckut, Bowdon, N. Dak.: "I really enjoy the quiet cab on my 2290 **Case**. The tractor's also easy to maintain with its lifting hood and swing-out battery."

Randi also lists his **Chevrolet Celebrity** as a "best buy". "Gets 31 mpg., rides and handles great and is also quiet."

David Ausen, Alden, Minn.: "I bought the **Deere 722** mulch finisher to work up my cornstalks which had been chisel-plowed in the fall. I use the mulch finisher before planting, making only one trip across the field. I tried a field cultivator which kept plugging up and I tried a disk, but felt it compacted the soil too much. The 722 hasn't plugged up once, leaving a good level seedbed with some residue on top to stop erosion."

William Olson, Granada, Minn.: William nominates his **John Deere 235** disk as "best buy". "I've had several **Deere** disks but the 235 is really a good machine. It cuts well and is made to take rough use."

Robert Ramm, Waterville, Wash.: He's generally pleased with his 1976 **Massey Ferguson 750** and 1981 **Allis Chalmers Gleaner F2** combines. "The Massey 750 has good capacity and has durable construction in most areas except for the radiator. I've replaced two in eight years. The 750's header feeds well except in short crops where the sickle cuts the crop but the grain falls off the front of the cutter because of its downward slope. "My Gleaner cuts a lot of grain for its size. It's a quiet machine and has a good 4-cyl. diesel engine. The hydrostat is a big plus."

Dave Amble, Wheeler, Wis.: "Dealer service has been excellent. I get 17 mpg. and I'm well satisfied after putting 23,000 miles on it," reports Dave about his 4-WD 1983 **Chevrolet K-10** pickup with a 305 engine and automatic overdrive.

K. Wayne Williams, Souris, Man.: "While there isn't a machine made that's perfect, I'm well pleased with my **DX-160 Deutz** tractor and **International 7200** hoe grain drill. The Deutz can put many North American tractors to shame with its fuel economy, comfort and traction.

"The drill is a great machine for minimum tillage use and prevention of soil erosion. It has good trash clearance and gets small grains off to a good start.

"I'm also pleased with my **International 5000** diesel windrower with 24½ ft. draper header and flotation tires. The cab is roomy and comfortable and controls are convenient. Visibility is good except for sideposts

which obstruct clear vision of the end of the header. The universal pickup reel is a dream for handling tough and tangled cutting conditions. The hydrostatic drive provides lots of power in tough spots, yet allows good road speeds.

"One of the best services I could recommend is the Scheduled Oil Sampling program offered by Powell Equipment, the distributor for **Caterpillar** in Manitoba. I oil test most of the diesel engines on my farm at regular oil change intervals. I can stop small problems — such as dirt leaks, fuel dilution and anti-freeze in the oil — from becoming major problems. I've already prevented a small dirt leak in the air intake of my Steiger tractor from causing serious harm. The oil test reports also give a complete record of an engine's condition when I sell or trade in. Sure adds to the resale value."

M.F. Perizek, Center Point, Iowa: "I've only had it one season but am very happy with my **Roper 36-in.** riding mower. It doesn't have lights or an electric starter but that would make more up-keep."

George Blanchfield, Devils Lake, N. Dak.: "My best buy is a 700 **Versatile** tractor. In nine years I've put in two batteries and one starter.

"Another good buy is my 510 diesel **Massey Ferguson** combine. It runs 22 hours on a tank of fuel."

Louis Krepcik, Filer, Id.: Louis nominates the **John Deere** concaves for his 6620 combine as "worst buy". "When installing, the fourth holding bolt wouldn't go in. We removed it again and measured the two sides. There was a ¾-in. difference in hole dimension and the dealer wouldn't replace it."

Phil Short, Winthrop, Iowa: He nominates his **Sukup 30-hp.** centrifugal dryer fan as a "worst buy". "The fan was not balanced when we got it. It vibrated so badly the burner would not stay lit. They had to replace the bearings, shaft, and fan blades to make it right. The worst part about it was the service. We had a bin full of corn and had to wait from Saturday morning to Tuesday night because the servicemen would not work on Saturdays and quit work at 4:30 p.m."

Phil's happy with his **Shivers Comp-U-Dry** dryer controls. "It makes the dryer work more smoothly, keeps moisture level consistent, and saves a lot of propane. We dried approximately 15,000 bu. of corn with a lot less LP even though the corn was about the same moisture content."

D.J. Hough, Napanee, Ont.: "It killed only the occasional fly that happened to blunder by. A can of fly bait would have cost 25 times less and kill 25 times more flies," says Hough about his "worst buy" **Sure-Shock** electric fly killer.

He's pleased with his vertical manure transfer pump made by the **J. Houle Co.**, Drummondville, Que. "It's a wonderful time- and labor-saver. We've used it for four years with no down time at all. The only maintenance it has required is a filter and gasket worth less than \$10. Has enough capacity to keep ahead of two