

work," says Harry about his "worst buy" **Homelite** string trimmer.

On the "best buy" side, he nominates his **International** 682 Cub Cadet with a mower deck. "In almost 400 hours of hard use I have broken one belt and that was my fault because I ran it loose. Otherwise, it hasn't cost a cent except for normal servicing."

Randy Uhr, Manchester, Mich.: "It's very hard to start when cold. The automatic oiler doesn't give the bar and chain enough oil to lubricate thoroughly. Many times it stalls when idling," says Randy, disappointed with his **Homelite** XL-2 chain saw.

On the "best buy" side, Randy's pleased with his 1982 **Chevrolet** ½-ton pickup. "I've had it for 13 months and 14,000 miles and have done nothing more than change the oil and filter, and grease it. It runs good and rides as well as most cars."

James K. Haptonstall, Laird, Colo.: "I bought a pair of **Haybuster** 8000 trash drills that exceeded all expectations. I bought them so we could go to minimum-till and seed back into previous crop wheat stubble. They really do the job. Rolling cutters cut the trash so shanks go right through."

David Meisenzahl, Honeoye Falls, N.Y.: "Two years ago we bought an **Allis Chalmers** N-5 Gleaner combine. We got it in July for wheat harvest and it worked great. Then we went into corn and only had three loads loaded before the cleaning fan fell apart. We waited two weeks for a replacement. Then a shaft and the double pulley broke and we waited another week for parts. There were also a few small things that we had to fix on a day-to-day basis, although when it worked it did a good job. That winter the company said they'd take the machine in and go through it. They took it in the 1st of June and said they'd have it back by wheat harvest. On the 10th of July, when we were ready to harvest, they were still waiting for a cleaning fan, which wasn't even broken when it went to them. We got the N-5 back on the 18th of July when the wheat was starting to sprout. I lost about 400 acres of custom work and that's my major source of income.

"When we got into corn harvest the machine ran well and did a good job but the shaft and pulley broke again and then the fan went out again. In November, we traded it off.

"Our **International** Axial-Flow 1460 is our best buy. The combine is easy to handle, with everything at a fingers touch. My wife even drives it and she wasn't raised on a farm. There are three IH dealers within 30 miles and they have good service and parts."

Harry M. Young, Barrington, Ill.: Harry nominates **Sears** tools as both his best and worst buy. "Sears Craftsman non-motorized hand tools are my best buy. Their unconditional, no-questions-asked guarantee is good anywhere Sears is located. However, any Sears tool with a motor is my worst buy. Sears drills, sanders, and saws just don't hold up. I've made it a rule never to buy anything with a motor from Sears."

Robert Gannon, Mabton, Wash.:

"The hydraulic front assist makes it a tractor with a tremendous pulling power. Aside from a small leak in the front wheel power assist, there's been no trouble. Dealer support has been good," says Robert, pleased with his **Deere** 4440 tractor.

Larry Kitz, Two Hills, Alberta: "Our recent purchase of another **Deere** 8820 Titan combine is definitely our best buy," says Larry. "We

"Harvest quality is second to none. Really impressive."

have had little or no downtime and harvesting quality is second to none. Adjusting is simple and easy, and fuel efficiency really impressive."

On the "minus" side, Larry lists his **Deere** 665 central metering seeder. "I wouldn't really term the air seeder as the worst buy but it has been giving us difficulty. If it wasn't for the excellent service, we would really be left out in the cold. The problem is excessive wear on the flow lines and hoses. We were told by Deere that longer wearing parts are being studied, but our warranty has now expired and we are faced with unreasonable expenses. It's great, however, to have a dealer who understands and helps us get results from Deere & Co."

Lynford M. Miller, Doniphan, Mo.: "Our **Deere** 116 hydrostatic riding lawn mower, bought new last spring, is easy to drive. Its hydrostatic drive and short turning radius helps reduce hand trimming in our orchard and makes mowing a breeze. Great power from the 16 hp. engine to mow the tallest of grasses. It replaces a 110 Deere mower that was purchased new in 1967 and is still in fair condition.

"Our 146 **Deere** loader, bought last spring for our Deere 2640 tractor, is also a good buy. It has great lifting capacity and does a great job stacking round bales in our barn. It's easy to put on and take off the tractor."

Francis Burch, Lester Prairie, Minn.: "It has the comfort of a car," says Francis, pleased with his 1983 **Deere** 2950 tractor with a Sound Gard cab. "It's very easy to shift, easy to steer, stays on course and the power is comparable to the Deere 4020. It's economical on fuel, and is easy to enter and exit, and has a very comfortable seat."

Robert Ayers, Whitehall, N.Y.: "It works," says Robert, pleased with the metal detector in his **New Holland** 892 forage chopper. "When properly adjusted, it stops the feed rolls when almost any form of metal is picked up. I've seen it stop for small pieces of wire, wrenches, small nails in a board, and even a paper oil can with a metal ring around the top."

Charles Heinz, Dawson, Iowa: "If you own a **Deere** Max-Emerge planter, you'll find that you have to replace the bearings in the press wheels. They're held together with allen head screws and are nearly impossible to remove with a wrench. A mechanic loosened them for me the first time with an impact wrench so I

went out and bought myself one. It's now my best buy for loosening screws and nuts.

"We also made a good buy in 1973 when we bought our **Mercury** Montego MX. It has over 100,000 miles on it. I've never had to replace any belts, or the exhaust system, and it still has the original brakes. We just buy new tires once in a while and keep driving."

David E. Lewton, Weaubleau, Mo.: "Our best buy is our 1975 4430 **Deere** tractor. It had the best cab and performance when it was new and it's still hard to beat," says David.

He names his 1981 **Allis Chalmers** Gleaner N-6 with a 20-ft. flex platform as "worst buy". "It has all the options, cost over \$125,000 and is definitely for the big farmer. He is the only one that can afford all the downtime, production losses, crop losses and income loss that the N-Series Gleaners cause. This combine occasionally shows awesome performance — on one very low humidity day we cut 40 to 50 bu. wheat at 6 to 7 mph. — but most of our time is spent fixing up after poor workmanship and engineering."

Melvin Swart, Goff, Kan.: Melvin likes his ½-in. **Ingersoll-Rand** 550 impact tool. "Very handy and it works good," he says.

He had trouble with **Anchor** insecticide cattle ear tags. "They started to break off within two days after being applied. The cattle lost most of them during the summer."

H. James Jackson, Walkerton, Ontario: "Ideal for getting around with small loads and it gets 32 mpg city/highway driving," says James, pleased with his 1983 **Ford** Ranger pickup. "It handles and rides well. Plenty of power for its size."

Jon Ramsey, Scott City, Kan.: "We signed a contract last April for a 1,960 sq. ft. new home with **Viking Homes** of Wells, Minn. We paid 20% down and 20% when the first load of materials was delivered, for a total of \$33,000. The first thing to go wrong was that, although the salesman sold us a poured concrete basement, garage wall footings, and floor with ½-in. reinforcing rod, the first blueprints, called for 8-in. blocks. We paid a \$2,500 change-of-contract charge to switch to poured concrete.

"Carpenter sub-contractors came and worked 5 weeks doing rough-in carpenter work, including shingling, window installation and some doors. No company representative ever came during this period to inspect the sub-contractors' work. The construction was pretty good until they came to the rafters. One of the truss rafters, which was to have ceiling joists tied to it, was impossible to install. The carpenters ended up not installing any truss rafters. Also, half the roof has a 3.9 twelve pitch and half has a 4.1 twelve pitch. The blueprints call for a 5.0 twelve pitch. The shake shingles were to be installed with a maximum 10-in. exposure but the carpenters changed to a 12-in. exposure after the job was about one-third complete.

"A meeting was held at the home site between the local building inspector, a company representative

and I. The inspector cited several items to be corrected, the main item of which was that truss rafters would be needed and that the roof would have to come off in order to install them properly. The company refused to take the roof off and quit the job. The roof looks to be sagging 2 in. This has been the worst buy of our lives. We have a big mess!"

Luther S. Lollar, Mineral Wells, Texas: "One of my best buys ever is a **Massey-Harris** model 3 twine hay baler that works almost like the day it came out of the factory. It baled over 3,000 bales of hay this year. It seldom mis-ties a bale (about 1 in 50). I especially like twine tied bales since I can burn the twine with no disposal problems, as is the case with wire tied bales."

Jeff Dossett, Crawfordsville, Ind.: "Seed depth is very accurate, and the drill is easy to operate and maintain. Service is excellent, too," says Jeff, pleased with his 5100 **International** soybean special drill.

Dana Sauer, Paxton, Ill.: "My best buys are the entire line of **Deere** equipment my brother and I use in our farming operation, including 4440 and 4640 tractors, a 7720 combine, a 7000 Max-Emerge planter and other Deere products too numerous to mention. Deere manufactures quality farm equipment that is dependable, productive, human engineered and designed with the current demands of agriculture, and the interests of farmers, in mind. The company is backed by a strong network of dealers.

"Our worst buy is a **Kawasaki** KLT-200 3-wheeler. I traded a Honda 90 ATC for the KLT-200, which had carburetion problems that were never resolved to my satisfaction. It rode rough and handled poorly. I traded the Kawasaki for a new **Honda** 185-S

"It rode rough and handled poorly."

ATC. The 185 is an excellent machine."

Dennis Peterson, Washburn, N. Dak.: Dennis nominates the air foil chaffer sieve, which he bought from **Ray Stueckle, Caldwell, Idaho**, as his "best buy". "The air foil chaffer is simple and easy to adjust because it has no moving parts. You just adjust the fan on the combine. It does a great job cleaning and I hardly lose any grain over the sieves. It will never wear out. I have since bought a different combine and I will also buy an air foil chaffer for it."

Olen Swartz, Augres, Mich.: Olen's had trouble with his **Allis Chalmers** 5040 diesel tractor. "It won't turn short. The hydraulics are poor. The pump is too slow and the split transmission is hard to shift. The pto will not go into gear without a lot of grinding."

On the plus side, his "best buy" is his 2400 **Bushhog** loader. "The loader is a good, heavy-duty one that performs well. I like the quick-tach

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