

could use some improvement on the grapple fork. We also like our Krause chisel plow. They put several features on it that only cost an extra 50 cents but really make it an excellent plow."

Allan Mason, Washington, Ga.: "Massey Ferguson equipment and service has to be the best in the world. Surge milking equipment service is the worst. Surge dealers overcharge on service and parts, ship the wrong parts C.O.D. and then won't accept the same when you return them."

William C. Waller, Mooresville, N.C.: "It is one of the best tillage tools I've ever used. It's sure nice not to have to put in shear bolts when you hit an underground object," says William, happy with his "best buy" International No. 14 V-chisel with automatic reset shanks.

On the "worst buy" side, he's had bad luck with insecticide hoppers for his Allis Chalmers no-till planter. "They're made of fiberglass that breaks out around the bolt holes. I've had to replace four of them after 200 acres of use."

Gene S. Bontrager, Kalona, Iowa: He's disappointed with his Deere RG-4 cultivator. "I bought it used. I couldn't get the rear shovel on any one gang to do a good clean finish job despite adjustments. I finally gave up and traded for a Noble cultivator."

"The Noble Vibra-Shank cultivator does an excellent job of cultivating. The vibrating action of the shanks really improves weed removal and takes out a lot of volunteer corn in soybeans. Dealer set-up was also excellent."

Ronnie Clark, Albia, Iowa: "My worst buy is a 4640 Deere tractor with front wheel assist. I bought it used with 1,700 hours on it. When it runs it runs great and is good on fuel. My problem areas have been the alternator, batteries, oil leaks, radiator leaks, a second alternator, pto, the quad range transmission, snap rings, and the water pump. Also, the front wheel assist is disappointing because it doesn't pull like I want it to. Six months after I rebuilt the water pump, the Deere dealer told me he had a much better pump. It was a factory update and wouldn't cost me

"I lost a valuable week of my time"

a thing. I only ran the tractor 20 hours with the new pump before the fan came off and went clear through the radiator. There were three other 4640's with fans in their radiators in this area. Deere paid for everything — pump, fan, pulley, shroud, radiator, anti-freeze and a semi to haul the tractor to town. But I lost a valuable week of my time.

Robert S. Turner, Chester, Mont.: "The worst buy we made was when we purchased three new propane Aquicarb carburetors. They are compact and fit inside the air cleaner

but they caused us nothing but trouble. We could never keep them adjusted to idle and they always backfired. I wrote to the company and was told the company would provide service if I paid for it. I wouldn't so the carbs are now in the junk pile."

Terry Wentland, Lodgepole, Alberta: "My best buy was a Kirk coal stoker," says Terry. "I purchased the stoker from an ad in the local paper for \$500. I set it up in a 2,200 sq. ft. calf barn where the temperature is kept at 60°. Coal costs just \$40 per month to heat with as compared to \$250 a month for propane."

Philip Sutton, Wolcott, N.Y.: His "worst buy" is a 71-ft. Cardinal 10-in. auger. "I bought the auger and assembled it myself. In two places where 7/8-in. bolts were supposed to go, I couldn't get a 1/2-in. bolt through. Three pieces of metal were misaligned. I had to break the welds, realign and weld them myself. In approximately 35 running hours, both lower bearings wore out. I looked all over for bearings and had a hard time finding them because the bearing holder was metric. I had to buy all new bearing holders and bearings. Every time I use the auger I have to replace about three shear pins. The auger is very poorly engineered and assembled. I've discouraged all my neighbors from buying one."

On the plus side, Philip's happy with his Allis Chalmers 7010 and 7060 tractors, and his Gleaner L2 combine. "Both tractors are well-built with a rugged 3-pt. hitch and lots of hydraulic capacity. There's always plenty of power when you need it. The combine has plenty of power too, and does an excellent job on grains and corn. All three are good on fuel and easy to work on."

Marion R. Miller, St. John, Kan.: "We bought a new 224W Deere square baler in 1972. It performed so well through the years we bought a new 1983 Deere 347 square baler this year. It's doing a perfect job. Compared to two other brand name balers we have used, the Deere makes a better, more compact bale. That's important because we use a 1974 New Holland 1049 stack wagon to pick up bales and the more compact, the easier they are to pick up," says Marion.

Edwin Knussman, Triovoli, Ill.: "I bought a new Hesston 980 tractor that has given us some problems," says Edwin. "We've had it two months and have had it repaired three times. The hydraulic pump seal went out two times and now the problem is gear shifting. It takes a long time to get repair parts but the dealer is doing the best he can to get it repaired. The tractor handles well but the ride is very bumpy."

Roger E. Mackey, Caldwell, Idaho: "My 1979 model 5460 Deere self-propelled chopper was my worst buy at delivery but has become after lots of work, a dependable machine," says Roger. "When the chopper was delivered it wasn't ready for work. The rpm's wouldn't go over 2000 and with a load on it would drop to about 1800. The injectors leaked. It had hydraulic leaks everywhere which fi-

nally ruined the brakes on one side. The knife sharpening assembly was put together in such a way that it would sharpen the knives unevenly. And the most 'important' working part of the chopper, the air conditioner, was never hooked up. After a year of working out the bugs, the chopper turned out to be a fine piece of equipment."

Roger's "best buy" is his 1981 International 5000 windrower. "It has a 16-ft. header that makes a nice even windrow. It has never given me any trouble other than the starter safety switches on it. If everything is not in just the proper position, it will not start. And, sometimes even when everything is in the right order, it won't start."

John R. Clapper, Clearville, Penn.: "My New Holland equipment — a haybine, spreader, and grinder/mixer — along with my Clark Bobcat skid steer loader are my best buys," says John. "They only require routine maintenance. All do the jobs they are expected to do. My Deere Max Emerge 7000 conservation planter is also a best buy. Easy to adjust and simple to operate. Don't know why anyone would want another planter."

"On the other hand, I've had trouble with the automatic transmissions in my Chevrolet pickups. They don't seem to be built to handle farm work, or to pull anything. I won't say they are my worst buys because the ride and handling can't be beat."

John Eftoda, Calder, Sask.: He's pleased with his White 256 20-ft. tandem disc. "It digs deep and kills all the weeds on our summerfallow ground. It mixes everything well when working stubble. Works much better than the 16-ft. level disc I had before."

Dennis Hoffman, Wilmont, Minn.: "Our worst buy is our Deere 1450 5-18 plow," reports Dennis. "It won't hold its depth at the back — goes up and down. You have to watch it every minute."

On the "best buy" side, Dennis lists his Deere 4320 tractor. "It now has 5,300 hours on it and has had nothing but regular service. It doesn't use any oil yet and has good power. In the winter I use it for custom snow blowing so it is used year around."

S.D. Chaney, Jr., Canton, Miss.: He's happy with his Gallagher/Snell Energizer for electric fences. "The Snell Energizer is perfect for permanent cross fencing. It uses less voltage and high amperage in short pulses to 'charge' my fence wire. I built a mile of fence for less than one-half the cost of barbed wire and, surprisingly, wet weeds or grass do not short it out. We built the fence in one Saturday morning."

He names his Deere 310 14-ft. disk as "worst buy". "It gutted my 160 hp. tractor because it wouldn't cut level. I'm just disgusted with it."

Donald Caron, St. Lina, Alberta: "My worst buy is a 1981 Oldsmobile Cutlass Supreme with a 267 cu. in. V-8 motor. I purchased it in November 1981. First the starter housing broke off. Then the head on the right side of the motor cracked, the heater core blew, the radiator

sprung a leak, the doors started cracking, the trunk latch let go, the light in the glove compartment never went off, the seats were ripping, and the ashtrays in the rear seat could not be opened. It was a hunk of junk. I got rid of it in August 1982."

Donald says his "best buy" is his Deutz 90 front-wheel drive tractor with a front-end loader. "I bought it 2 1/2 years ago and it has never given me any trouble even though I use it

"It was a hunk of junk. I got rid of it."

almost 365 days a year in all kinds of weather. It's very easy on fuel, easy to handle, and shifts very well. It has 1,900 hours on it and I've never spent anything on repairs for it. An excellent farm tractor."

Donald's also pleased with his "Fill-Matic drill fills made by Westgo Industries, Inc. In the two years that I've used them they have proven to be a great time and labor saver. I've had absolutely no trouble with either the grain or fertilizer auger."

Donald Dunaway, Jacksonville, Mo.: "It's got the worst cab I have ever seen," says Donald about his "worst buy" International 1066 tractor. "The air conditioning hardly ever works and it's rough riding. The head keeps cracking on the motor, it has poor steering, the rear end is noisy and it's hard to start. However, it does have plenty of power when running."

"My 1983 GMC 6.2 liter diesel 1-ton 4-WD pickup is the best truck I have ever driven," says Donald of his "best buy". "It's got plenty of power to pull loads, gets good mileage at around 20 mpg, and we get good service from our dealer. Our Deere 7000 Max Emerge planter has also been a good buy. Produces even stands, and has precision depth control. The best planter I've ever used."

Gerald W. Lonsinger, Warsaw, Ohio: He's disappointed with his AC 230-250 amp welder made by Sears Roebuck Co. "The sliding type amp regulator never did adjust properly. The company repaired it with a new part but that soon was sticking too. The warranty is off now so we're using our old Mid-State arc welder. Sears advertises complete satisfaction or your money back. We tried to return the welder in lieu of repairing it but the local manager would not agree to that. Obviously we are not satisfied with this product but evidently we are stuck with it."

James A. Clarke, Rosetown, Sask.: "It's been a big disappointment," says James about his Massey Ferguson 360 wide-level disk harrow. "The drives for the seeding attachment and fertilizer attachment are really primitive. You have to change sprockets every time you want to change seed fertilizer rates. The old '36' models had a 'sunflower' gear and a clutch that worked perfectly. I don't

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