

hydrostatic transmission for doing pto work, such as chopping vines and straw, and incorporating herbicides. For digging potatoes, I can run everything at the speed I want. It saves bruising a lot of potatoes, which means extra dollars."

Jim Dickrell, Elkhart Lake, Wisc.: Jim has compared "preventive maintenance" products on dairy cows. "Scott Sani-Prep towels from the **Scott Paper Company**, Philadelphia, Pa., absorb water quickly but we found they had little strength. After one or two wipes, we usually ended up washing with our bare hands. The towels do work well when teats are relatively clean to begin with but our cows are outside during summer and fall and they didn't do us much good. Bay West Dari-Towels from **Moisinee Paper Corp.**, are extremely strong and never shred but are not nearly as absorbent as Sani-Prep towels. It usually takes two washings to get enough water on udders and they are difficult to get out of the box. Nibroc Kowtowls, **James River Corp.**, Berlin, N. H. are a good compromise between the first two towel brands we tried. They are highly absorbent and are stronger than the Sani-Prep towels. They will shed on extremely dirty cows but as an exception rather than the rule. We've continued to use Kowtowls.

"We also compared teat dips. Farm-Life dip with lanolin from **Wholesale Supply Co.**, Appleton, Wis. contains iodine, which we had been warned against but we thought would work since it contained lanolin. We were wrong! We never finished the second gallon. Teat ends became extremely sore due to the iodine and we had to discontinue use. Sealite, from **Veterinary Concepts**, Spring Valley, Wisc., forms a protective latex shield over the teat end. It forms an excellent rubber shield but is difficult to wash off and tends to dry the teat end out. We stopped using it on the herd in general but still use it occasionally on cows that are prone to mastitis. Novalsol with glycerin added, from **Fort Dodge Pharmaceutical**, Ford Dodge, Iowa 50501, is a teat dip that finally seems to do an adequate job of protecting teats from infection without irritating them. Our vets mix up one-gallon batches of Novalsol, using one pint of the product per seven pints of water. They also add six ounces of glycerin per gallon of the solution as a tissue softener. The recommended use is two pints of Novalsol per six pints of water but our vets claim one pint is sufficient. It certainly is less costly."

Ervin H. Cook, Huntersville, N.C.: "With hydrostatic drive and monitors, this combine is a pleasure to drive. The cab has plenty of room, good vision, an air-conditioner and heater. Does a fine job of shelling and cleaning grain. The 4-cyl. diesel turbo-charged engine has plenty of power. A tough combine that gives little trouble when properly set," reports Ervin, about his Gleaner F2 "corn plus" **Allis Chalmers** combine.

Richard Evans, Ohio City, Ohio: "It wasn't any harder to assemble than any other kit and worked fine but the problem was leaks. The compression fittings were poorly designed and all had to be heavily caulked," says Richard about his rope wick kit from **Fimco Inc.**, Sioux City, Iowa.

He's pleased with his shock bumper for pickups made by **P & H Manufacturing**. "I pull a lot of wagons and it really smoothes out the jerks. Also, the extendable swinging hitch makes hookups much easier.

"I've also had good luck with my **Honda ATC 185** three-wheeler. It is well built and extremely tough. Its 4-stroke engine keeps repairs to a minimum."

Walter C. Hayhoe, Union, Ont.: His "worst buy" is his **White 8900** combine bought in 1980. "I cannot begin to tell you all the things that have broken on this machine. In the fall of 1981 the machine broke down on an average of once every six hours on the machine tach. The motor has been out twice, it has had at least 6 alternators in it, the beater grate has fallen out at least four times, and the tail shaft has broken twice which is a two or three day repair job. The dealership has been very supportive but the downtime has killed my harvest timing."

Arthur R. Mai, Sharon Springs, Kan.: He nominates his **8150 Flex King** (Prasco) Airseeder mounted on a sweep V-plow as "best buy". "The machine seeds well in heavy residues resulting from minimum tillage. Excellent roadability and, coupled with the seeder, fills a definite need for seeding large acreages of heavy-residue fallow. Both Flex King and the local dealer were super to deal with."

Edward Hedges, Harrow, Ont.: "I would like to nominate **Honda's 21-in. self-propelled lawn mower** as a worst buy," says Edward. "I have never seen a machine so ill-prepared for the job it is designed to do. It's nearly always broken down. During the last three summers it has not cut a total of one year's worth of grass. Parts take months to get and Honda will not stand behind it. In fact, they won't even answer my letters.

"On the 'best buy' side I would like to nominate my **Deere 2130** tractor. It's handy on large and small jobs, easy on fuel and no problem whatsoever."

Ray Kruckenberg, Hazen, N. Dak.: "My worst buy is a 1982 **Chevrolet** diesel 4-wheel drive ¾-ton pickup with automatic overdrive. In less than 8,000 miles the transmission has been out twice. A bolt came out of the ring rear and pinion, causing it to lock up and tear out the entire rear drive. It has been covered under warranty but out of the 6 months I have owned it, it has been in the shop five weeks waiting for repairs. There has also been a record number of minor repairs and it's the worst steering pickup I have ever owned. At 30 mph on gravel roads it is unsafe. There should be a law protecting farmers from such a lemon."

Reader Letters

We were very dismayed to learn in FARM SHOW'S "Best and Worst Buys" section in the last issue that Charles Keller, of Chowchilla, Cal., has not had his problems taken care of concerning the Weed Badger. Our local dealer was called and informed to take care of Mr. Keller's needs at once.

It is noteworthy that Mr. Keller only attempted to operate the unit for a short two hours. In that time it is doubtful that he would discover which lever does what. Most people — and we are all alike — do not read the instructions.

Anyone who is acquainted with the operating procedures would have his unit operating properly in 10 minutes. I have personally traveled to Yakima, Wash., to find that a problem was simple failure to grease one zerk. We have sent service personnel 1,500 miles by air to find that the installer pulled a wire loose during installation. We are obviously very cautious about dashing off to the hinterland until we know an operator has an actual problem.

We are soon coming up on 1,000 units in the field, which is a real tribute to the acceptance and popularity of the Weed Badger by growers. Most of these are in the U.S. and Canada. A number are in Australia and five other countries.

Jack F. Anderson, President
Weed Badger
Litchville, N. Dak.

You did your usual good job presenting the article on "Stueckleizing" John Deere combines in your last issue. However, there is one problem. The drawing you used shows a round pipe in the center of the remanufactured beater where it should show a 3-in. square shaft. This has caused confusion in the minds of some readers.

The reason for the square tube is that we are using one side of it to parallel the leg of the beater blade. This gives about a 12 to 14° slap-back angle on the material so that it will shed off the beater and not refeed. Under no circumstances could we ever put a beater blade in that would be straight in line with the center of the shaft.

As shown in the drawing, the beater is reversible and can be turned in either direction. This gives us twice the angle of slap-back that we had before. To date, it has been working perfectly in every condition.

Ray Stueckle
RH Machine
P.O. Box 1348
Caldwell, Idaho 83605

Editor's note: FARM SHOW has received a number of letters requesting more information about David Seifert's low-cost air compressor built from a pickup truck engine, featured in Vol. 7, No. 2.

Seifert recently answered the most common questions for us:

The special check valves for my truck engine air compressor were ordered from Grainger Wholesale Catalog, 5959 W. Howard St., Chicago, Ill. 60648. Also, many readers asked if the oil pump runs backwards. It doesn't. The motor and the oil pump both run in the regular direction.

The only change I've made since your article is to replace the hydraulic hoses, which were getting too hot, with copper tubing.

David Seifert,
P.O. Box 434,
Garwood, Tex. 77442
(ph 409 758-3448)

There have been a number of FARM SHOW readers inquiring about our Spinbine mower-conditioner featured in Vol. 7, No. 2. Unfortunately, the listed phone number was incorrect. The correct number is 815 459-2210.

Ted Novak
Matthews Co. P.O. Box 70
Crystal Lake, Ill. 60014

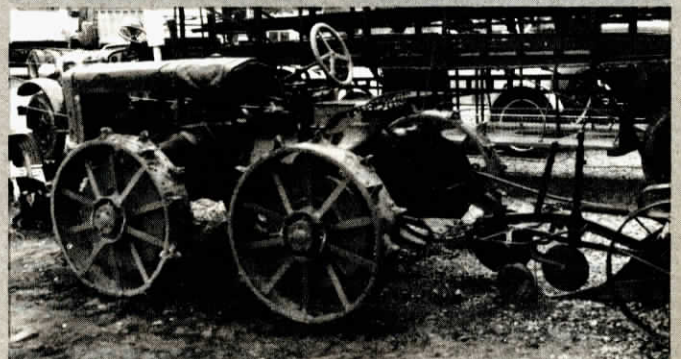
The Acme Transport/Feeder — a simply designed 5-bale capacity transport wagon that feeds out its entire load on the go — was cited in the last issue of FARM SHOW as a "Best Buy" by a rancher in Jordan Valley, Oregon. Acme Manufacturing Co. was listed as a manufacturer in Filer, Ind. The correct address is Filer, Idaho.

Wayne Skeem
Acme Manufacturing Co., Inc.
P.O. Drawer Z Filer, Idaho 83328
(ph 208 326-4305)

While attending an auction last fall, I came across what must be one of the first 4-wheel drive tractors made. The name Massey-Harris is cast into the engine exhaust but I have no idea what model it is, or what year it was made. Perhaps some of your readers can help me identify it.

I have been receiving FARM SHOW for the last two years and must say that it's the only publication I read from front to back the day it arrives.

Don Snilner
80 Lakeshore Rd., Apt. 60
Pt. Claire, Que.,
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Can you identify Don Snilner's 4-wheel drive Massey-Harris?