

John Kastner, Yale, Iowa: "My best buys are **Bowman** rotating disc scrapers made in Dawson, N. Dak., for my Deere Max-Emerge planter with disc openers. They work in any ground conditions, wear longer and they cost less than original equipment scrapers," says John.

Robert Braver, Delavan, Wis.: He likes his 112 **Sachs-Dolmar** chain saw. "This is a real tough saw. No problems — it just saws and saws. Never fails to start."

Kelly D. Skrdlant, Bladen, Neb.: "Having baled two seasons with this baler, I've had no trouble whatsoever. The baler's open throat design allows feeding of hard-to-handle crops, such as tall cane. Well-made product with easy and simple maintenance," says Kelly, pleased with his **Hesston 5580** baler.

Charles R. Utter, Georgetown, Ohio: Charles has been pleased with his **International 986** tractor that he bought in 1981. "It has plenty of power, a good hydraulic system, handles well with good visibility, and is easy on fuel. A real pleasure to operate."

Charles H. Keller, Chowchilla, Calif.: "Mine is sitting in the barn after less than 2 hrs. use," says Charles, upset with his Weed Badger from **Town and Country Research**, Marion, N. Dak. "It's a tractor-mounted rotary weeder that's supposed to eliminate hand hoeing around orchard trees. It cost over \$3,000, including the tractor mounting frame. The sensor is erratic and will either not retract as it moves around trees or will uproot young trees and shake them right at the tractor driver's head. Also, the teeth on the unit break right at the welds and it clogs readily, so that you have to manually reverse it at every tree. The manufacturer said a year ago that he had all the problems fixed and that he would visit me with the new sensor. I'm still waiting. This isn't the same machine that I saw demonstrated at the Tulare farm show."

On the positive side, Charles has had good luck with his **Chevy S-10** pickup. "It gets 30 plus mpg, and we haven't had any problems. The first year's operating costs are less than 40% of my other Chevy standard pickup."

W. Scott Barnes, Monroe, Virg.: He heats his 140-year-old farmhouse and a 14 by 20 ft. office building with his

"This was our only source of heat last winter."

"best buy" **Taylor** outdoor wood burning 400 gal. hot water furnace. "Everything is automatic, providing uniform heat in the house without all of the dirt and dust associated with woodburners. This was our only source of heat last winter."

Scott's unhappy with his 1979 **Ford** ¾ ton 4-WD pickup. "At 3,000 miles the valves began to rattle, and I

took it to the service department. I was told that the rattling was normal. Later, I took it back and got the same answer. At 18,000 miles the noise was so bad, and it burned a quart of oil every 100 mi., that I had a valve job done. The mechanic said the valve stems and guides were the worst he had ever seen. I took the bill to the dealer but he wouldn't pay because he had no record of my having the valve noise checked during warranty. At 23,000 miles the rings and all bearings were shot. Now the transmission is about to go, the front axle is broken and the brakes are shot. This is truly a piece of junk!"

John Metzger, St. Clements, Ontario: His **Renn 12-ft.** self-propelled 2000 swather is his "worst buy". "The hydrostatic drive motors are too small for the machine. It broke down with no parts available. The hydraulic oil lines are too light and the header is too heavy for the hydraulic capacity of the machine. It broke down with no parts available. Finally got the motors fixed in **Toronto** by a private motor company, which was real expensive."

James O'Connor, Blooming Prairie, Minn.: "My father bought an **Allis Chalmers N-6** combine in 1980," says James. "It was a total disaster. Everything that could go wrong, did. Allis Chalmers convinced him to trade for an updated **N-7 Gleaner** but even with that machine you were lucky if you made it to the field without breaking down. He has since traded that machine, too, and happy with his new **7720 Deere**.

"My own worst buy was some miscellaneous foreign tools I bought with price in mind. I got my money's worth. I used a 14-in. pipe wrench for the first time and broke the jaw right off. I wish the U.S. would quit importing such garbage."

His "best buy" is his 1981 **Mercury Capri**. "It gives me an excellent ride and gets 35 to 40 mpg, under loaded conditions. Not at all like the foreign imports that are ruining the economy."

Edward Krizan, Harrow, Ontario: He's happy with his **Deere 7720** combine with a 220 grain head outfitted with a **Tiger Jaw** cutterbar. "Productivity is the key word here. With the **Tiger Jaws** cutterbar we can increase our speed in beans without shattering the beans out of the pods. Excellent cleaning and fast unloading time. Operator comfort is above superior standards. This combine handles grain like no other. Can't see where they can make it any better in quality."

Donald Mitchell, Versailles, Ky.: "The 370 cu. in. V-8 motor in our **Ford F-600** dump bed truck has plenty of power and runs very smooth. The dump bed is handy for hauling dirt or building materials. We use it primarily to haul hay, cattle and tobacco. Our **Green Machine** hand-held powered garden cultivator is also a good buy and one of the handiest items on the farm."

Vernon Walter, Grotton, S. Dak.: He lists his 1981 **Versatile 835** and 2705 **Massey Ferguson** tractors as "best buys". "The **Versatile** is real

economical and has plenty of power for all our needs. The 2705 has been trouble free and also has plenty of power. Both are comfortable to operate."

Justin Schafer, Portland, Ind.: "Now it's fun to harvest corn," says Justin, pleased with his "best buy" **New Idea Uni-Harvester 708** with a 3-row cornhead and husking bed. "The three pieces of equipment together are well-engineered to do the job they're supposed to do, and do it efficiently. Also, I like the reliability. Not even a loose nut or bolt after three years."

James J. Farkas, New Era, Mich.: "I haven't made any purchase in the past year or so but the best investment I ever made was a **Deutz 4006** tractor purchased in 1970. We use it for everything and it hasn't cost us a dime for repairs."

Frank J. Zieser, Walker, Iowa: His "best buy" is a **Keldermann** manual fold hinge for his **Deere 7000 Max Emerge 12-row** planter from **Keldermann Mfg., Inc.** Oskaloosa, Iowa. "It works great because one man can be ready for road travel in about five minutes without unhitching from the planter, and the unit costs much less than the **Deere** hydraulic fold system."

"Another good buy was our **Stormor 24-ft.** **Ezee Dry** drying bin. For the past eight seasons our **Stormor** has done an excellent job with very little repair."

John Frick, Morrison, Okla.: John's happy with **Ectrin** insecticide cattle ear tags. "These tags do an excellent job of keeping flies off cattle. Very pleased with them."

Donald G. Payne, Taylorsville, N.D.: "Our **Knight 350** "soup or solid" manure spreader is our best buy. It has hauled approximately 500 loads of manure per year without any problems for the past three years. Works well with all types of soupy and solid manure."

Charles Gaffney, Minneota, Minn.: "Our **Sukup 4-Way II** dryer, purchased in 1981, was our worst buy," says Charles. "That season we could not dry corn for more than 24 hours without a breakdown of bearings, shafts, or augers. And, it dried unevenly. It was really a nightmare. I guess they were experimenting on the farm. This past year **Sukup** replaced faulty parts and made some changes and the results were non-stop drying."

On the "best buy" side, he's happy with his **Deere 6620 Hydro** combine. "This piece of equipment has been excellent. Workmanship and quality control are great and we harvested over 1,200 acres of corn, soybeans and wheat without a single breakdown. Dealer service is excellent. This machine has high capacity with a 6-row cornhead and a 20-ft. flex head."

Gathial W. Knight, Hopkinsville, Ky.: "We like our 1587 **Krause** disc harrow because the frame is well constructed and we have yet to break a disc blade or axle after 2 years use. And no bearings have had to be replaced, either. It does exactly what the dealer promised."

Philip Wilson, Lewisburg, Tenn.:

"My best buy would be my 2290 **Case** tractor. The tractor has more horsepower than its rating. The fuel economy is very good. The cab is comfortable and the hydraulics are superior to any tractor I have ever had any experience with. The dealer is also good."

"Another good buy is my 605 **Vermeer** round baler. This machine has given six years of service with only modest repairs in key wear areas. The baler has paid for itself several times and hopefully has several more good years left."

Louis Janish, Kimball, S. Dak.: He nominates his **Gehl 1500** round baler as "worst buy". "I always had trouble getting a bale started. Also, the bearings on the belt rollers were not heavy enough and I spent too much time replacing bearings when conditions were right for baling. I traded it in on an 1805 **Gehl** last fall and, although I haven't used it all that much, it sure seems to work fine. Bearings on the belt rollers are a lot heavier and I've had no problems starting a bale."

Art Walz, Luana, Iowa: "Can the same combine model be both a best and a worst buy?" asks Art, who

"Everything but the engine broke or was loose on this machine."

bought both a 1979 and a 1981 **Deere 6620** sidehill combine. "The 1979 model was built just before the strike in late 1979. Everything except the engine broke or was loose on this machine. I averaged 13.7 acres per day for 51 days with a brand new machine when we should have averaged 40 or more. My dealer did all he could for me."

"I traded that machine for another 6620 sidehill in 1981 and it was the opposite of the older model. Very enjoyable and has caused little trouble. Anyone who thinks the self-leveling feature is not necessary on contoured fields like we have in Northeast Iowa has never run one or seen it work."

Bob Wroten, Jordan Valley, Ore.: "I've had terrible experiences with odd-size **Deere** parts, forcing me to buy from **Deere**, which is always priced 30 to 120% higher. During haying or feeding, we'd have to wait for a **Deere** part to come from the other side of the nation. I've come to hate the color green. The parts were mainly belts, bearings and hydraulic cylinder components for a 200 stack wagon and a 230 shredder feeder."

"Our best buy is a 5-bale mover-feeder made by **ACME Manufacturing** of Filer, Ind. We used it to transport and line up 1,200 to 1,500 tons of round bales in the summer and feed them out in the winter. It's the best feeder we've used in the winter because of its simple design. Its 5-bale capacity allows us to feed large

(Continued on next page)