

bales. Now, with close to 90,000 bales through it, I feel Deere must have the best square baler on the market."

Robert McGillivray, Regina, Sask.: Robert is pleased with his Ford T.W. 30 tractor. "It has performance, power, and durability beyond my expectations."

Theodore Redick, Cridersville, Ohio: "FARM SHOW is my best buy," says Theodore. "There are lots of good ideas in the magazine we can use."

"Another good buy is Deere's 1710 mulch tiller. I have used it two seasons and find it to be a well-built machine that works well in all kinds of crops. No plugging in heavy cornstalks after the picker or sheller. The ground does not wash away in the winter and dries out faster in the spring. We don't use a plow anymore."

Bobby Brown, Lorenzo, Tex.: "It has a 302 V-8 engine and couldn't pull the hat off your head," says Bobby, displeased with his 1981 Ford F100 1/2 ton pickup. "It's not strong enough to haul what we need it for on the farm. It's okay if you're going down the road all the time."

Arthur L. Zoss, Low Poin, Ill.: "This machine is one of our best buys. We grind up to 20 tons per week with no trouble. We have had two Arts-Way grinders before this one and dealer service has always been excellent," says Arthur about his model 500 Arts-Way grinder bought in 1982.

On the negative side, "We bought a new Allis Chalmers 8050 power shift tractor in 1982. Workmanship on the tractor is very poor. We have trouble with the power shift transmission as well as oil and fuel leaks. We have had it back to the dealer several times. It broke down when we needed it most but our dealer has been very good, giving us another new tractor to use while ours is in the shop."

Charles D. Reed, Sumner, Iowa: He's pleased with his Johnson FM radio system. "Excellent range for receiving and transmitting. Couldn't ask for a better system. Dealer service is excellent."

Leo Stoner, Pierre, S. Dak.: "Our best buy has to be FARM SHOW. We read it from front to back. Love the new ideas in it," says Leo. "Another good buy is our water distiller. We always had drinking water as good as you could find anywhere. It was clean, clear and cold until one spring when it began tasting bitter. After tests, we found it full of nitrates and other impurities. It seemed the sewer was seeping into it. We installed a Pure Water distiller made in Lincoln, Neb."

Fraser C. Moore, Huntingdon, Que.: "FARM SHOW Magazine is my best buy. It's the only farm paper I eagerly wait for every issue. Very interesting."

Paul Rohrer, LeRoy, Minn.: "My worst buy is the Grain Saver for Gleaner F combines shown in an issue of FARM SHOW last summer. I used it on 670 acres of beans and it plugged up with straw and cobs from volunteer corn. I could not make the thing work for me. The instructions

were hard to understand. I would give it to anyone who would like to have it."

"Most older Gleaner combines have too little cleaning area so I added 18 in. onto the chaffer and grain pan. It took me about 7 or 8 hours and cost me about \$25. An extension can be purchased from the company for about \$500 but I thought it was a bit steep for two pieces of tin and a short piece of chaffer. My home-made extension works real well."

Marvin H. Mueller, Seymour, Wis.: "It's very useful on the farm for many jobs, whether in mud or snow. Saves a lot of steps," says Marvin about his Honda Big Red 3-wheeler.

James Kessi, Scappoose, Ore.: "My dad and I both agree that our Freeman 200-T self-propelled baler, built in 1965, is a best buy. It has averaged 35,000 bales a season since we bought it used in 1971. It's built on the order of industrial equipment with oversize bearings and plenty of steel. We also like our 1965 vintage Fox choppers for the same reason. Both machines run well with a minimum amount of down time."

Lowell Borchardt, Edgar, Wis.: He names both his 2-105 White tractor and his Hanson silo and unloader as "best buys". "The tractor has performed well in the heat of summer and cold of winter. The cab has excellent all-around visibility. Good dealer service. The silo has large self-storing doors that are easy to get into. The silo unloader is very easy to adjust and prepare for raising. Very dependable in all silage conditions. Excellent area dealer."

Paul Houk, Grove City, Minn.: "This pickup is fun to drive, handles just great and has good pulling power with reasonable mileage. With the 400 cu. in. V-8, it is well designed throughout and the seat is comfortable," reports Paul, happy with his 1982 Ford F250 4-wheel drive.

"My Honda ATC 185S is also a best buy. It gets used many times a day, runs cheap and is a virtually trouble free. We have an excellent dealer."

Lynn Hass, Wheatland, Iowa: "The Dekalb guarantee more or less only guarantees you can't get your money back," says Lynn, disappointed with two Dekalb Swine Breeders Inc. boars. "They were individually pen raised throughout their growth and never learned to be boars. They ran and hid in a corner when put together with a group of 24 gilts."

On the plus side, Lynn's happy with his Buffalo till-planter and Buffalo cultivator. "Planting on the ridge leaves the seeds in a seedbed that compares with any of the best gardens in the city," says Lynn. "There are no clods, and excellent moisture because the ground is only disturbed when the seed is put down. All the trash is thrown to the center of the row and all the volunteer corn is also thrown to the center where it is cultivated out later. The rows are almost 100% clean. It provides fuel savings, labor savings and good erosion control."

Reader Letters

You won't believe all the calls and letters we've received since FARM SHOW'S story on my recommendations for "retooling" rotary combines. Here's a sampling of comments from combine owners who wrote one after reading the story:

"... I have two of your other books and have made quite a few of the changes and adjustments you suggest. They really improved my combining. I have a New Holland TR 70."

"... I was to one of your combine clinics in Minnesota a few years back and was impressed with your presentation and your book, which I bought. I have a Deere 6600 and have made some of the changes you recommended and they helped a lot. Six of my neighbors have done the same. I still have a problem on my straight 20 ft. header with the large drum. It wants to bring the wheat straw over the top and spit it out at the reel. It starts about a foot from the throat. I've tried many different settings but it still does it. Have thought about putting webbing on the stripper and let the fighting rub against it."

"... I have a 1460 International with a 22 1/2 ft. model 820 header with a pickup reel. My worst problem is that the header balls up in front of the throat and chokes it up."

"... We have an IH 1460 and plan to buy another if the economic picture brightens. So far, we've had good luck with it but the most annoying problem has been feeding fluffy stuff into the feeder. The later models have made some improvement to alleviate this problem. I'm sure your book will go beyond IH to really get those IH rotaries to do what they are supposed to do."

"... I have a Deere 6620 which does a pretty fair job but I would like it to do better. I've had problems with straw lodging in the front of the chaffer along each side. Hoping your book will give me some pointers."

"... We own a TR 70. Does a beautiful job in beans. The problem is harvesting corn. It has no capacity. In 150-160 bu. corn (moisture content doesn't matter) we can't go over 2 mph or we put grain out the back end. Corn loss is 2 bu. per acre. The company has had their specialists check it over three times. After reading your FARM SHOW article, I think the concave/rotor area is our problem. We can't get whole cobs. When we do, there's corn left on. Here's hoping your new book has the answers."

"... I've had a New Holland TR 75 and TR 85, a Gleaner N-5 and N-7 and last fall, an International 1480. The New Hollands were good combines but of very low capacity. The two Gleaners would thresh great after I got them to feed properly but I felt they were built of undersized, poor materials. The 1480 is a great combine — took off almost 2,000 acres non-stop. That's performance for any new combine the first year of use."

"... Thank God there are men like you around that want to get the best out of a combine rather than sell new parts as most dealers do."

"... Read your article in FARM SHOW. It was great!

"... I used my Deere 6620 last fall in corn for the first time. I am very disappointed in its capacity. There seems to be tremendous cob breakage which overloads the cleaning sieve and plugs it which, in turn, slows me down. Of course, I can open the sieve and go faster but I like a relatively clean sample in the bin. Send me your book."

Ray Stueckle, Author
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Better Harvest"
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(Editor's Note: Ray Stueckle's recommendations for "retooling" rotary combines, which were highlighted in our last issue, were from his new book, "Rotor Settings for Better Harvest". It's available for \$10. His suggested changes for conventional combines are covered in an earlier book, "Combine Settings for Better Harvest." It's available for \$16.50.)

The thought of putting children on a tractor is stupid. It's never safe. Some children, it has been claimed, are operating at less than top ability due to the jarring they received riding on tractors as small children. Check this with medical doctors. I think you'll find that the systems of small children can't take it.

William Drummond
Area Extension Agent
Jamestown, N. Dak.

Two and three year old kids don't always stay put where you tell them. After almost backing over one of my boys with the tractor, I decided to mount the barrel on the tractor (pictured in the last issue). Inside the barrel, I know where he is. And he's as safe as the driver on the tractor.

Tell your safety specialist to get into a barrel up to his neck and try and fall out if he still thinks it's unsafe. Also, please tell your readers that the ear plugs idea (mentioned in the story) came from your safety specialist, too. I never heard of anything so silly. Kids don't ruin their ears from riding on small tractors. They ruin them from all that hard rock music they listen to when they become teenagers.

Henry Tjoelker
Everson, Wash.

The last issue of FARM SHOW featured an article on belt buckle collecting and mentioned that anyone interested should contact our newspaper "Buckle Buddies".

I want you to know that we had excellent response from this article. The cards and letters are still coming in from belt buckle collectors and enthusiasts throughout the U.S. and Canada.

Jan Ruth, Editor
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