

combine purchased in May 1979. It is hydrostatic and works just super. It's easy to work on any part, service is superb and it does a good threshing job. Best machine I ever had," says Anton.

Donnie Boyette, Kenly, N.C.: "My 'best buy' is one of the so-called 'Mexican' tractors **International Harvester** made up and didn't sell to Mexico. We got it \$9,000 to \$10,000 cheaper than a comparable different make. Plenty of power."

On the negative side, he's had trouble with "our **Lely Ripper**. We bought it to go in front of our **Lely**

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Roterra so we could rip, spray and prepare seedbeds in one trip. The shanks tripped at nothing. After replacing all the shanks the first year, we discontinued use of it. Too costly to operate."

Roger A. Jones, Dodge City, Kan.: "The gear ratios are too high and the linkage to the transmission so poor that no one can shift," says Roger, upset with his 1980 **Dodge D-150** pickup with 3-speed transmission and overdrive. "I was told after several calls that mud was causing the problem but no permanent fix was offered. We are now on the fourth clutch in less than 45,000 miles and the second transmission. The 5-year, 50,000 mile warranty doesn't cover anything that goes wrong with this truck."

Bruce Tuininga, Neerlandia, Alta.: "It's noisy in the cab — worse than many tractors," says Bruce, disappointed with his 1979 **International 1954** diesel truck. "It now has 55,000 miles and has had a new motor because of a faulty thermostat, two new 3-speed axles, three boosters for the brakes, and a new turbo. After driving **Fords** for many years, this is a poor truck."

"On the 'best buy' side is our 1979 **Deutz 10006**. It cost \$10,000 less than the comparable American model and has saved us two gal. per hour on fuel. We just finished 300 acres of breaking ground and the tractor runs as well as when we bought it."

"Another good buy is our 12-in. **Poulan** chain saw, which has been trouble free for many years."

Joe Benedict, Fayetteville, Penn.: Joe says his "best buy" is the book, "Combine Settings for Better Harvesting", by **Ray Stueckle**, Box 1323, Caldwell, Idaho 83605. "The information that Ray gave me through the book increased the capacity of my **Gleaner M** combine in corn by at least 50%. I now harvest more acres per hour with less grain loss over the sieves. My original problem was that I was losing corn over the shoe. By changing the up and down motion on the front of the shoe, and reducing the number of shakes per minute, our capacity has increased with less loss over the shoe."

Mitch Moser, Ligonier, Ind.: "One of our 'best buys' is our **Steiger PTA 325** automatic. It has plenty of power and is weighted right. Everything about it is heavy duty. The Allison automatic transmission is hard to beat. It downshifts so smoothly you can't even feel it shift."

"We also like our **Wil-Rich 12 18-in.** 2900 plow. Maneuvers and backs well and all replaceable parts wear evenly. The plow is easy to set and plows level. The walking tandem in the center would be hard to do without. It lets the plow cross uneven terrain smoothly. It also easily folds for transport. On the minus side, the tires on the tandem are too small. I replaced the 11.00 L-15 with 12.5 L-15 tires. However, the plow needs 16.5 L-16.1 tires. Unfortunately, there's not enough room for them. Also, the Star brand bottom replacement parts don't fit too well. I understand now you can get a Wil-Rich plow with **Deere, International** or **White** bottoms."

"Also on our minus side is our **Pace FM 152 VHF** radio. Its had more repairs in five years than it's worth. We have neighbors who bought theirs at the same time and they've also had problems."

"Another bad buy are our two 1350 - 1450 series **John Deere** plows. We can never get them to plow evenly. Our soil varies from one end of the field to the other. In high ground, these plows plow shallow and in the low ground they suck down some 12 inches. The dealer did all he could but the area man for **Deere** was unrealistic. He told us to try this and that and everything he suggested was going to cost us money out of our own pockets with no guaranteed results. Needless to say, the plows are gone."

Eugene Simons, Dexter, Iowa: He nominates his **White 4-row 5100** no-till planter as "best buy." "It's an outstanding planter and does what the company said it would do. The dealer did a great job of getting it field ready and stayed with it in the field until I was satisfied."

Glenn Hawkins, Upton, Kent.: "New **Holland** seems to continually improve on their already fine line of products," says Glenn, pleased with his **New Holland 489** mower-conditioner. "I cut 650 acres of hay this season and last with just one broken section. The floating head is designed better for following rough terrain than the previous model."

"Also on the plus side is my **Lincoln** arc welder. It's an AC/DC model, which makes it a reliable tool for the shop and handy for those hard-to-get places with the DC. It's much cheaper than large DC welders and yet you still have AC for general welding. It's also large enough for most repair work — with a reasonable price tag."

Barry Magnuson, Austin, Minn.: "I bought a complete set of 14-in. sweeps for my **International 13-ft.** chisel plow from **Nichols Tillage Tools, Inc.**, requesting their hard facing for extra wear. I bought from **Nichols** because they were a better buy even with the hard facing than **International** sweeps. However, after 50 acres, 95% of the sweeps had broken points or wings, or both. My

former set of **International** sweeps lasted 250 acres with no breakage."

"I told the distributor about the breakage soon after it occurred and didn't hear anything more. So I called and spoke to **Joe Nichols** himself. His answer was that they would not refund my money. Mr. Nichols claimed that the sweeps were not to be used in soils that contain rocks. However, the parts book did not state this fact anywhere. Where in the upper midwest are there fields that don't contain rocks?"

David C. Moore, Coleman, Mich.: "The chute is made strong enough to hold large cattle as well as calves. I like the automatic head gate which forces cattle to catch themselves," says David, happy with his "best buy" **My-D Hand-D** holding chute with automatic headgate for cattle, made by **My-D Hand-D Manufacturing** in **Dodge City, Kan.** "But the thing I like best is that I haven't been kicked while working with the cattle."

"Another good purchase is our **Titan 2600 Silomatic** silo unloader. It's used mostly in haylage and blows the hay clear out the silo door against the chute."

On the minus side, David says his wife lists her **Kenmore** dish washer as a "worst buy". "It's leaking water out on the floor again. It first leaked under warranty and **Sears** fixed it. Now, the warranty is over and you know who'll pay this time. But the worst part is that **Sears** said it would be three weeks until a repairman could come. Maybe they should borrow a lonely **Maytag** repairman."

Daniel Headings, Tampico, Ill.: Daniel lists his **Dickey-John** grain loss monitor for his combine as "best buy". "It's a very sensitive piece of equipment that has given us no trouble at all," he says. "Installation instructions are clear and easy to follow."

Anton Hambek, Herrick, S. Dak.: He's disappointed with his 1980 **Lester** building used as a milking parlor, loafing barn, and office. "The insulation was supposed to be 'bird-proof' but there are chunks of insulation all over. There isn't a door on it that fits and mice get in anywhere. The hoods for the exhaust fans are not big enough to let fans work properly."

On the plus side, Anton says his "best buy ever" is his 1968 **Ford 4000** tractor, purchased new. "After an overhaul last spring it's performing as well as the day I bought it. Plenty of power. My only complaint is that it's a little gas hungry."

Kermit Zent, Rochester, Ind.: A good way to till the soil while applying anhydrous at the same time," says Kermit, happy with his **Glenco 13-ft.** Soil Saver chisel plow with front mounted discs. "It's well built with a good heavy frame and it penetrates well. We pull it with a 225 hp., tractor, which handles it fairly well."

Kurt Ketelsen, Box Elder, S. Dak.: "Handy for checking cows and fixing fence," says Kurt, pleased with his **Honda ATC 3-wheeler**. "Gets about 50 mpg and can do many jobs a pickup can do. The wide tires let you go over muddy terrain without getting stuck."

Lynn Leichtnam, Presho, S. Dak.: "The 3-pt. hitch on this tractor hasn't worked since we've owned it," says Lynn, disappointed with his **Case 2390** tractor. "When in the down position it won't pick itself up. It's been back to the dealer three times but is still not fixed."

Heading his "best buy" list is his **Deere 1610 27-ft.** field cultivator "Our old field cultivator's wings would float out of the ground on uneven ground, so we had wheels installed on the entire length of the cultivator and it cured the problem."

Clarence McDougall, Mitchell, Ont.: "It's run over 50,000 miles with only regular service and few repairs. Pulls 60 market hogs in a gooseneck trailer and does almost all our trucking. Has a 4-speed manual transmission and a 351 engine converted to propane. Runs every day using very little oil," says Clarence, pleased with his "best buy" 1980 **Ford F250** pickup.

He's also happy with his **Nuhn** liquid manure spreader from **Nuhn Industries, Ltd.**, **Sebringville, Ont.** "Because we're dealing directly with the manufacturer, service is never a hassle. We have used several of their spreaders and all have been well engineered and strongly built."

Will Ed Powell, Springfield, Tenn.: Will likes his **Sure-Flame 2000** wood stove. "The stove is outside so there's no mess in our house. We have been on budget billing with our electric company for the last three years and have always owed them money in April when we settle up. This year, after buying, our **Sure Flame** wood stove, we had a credit of \$974 on our April billing. We did have to cut the wood, but this turned out to be a warming experience."

Peter Kemp, Wynndel, British Columbia: "My 'worst buy' was a 1975 **White 2270** tractor," says Peter. "It had a big caterpillar motor which never missed a beat. But I never got a full day's work out of it because the hydraulics, wiring, steering and back

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end broke somewhere every time I used it. The gears were often jammed. "The only machine I can ever be sure will start when all else fails is a 1931 **Caterpillar** diesel 50."

Harry V. Stocking, Carnegie, Okla.: Harry's "best buy" is his **Morton 30** by 50 by 15 farm building. "Very well built and they did everything called for in the contract. They also guarantee their work for 5 years against leaks or windstorms — a pretty good guarantee for western Oklahoma."

Rollin Ingham, Swaledale, Iowa: "Great for checking crops and livestock after chores are done and a lot of fun as a recreational vehicle," says Rollin, pleased with his **Kawasaki KLT-200 3-wheeler**.

(Continued on next page)