

## Reader Letters

**Huebner Brothers**, Winnipeg, Can. We installed the heat strip in our home between two layers of sheetrock on the ceiling per instructions by a licensed electrician. After installation, the heatstrip was a very effective heat source but we found it cracked and deteriorated the sheetrock to a powdery consistency within a short time. The distributors have blamed uncured sheetrock — without coming to investigate. The sheetrock companies have tested the deteriorated pieces and have stated that the high temperatures were the cause of its deterioration. No one seems willing to do a thorough and serious investigation of this product and we are very disappointed and angry that this could be allowed to happen."

On the positive side, Wayne adds that, "The most trouble-free machine I have purchased in 19 years of farming is an **Owatonna** 595 round baler. It was easy to learn to operate, runs very quiet, is maintenance free with its automatic oiler, picks well and always makes a perfect bale with no feeding problems. I've baled everything from dry brittle rained out barley straw to wet green weeds with no problems feeding or making the bale."

**Albert J. Clark, Bell Buckle, Tenn.:** "My **Troy** 6-hp. garden roto-tiller is a 'best buy'," says Albert. "The ground gets worked up like an ash bed and you can use it with one hand."

**Daniel J. Denis, Domremy, Sask.:** "We've had to put three transmissions in it in 36,000 miles. The seals leaked at 25,000 miles and we had to put rings into the engine. It runs irregular and floods when starting," he says about his 1974 **International** 1600 Loadstar.

"On the 'best buy' side, we've had **Deere** tractors since 1949 and the last of the two-cylinder models was an 'R'. We've had five Generation I tractors and still have a 4020 and a 3010 on hand. We've also had eight Generation II tractors and still have five of them from a 4430 up to an 8640. All have given good service and performance. The only one we've had reservations about was a 1961 4010. It took a while to get the problems ironed out but, when we traded it, it was performing like a 4020. Our current 'best buy' is an 8430 John Deere. I bought it to get more traction and the tractor has plenty of that, plus more horsepower. Maneuverability is good and servicing simple."

**Don Rickard, Bowmanville, Ont.:** Don's disappointed with **Massey Ferguson's** service department. "You would think a company trying to build its image would start with the service end."

Don's happy, however, with his **New Holland** 892 forage harvester. "It performs well in the field and can take all crops — hay, corn, and corn cob meal. All problems are well looked after by the local dealer, which means a lot during the busy harvest season. All our New Holland equipment is well-built and well-serviced when needed."

This letter is for all farmers and ranchers who are feeling the crunch of high costs of production, high interest rates and low prices. By acting quickly, you can put a stop to your losses.

Federal law allows farmers to reorganize under Chapters 11 or 13 so they can remain in business in spite of depressed economic conditions. Both options allow farmers to operate without selling land, grain, livestock and machinery other than what is needed. It is possible to stop or reduce interest on operating loans.

Bankers, PCAs and FmHAs are forcing too much land, livestock, grain and equipment on the market by selling out farmers, either voluntarily or involuntarily. Farmers can weather this economic storm by filing either a Chapter 11 or 13 reorganization plan.

If you believe prices for farm commodities someday will be back in line with other sectors of the economy, if you believe as most economists do that the price of land will triple in the 80s, the way to save the farm and protect it from big investors is to gain the protection of federal law.

The time to file for protection is now, before your operation gets to the Chapter 7 complete bankruptcy stage. Your operation then can take advantage of inflated land, machinery and grain prices.

The first step is to contact a lawyer who will not take advantage of your situation. Remember, Chapter 11 and 13 protection is not bankruptcy, but is reorganization. It not only protects your farm but also your unsecured creditors such as the elevator, machinery dealer and others. Under Chapter 7 (which you do not want), you are in bankruptcy and creditors can divide up your property in order of priority... like vultures feeding on a carcass.

If you need help or more information, write to: **FAMINE** (Farmers of America Merge in the Nineteen Eighties), Route 2, Box 46, Wecota, S.D. 57480. The phone number is 605-598-4197 or 598-4546. We will help you as best we can and send additional information concerning Chapter 11 and 13 reorganization.

Charles Bellman  
FAMINE  
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**Editor's note:** Last winter Bellman, who owns more than 2,000 acres in Faulk County, S.Dak., found himself in deep financial trouble and filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy as a last and critical step to save his farm. His "bankruptcy" experience led him to start the new non-profit organization called **FAMINE**. Bellman defends what he's doing, noting that "farmers need better information about their options when financial pressures close in. Too many farmers feel bankruptcy carries a stigma. They shouldn't feel guilty about a situation not of their own making. Chapter 11 is an opportunity to reorganize and hopefully bring an operation from loss to profit".

Critics of Bellman's **FAMINE** crusade contend that what he's doing

is irresponsible and may do more harm than good to business and farming — that bankruptcies hurt all farmers by forcing businesses to be more conservative on credit policies.

Bellman has put together a series of newsletters, based on his personal bankruptcy experience, on "How to cope with the trauma of bankruptcy", "What farmers should know about Chapter 7 and 11", "Debt reorganization" and several other related subjects.

"We're asking those who can to send a \$5 or \$10 contribution to help cover our cost of producing and mailing these newsletters to farm families who are so strapped financially they can't spare a dime," Bellman told **FARM SHOW**.

Volume 6 Number 4 issue of **Farm Show** carried an article on using a timer to cut water heating bills. The entire field of energy conservation is filled with misleading information. The idea that tremendous savings are possible by shutting off the water heater leads the list. The amount of time the heating element is on in a water heater is controlled by two factors — the amount of water used and the heat lost through the insulating jacket.

If we assume that a 50 gal. water heater has a 1 in. fiberglass insulating jacket, is set at 140°F water temperature and is located in a 40°F room, there is a negligible energy saving by shutting the heater off for less than 30 hours if the timer shuts the system off with the water heater full of water at 140°F. With a 30 hour off period and no hot water used, the water will be at about 100°F. Reheating this water to 140°F would save 1 Kwhr of electricity over what would have been used to keep the water at a constant 140°F.

The other extreme is to shut the water heater off when the heater is full

I recently purchased an electric hand-spinning machine and am so pleased with it that I would like **FARM SHOW** readers to know about it.

The spinner is extremely well-constructed out of maple wood. It does not dance or jump around even at the fastest speed. It is fitted with a dimmer switch and an electric sewing machine type foot pedal which allows adjustment to everybody's speed and taste. The spool is very large so that it will

hold a maximum amount of spun yarn before it needs to be emptied. A full spool will hold 1½ rounds of spun mohair and I can spin that amount in ½ hr., something I could never have done on my manual spinning wheel.

The spinner was hand built by Robert Routhier, Ferme L'anse des grosses roches, Le Ramous St. Fidele, Charlevoix Canada GOT 1TO.

Margrit Multhaupt  
Valcourt Que., Canada

There was a mix-up in the article last issue entitled "New Kit Puts Your Tractor On Stilts". The correct address for more information is: **FARM SHOW Followup**, Jerry Chandler, Holcomb Machinery & Manufacturing, Holcomb, Kan. (ph 316 277-2333 or 275-5675). The address that ran with the story is for Winfrey Manufacturing, my company, which manufactures the carpet herbicide applicator mounted on the back of the converted "still" tractor when your photographer visited our booth at the Kansas 3-I show. We have passed along all letters and phone calls to Holcomb Machinery and Manufacturing.

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