

Deere 7000 planter with a Fieldtron monitor. "We're very happy with the planter. It worked better than we expected.

We planted some no-till corn and beans with very good stands. The Fieldtron Monitor is very accurate, causing no problems. Together with the planter, it makes putting in crops a pleasure."

Ernest Moss, Hull, Iowa: "As an energy saver, I feel this system has lived up to its advertising," says Ernest, pleased with his **Fristament** ventilation system. "Having used it through the 1981-82 winter, we found we needed no other source of heat other than that generated by the animals themselves. We also found that room temperatures never varied more than one degree whether it was 40° below zero or 40° above. This greatly improves performance in the nursery. Having to install only one unit in a room simplifies construction and saves on electrical wiring costs.

"Also on the 'best buy' side, I recently purchased cement self-feeders manufactured by the **Bohlmann Co.** I am pleased at the lack of feed wastage and feel this is one feeder that won't rust, crack or get chewed up by hogs."

Phillip Wagler, Partridge, Kan.: An American Breeders Service representative, Philip says his own product is his "best buy". "I use it on all 35 of my dairy cows as well as on my beef cows. I get the use of the best genetics in the country and it does settle my cows. There isn't a bull on the place except for one small calf."

Nick Kercheval, Shenandoah Jct., W. Va.: "FARM SHOW Magazine is absolutely one of my best purchases," says Nick. "I've found quite a few new products that have interested me and ideas for farm-built projects that I will use in the future.

"Other 'best buys' include my new **John Deere 6620 turbo hydrostatic combine.** It's a pleasure to operate. Its capacity is far greater than my old 6600 and the new unloading auger makes loading trucks a breeze. On the negative side, the 404 cu. in. turbo engine uses 1.6 gal. per acre with a 6-row head while the old 329 used .8 gal. per acre with the same head.

"I also like my **Echo 452 VL chainsaw** with a 16-in. bar. The handle is vibration free and it starts easily."

Nick adds that "my used 1976 970 **Case** tractor was not a bad buy but I have had a frustrating problem with it. I bought it with a bad power shift transmission and had to have the transmission rebuilt. Before rebuilding the transmission, the hydraulic brakes would actuate themselves when the motor was revved. The brake control block was replaced for \$800, which cured the problem temporarily but now it's doing it again.

No one seems to know the answer. Otherwise, it's a fine tractor."

Wayne Voltmer, Bigelow, Mo.: "This tractor is by far the best 4-wheel drive tractor I have ever driven. Operator comfort is the best I have ever had. The cab is very quiet and visibility is great," says Wayne about his **Steiger Cougar ST280.**

Robert Kraft, Kanawha, Iowa: "I

am pleased with my new **Long** backhoe," says Robert. "It has been trouble free and I find it very useful on the farm."

Gary Dougan, Barnard, Mo.: "I bought a new 015 **Stihl** chain saw about two years ago and I can't begin to remember how many times I've taken it back to the repairman. It seemed that the motor didn't run fast enough or have enough power. Every so often it would die. Sometimes it

"I can't begin to remember how many times I've taken it back to the repairman."

would start and run awhile if you let it cool off. Other times it wouldn't and I would take it to the repairman again."

Bob Boeckner, Macon Miss.: Bob's "best buy" nomination is his **Yamaha 125 3-wheeler.** "It's excellent for checking cattle. I can tow it to the field with the tractor, then use it to get the pickup, or run other errands. Also, my 8-year-old son can drive it. A very useful farm tool."

Paul Courey, Tilbury, Ontario: Paul's had trouble with his **Deere 71 Flexi** planter. "This planter might perform reasonably well in a powder-fine seedbed at about 2 mph but under any other conditions, it is totally unsatisfactory. Seed spacing is hit and miss, and depth control is nil. It scatters seed throughout the entire depth range."

On the positive side, Paul's happy with his **Deere 7100 Soybean Special** planter. "It gives very accurate seed placement and spacing, good penetration in heavy soils and is unaffected by surface trash. It is totally opposite to my "worst buy" Model 71 which it replaced."

Greg Bensman, Sidney, Ohio: He names his **Deere 4640** tractors as best buys. "They're real dependable, quick starting and have lots of power. Our oldest one has 2,650 trouble-free hours. Really like the quad range transmissions because of the way it overlaps. You can always find a range with the right speeds. The hydraulic seat is very comfortable. I also like the tractor's fuel efficiency."

Greg's also pleased with his **Deere 1981 front-fold 7000** planter. "We're real impressed with the way this planter front folds. It takes only 45 seconds to fold and move on to the next field. After 4,500 acres, all we've done is to have our local Deere dealer add individual lever marker controls so we can lift markers separately without stopping to lift the planter. This feature is nice for point rows and for avoiding electric poles."

Greg also names his **Comtronix FM 2-way** radios as "best buys". "We bought six units in the spring of 1981 on the advice of a friend and we now have 11 units. They save gas and help shorten downtime. It's nice hearing just your other radios and not a bunch of CB talkers. They have an excellent warranty policy, too."

Lloyd Martens, Chadron, Neb.: Heading Lloyd's "best buy" list is his **Allen 768 V-rake.** "We're using it to pull two 16-ft. windrows together ahead of a stack wagon. Full hydraulic control from the tractor lets us change from 8-ft. transport width to 21-ft. raking position. Baskets are driven hydraulically with speed variable from 0 to 100 rpm. Does an exceptionally clean job on uneven ground, with no shattering in alfalfa. Makes very even windrows.

Lloyd says his "worst buy" was his **Vicon 3-pt. V-wheel rake.** "This rake was designed in Spain for use in grass hay. It will not work in alfalfa over 1/2 ton per acre without making terrific slugs in the windrow. I traded after 700 acres for the Allen rake."

Dwaine Bockelmann, Pierce, Neb.: "My 'best buys' are my **Gehl 2600** skid loader and a **White 2-62** tractor. We use the skid loader every day for filling feeder wagons, scraping lots, and miscellaneous chores. It starts in the coldest weather and hasn't given us any trouble in the three years we've had it.

"We're also well pleased with our **White 2-62** tractor. The fuel efficiency is exceptional, the tractor handles very well, and its a gutsy performer for its 60 hp. size. We are also happy with the maintenance on it. It's fast, simple and convenient.

On the "worst buy" side, Dwaine's had trouble with his 40 by 90-ft. **Agri-Steel** machine shed. "The pultrins are spaced too far apart and are not heavy enough. Also, there is not enough pitch on the roof. Wet snow lays longer than it should. Now it leaks like a sieve. It just isn't built heavy enough."

Al and Jimmy Monin, Cox's Creek, Kty.: "One of our 'best buys' ever was our 170 **Allis-Chalmers** tractor, bought brand new back in 1971. The tractor now has around 2,300 hours on it and, aside from oil filters and a battery, we have spent less than \$75 on it. We also have a 2640 **John Deere** with about 200 hours on it and it's doing real well. Our 'most dependable ever' tractor is our old 1957 520 **Deere** which we use almost all year long for light work such as hauling hay to the cattle in winter. It is almost maintenance-free. We also have a 1954 **Farmall Super-M** which is also a good tractor but is hard on the gas. We don't use it much.

"On the negative side, our 'worst buy' has to be an **International 140** tractor that we bought new in 1975. Even when it was brand new, the head was leaking antifreeze, and the hydraulic system and rear end were

"Even when it was brand new, the head was leaking antifreeze."

leaking. The governor wasn't adjusted right and neither were the brakes."

John R. Pekse, Sundre, Alberta: "We harvest between 1,000 and 1,500

tons of hay yearly. I nominate the **Ranch Hand**, built by **Farmhand** in the early 1970's, as our 'best buy'. I believe the **Ranch Hand** can rough up loose hay at a speed equal or close to a round baler and, once in the stack, one man and the **Farmhand** chain stackmover will centralize the feed at a rate of 200 to 250 tons per day on a mile haul average. In winter, I feed 200 cows in about 20 min. with the grapple fork on the **Ranch Hand**.

"Since **Ranch Hands** are no longer built, I would be interested in locating another one to buy."

Lester Bening, Arlington, Minn.: "It has so much traction I'm able to plow through water," says Lester, pleased with his **International 2 + 2** tractor. "It has plenty of power to pull my other 'best buy', a 33 1/2 ft. **Allis Chalmers** ridge cultivator. The tractor has good visibility and I've had very little trouble with it overall. It uses less than 1 gal. of fuel per acre. The tractor is rated at 150 hp. but is putting out 162. Last fall when it was wet I was able to get my plowing done, thanks to this tractor. Dealer service is also great."

Bob Randall, Eyota, Minn.: Bob's pleased with his **Harlan NH3** applicator for discs from **Harlan Manufacturing**, Harlan, Iowa. "This disc mounted unit worked much better than I expected. It's the first one around here so I'd never seen one work before buying my own. It worked great on a 50 acre field of stalks that had had nothing done except for chopping. Saved one trip through the field overall and you don't need to use a heavy-duty disc."

Marvin Ramsier, Rittman, Ohio: His "worst buy" nomination is **Landmark** alfalfa seed. "We had a beautiful stand of **Shepherd's** purse weeds across the entire field," he reports.

Heading his "best buy" list is his **International 2+2** tractor. "It has lots of power and traction. We get done plowing in no time. Spray tanks fit it well and we can control pressure on our hydraulic spray pump from the cab."

Howard Roe, Scranton, Kan.: "Our 'worst buy' is our **Sun Wise** solar system," says Howard. "It was installed in April of 1981. It appeared to work properly at first when outside temperatures were above 35°. When outside temperatures dropped below 20°, the solar system blew cold air and our gas furnace ran full blast to heat the cold air the solar system was blowing in. The salesman kept telling us the air out of the register should be 120 to 125°. The best it ever got was 98°. The dealer came out and put in another cold air return, telling us the system was defective and that they would replace it. Instead, they overhauled it. The solar temperature finally got to 118° when the outside temperature went back up to 69°. This is the most expensive pile of junk I ever bought. Every time we talk to the dealer, he tells us a different story about how it is supposed to work.

"Another bad investment for us has been **Rapid Roof** coating by the **Conklin Co.**," Howard continues. "We

(Continued on next page)