

before it goes up when moved to the raise position; and the pto is in a position that, when your left foot releases the tractor clutch, your heel engages the pto, which can be very dangerous. The little Perkins engine seems to be good and sturdy. No problem there.

"I'd blame this tractor's problems on sloppy engineering and poor workmanship."

**Richard Nordal, Arborg, Manitoba:** "Very satisfied with this machine," says Richard, happy with his **Coop Implements** self-propelled 550 swather with a 15-ft. header and 6-cyl. engine. "Makes an excellent swath that's easy to pick up with the combine. It's also very good at picking up a lodged crop. The engine is easy on fuel as it'll swath 160 acres on 30 gallons of gas. Handling is excellent."

**K. Joe Kinnie, Julesburg, Colo.:** "I have never used a product that cost me so much," says Joe, upset with **Dual** herbicide by **Ciba-Geigy**. "We were having trouble with foxtail on a couple hundred acres of corn ground. After considering many herbicides, we chose **Dual** for several reasons. 1. **Ciba-Geigy** claimed **Dual** will work by itself without another mixed-in herbicide. 2. **Dual** was said to work exceptionally well on foxtail. 3. We were told **Dual** would stay in the soil longer than competitive herbicides and thus would be there to take care of weeds that came on later in the season.

"Unfortunately, we had foxtail emerge six weeks after planting. Choosing **Dual** cost us approximately \$40,000 or, on the average, 70 to 80 bushels per acre. A **Ciba-Geigy** representative came out but gave us no satisfaction whatsoever. The fact remains that **Dual** did not perform. We applied the maximum rate and used the same sprayer as with our other herbicides. Comparing the **Dual** acres with **Lasso** and **Atrazine** acres, it looked as though we hadn't used any herbicide at all."

**Oliver Noel, St. Lina, Alberta:** "No more dependable than a Christmas toy from Asia," says Oliver, disappointed with his **Rockwell** 10-in. band saw. "In thicknesses over one inch, the blade cannot be controlled at all. The blades break frequently and alignment cannot be kept permanent. Compared to other saws, it's junk."

He's pleased, though, with his **Makita** 2030 12-in. planer/jointer. "We've used it for the past year to finish and shape rough lumber for shop use. It keeps its thickness setting perfect and the motor has been 100% trouble-free."

Oliver runs a new and used tractor parts shop and says he can pick the most popular older tractors by monitoring calls for parts. "Parts calls indicate to what extent these tractors are still being used. The three most popular at this time are: 1. **Case** 930. 2. **International Harvester** 706 and 806. 3. **John Deere** 4020."

**Melvin Paul, Marissa, Ill.:** "Many pickups have had my name painted on the door but I've never been so pleased as I am with my 1981 **GMC High Sierra**," says Melvin. "It's been

my 'truck of trucks', always performing beautifully!"

"I also have two great tractors that have never had a service call — a **Deere** 4240 and a **Deere** 4640, both bought in 1978. For me, green is the machine when it comes to tractors."

On the negative side, Melvin has had trouble with his **New Holland** 775 skid steer loader. "It's with mixed emotions that I complain

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about this machine because it's as handy as having an extra hired hand and the company has been good about repairing it. But it's had broken brackets, hydraulic breakdowns, and injector trouble on its diesel engine."

**Wayne D. Frederick, West Branch, Iowa:** "My 700 **John Deere** Max Emerge planter makes it a lot easier to be a good no-tiller," states Wayne. "I'm dedicated to no-till farming and was having trouble with my old planter. In the last five years with the Max Emerge, I have never failed to get a stand and have even had to cut back my planting rate 2,000 seeds per acre because I was getting a higher rate of germination. I have frame-mounted rather than unit-mounted coulters which lets me transfer planter frame weight to the coulters. I've been able to plant in just about anything."

Another top purchase for Wayne are his **B.F. Goodrich** Power Saver rear tractor tire radials. "We do a lot of blacktop driving in our custom work so our tires wear fast. Radials give us a smoother ride as well as better traction and longer life. This is the second set of radials on this tractor and the second tractor I have had radials on. The old set of radials had about 13,000 miles and 2,100 hours. Excellent wear and performance."

**Francis Effling, Artesian, S. Dak.:** "I looked at other balers and I think **John Deere** has the least moving parts," says Francis, pleased with his 510 round baler. "When the dealer delivered the baler, he helped me get started and rode with me while making several bales. I think this is extremely important in getting started right. The baler works great with my 60 hp tractor."

**John Sides, Smithwick, S. Dak.:** "Our 'best buy' is our 1980 **CJ-5 Jeep**," says John. "Its 258 cu. in. motor has plenty of power, starts in the coldest of weather and gets approximately 13 to 14 miles per gallon. The Jeep has been used strictly in the pastures for ranch work and has been completely trouble-free. We've also been well-satisfied with our **J-10 Jeep** pickup. Plenty of power and economical."

**Deland Reynolds, Bloomfield, Neb.:** Deland likes his 1979 **White** 2-105 tractor. "Except for a loose seam in a rear tire and problems with bearings in an idler pulley, I've had no trouble in 800 hours. The seat is very comfortable, it has great visibil-

ity, and it's reasonably quiet. The only thing I would change is that the hood shakes, especially when the engine is holding back between 1400 and 1800 rpm's. Also, when it rains the pre-cleaner catches water that goes out the exhaust, making a mess when the tractor is started."

**John Stevermer, Houston, Minn.:** His "best buy" is an **Owatonna Manufacturing Co.** haybine. "Most of our hay is harvested from narrow contour strips on steep hillsides. We are well-satisfied with the way our **Owatonna** 217 Haymaster cuts and conditions alfalfa. It doesn't seem to matter if the crop has lodged a bit. The hydraulic swing tongue attachment helps maintain a full width cut on the steeper slopes."

"My 'worst buy' of all time is a 1645 **Skilsaw** chainsaw. It refused to oil the chain automatically, and always let the oil leak away onto the floor at night. We took it to the dealer several times, and sent it to the **Skilsaw** service center once. We finally threw it into the junk pile, and that stopped the aggravation. The dealer still feels that I am too fussy."

**Greg Neave, Kelowna, British Columbia:** Greg's happy with his **Long-Nuway** 1560 travelling sprinkler. "Minimal hours are required to operate it, as it's very simple and efficient. In 24 hours it will irrigate more acreage than most conventional systems. Has required little maintenance."

**Doug Putnam, Pikeville, Tenn.:** "My 'best buy' ever is my **New Idea** 813 floating grain head. It won't plug up even in muddy ground and it's the best I've ever seen work in the field."

On the minus side, "The only plus on this tractor is that it has good power," says Doug about his **International** 1086. "I've had trouble with wheel seal leaks. Two torque amplifiers have gone out. I can't get it in gear and can't keep alternators on it. Also, it's the roughest riding machine I have ever operated."

**Don Anderson, Lewistown, Mont.:** "My worst buy ever was a **Case** 1370 2-wheel drive tractor," says Don. "When we bought the tractor the pto was not adjusted properly. The dealer worked on it five times in the first year and still the problem was not solved. Then, the dealer died and we didn't get another for two years. Ex-

### "The entire pto clutch assembly burned out, dropping iron and pieces of clutch into the rear end."

cept when necessary we didn't use the pto, but during spring seeding, it started to turn all the time. The new dealer told us to finish seeding and bring the tractor in, which we did. The entire pto clutch assembly had burned out, dropping iron and pieces of clutch into the rear end. One of these pieces went through the ring gear and pinion, chipping both. It also took out both final drives. Total repair bill was \$15,000.

"Since we had had problems with it in the first year, we felt **Case** should furnish us with the parts. But they said the tractor was too old at three years and had too many hours at 2,100. We traded the tractor and I'll never buy another **Case** product as long as I live unless the company changes its policies."

**Ralph Manternach, Cascado, Iowa:** Both his "best buys" are made by **John Deere**. "Our 3940 chopper with electric controls has good capacity without big power requirements," he says. "Does an excellent job chopping haylage without the dust you get when using a screen, which we don't own for it. Daily sharpening and shear bar adjustment takes 10 to 15 minutes. The knives are designed to move back if a rock or metal object is picked up. We know this feature works because we picked up a rock and it only moved back eight of the 36 knives. We lost just 45 minutes and had no expense."

"We have used our **Deere** 4440 tractor for about a year now and have had no expense other than normal maintenance. Good power and comfort. Especially like the float ride seat."

**Harold Waldron, Lacombe, Alberta:** He's had trouble with his **Case** 2290 tractor. "The power train and motor are 100% but the hydraulic lines keep popping off ends. The heater hose broke in the cab and, in general, clamps on hoses were loose and bolts were not tight. The air conditioning lines were improperly installed and wore through. I've used five pails of transmission oil and one case of oil in the motor because of leaks last fall when I first got the tractor. Also, the battery cable shorted out, wrecking the alternator and one battery. Dealer service was good, but 1½ to 2 days down every time you turn around is not so great."

Harold adds that he likes his **XL 12 Homelite** chain saw. "Runs good and has plenty of power for farm cutting."

**L.D. Simmons, Gray, Tenn.:** "I've had some trouble with a few bales of **Silver Queen** baler twine. The twine kept coming out of the balls cut in two and, in one ball, the end just disappeared."

**Stanley H. Vorthmann, Council Bluffs, Iowa:** "These waterers have never failed or frozen in five years," says Stanley, pleased with his "**Trojan** freezeless nipple waterers. We installed them in an open front finishing floor in 1976."

On the negative side, he had trouble with a **Dayton** 5 hp. enclosed motor. "Water gets into the control box when it rains and shorts out the motor. I drilled a hole in the bottom but it didn't help. My dealer replaced one motor while it was still under a one-year warranty but, when the second motor failed in the 13th month, the company rep said it would not be replaced."

**Mark Lusk, West Mansfield, Ohio:** "One of our 'worst buys' is a 1979 **Ford** F-350 truck with 400 motor and 4-speed transmission," says Mark. "From the first day we had it, the front end shook and we got poor gas

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