

# Best And Worst Buys

(Continued from preceding page)

mileage. We've had the front end worked on three times. The cab is like an oven in summer and like a deep freeze in winter. It's work every time you drive it."

On the "best buy" side, Mark adds that, "We bought a 1977 **John Deere 4430** from our Deere dealer with 1,000 hours on it. Now it has 1,600 hours and we haven't had one minute of trouble. It has more horsepower than it's rated at and I really like the Sound-Gard cab."

**James A. Knollenberg, Oblong, Ill.:** "When I say 'worst buy' I mean it," says James, upset with his 1981 **Chevrolet 4-wheel drive pickup**. "It has what GM calls an economy 305 engine but it doesn't have enough power to pull an empty gravity bed wagon. From the word go, it has used oil and I had to replace the rings, but that didn't help the oil consumption problem. Whether in 4-wheel or 2-wheel drive, my best mpg has been 9.5. I haven't used the 4-wheel drive much because it doesn't have the power to pull the front tires. Last winter, when we had lots of snow and slick roads, it wouldn't even go into 4-wheel drive. My dealer said many of these trucks are this way. I wouldn't want anyone else to have the headaches and bills I have had."

**Gene D. Arlt, Ritzville, Wash.:** He nominates **Doane's Agricultural Report** as his "best buy". "Doane's sends out a weekly report on markets and what's going on in Washington, D.C. Besides that, they provide a reference book on management, crops, livestock, machinery, taxes, law and other topics. It's nice to have an updated reference book when you're starting a new project or need information on an old project."

**George Massie, Jr., Louisa, Va.:** "I'd like to nominate three products from **Unverferth-McCurdy** as 'best buys'," says George. "I'm pleased with their 16-ft. Harrogator, which does a good job of leveling the land, their gravity flow grain box, and a set of their snap-on dual wheels."

"We also like our 7600 and 4600 **Ford** tractors. We've had minor problems with the tractors but the dealer gives good service. However, we didn't like it when Ford went from a district parts center to a regional set-up. Before the change, the parts depot was in Richmond and the dealer could get parts overnight. Now the depot is in Atlanta and it takes two days to get parts."

**Warren Steeves, Carievale, Sask.:** "My nomination for 'worst buy' goes to my 1976 915 **International** diesel combine which was the highest priced on the market at the time I bought it," says Warren. "In the first 100 feet, a piece of angle iron, improperly welded, fell out of the feeder and broke the straw chopper. Every weld on the pick-up had to be re-welded after 300 acres. The machine fan was improperly installed and it fell out, breaking the fins off. Near the end of the first season, the diesel pump went out and I was not com-

pensated for down time. The second season the diesel pump went out again, apparently ruining the motor which had just 150 hours on it. International did repair it at their expense but I had to pay a custom operator to finish the crop and the motor was not put back in until the next fall."

"After three days of running again, the turbo charger went out at a cost of \$800, which International would not be responsible for. The final blow came in the fall of 1981 when the rod bolts broke while combining and drove a hole through the side of the block, starting both the combine and field on fire. Extensive damage was done. One big problem through all of this is that it's hard to get parts any closer than Winnipeg, which is a round trip of 600 miles."

**Herbert Heintz, Cayuga, N.Y.:** "I wonder why **International**, with all their losses, doesn't get smart and make the **Farmall Magain?** At \$8,000 per tractor, if it was equipped with no accessories, they could sell all they could make. If they can't afford U.S. labor, they could make them in third world countries."

**W. Reinhardt, Didsbury, Alberta:** He's happy with his **Gjesdal "5 in 1"** grain cleaner built by Harvey Gjesdal, Box 425, Birch Hills, Sask. "This machine is designed to run unattended and that's just what it does. If you don't rush it, it does an amazing job. Last spring I'd start it up in the morning and go about my other work. It never once caused me trouble."

**John T. Mack, Amboy, Minn.:** "Heavy duty all the way," says John, pleased with his **Schweiss 8-ft. snowblower**. "This machine is built right. The large open augers chew right into a hard-packed drift. I have it on a 150 hp tractor and have yet to break the first shear bolt."

**Charles Kunka, Hamilton, Ohio:** "We've tried just about every make of disk on the market and have found that our **International** gives us the best overall performance. Its great flexibility and constant depth control really do the job in our different soil types. Another key feature is its narrow transport width."

"Another 'best buy' is our **John Deere 2800 plow**. The adjustable width and high clearance enable us to follow the combine in cornstalks without plugging. We're also pleased with **John Deere's 336 baler** with launcher. One man can fill all the wagons by himself, saving on manpower. We've had very little maintenance on it."

On the minus side, Charles says his **White 253 and 263 disc harrows** caused problems. "We had the 253 for a couple weeks, but the dealer was unable to make it level the ground correctly. So, he brought us a 263 which worked in a level field with no rocks. But, since some of our ground is rougher, we were replacing bearings and blades practically every week."

**Ralph Watkins, Jordan, Minn.:** He built a new log house and is happy with two wood-burning accessories that help him heat efficiently with wood fuel burned in his "best buy" air-tight **Defiant** cast iron stove from Vermont Castings.

"Many people who burn wood have trouble regulating the heat, particularly when the weather outside isn't real cold. We use a round thermometer (2½ in. x ¾ in. thick) which tells just how hot the stove top is, and we regulate the temperature to match the house's call for more heat. With a little experience, you soon learn what outside temperature and wind velocity require in the way of stove-top temperature to keep the house properly heated, yet not too hot."

Watkins adds that he has made a practice of burning a 600-700° fire, with the stove wide open, every morning for 30 minutes to burn out any buildup of creosote from operating the stove on a minimum of air.

A cordless **Dust Buster** hand vacuum, 14 in. long, "has enough suction to quickly clean up small chips, dust, and other debris that's always present when you burn wood inside the house. It has a wall rack with transformer, and is fully recharged in a few hours after up to 5 min. of use."

The **Dust Buster** is available from most department and discount stores. The thermometer is available from Vermont Castings Co., Prince Street, Randolph, Vt. 05060.

**Loren Ring, Kingsville, Ohio:** Loren says his "**John Deere 3020** has been a continuous problem. The rockshaft seals last an average of just six months. The wiring harness burned twice. Lots of problems."

**Mrs. Paul Homme, Granite Falls, Minn.:** "My husband just bought a

non-adjustable so all you do is set the depth stops. It has an automatic leveling cylinder, as well as a manual adjustment. It's well-made and does a good job of cutting out sorghum stubble. Leaves the ground level and folds up real easy to transport. Followup from Krause was good."

On the negative side, Harney's had trouble with his **Rhino** offset disk. "The scraper mounting brackets were the wrong ones for the disk. When used in the field, the mounting bars would bend and lock-up the individual disks. The dealer said it was too wet but I had an International offset disk working the same field at the same time and had no problems. I built my own bar mountings out of heavy angle iron."

**Emery Kleven, West Concord, Minn.:** "The fuel economy of this tractor compared with the same size American tractor is quite substantial. We've got 900 hours on it with no mechanical problems," says Emery, pleased with his "best buy" **Deutz**.

**John Margan, Platteville, Wis.:** "One of my best all-time buys is my **International 1951 M** tractor. It has always been a good purchase but it was especially so last January 10th, the day of a big storm. The thermometer said 32° below zero. The 'M' was the only tractor on two farms that would start. When the power went off, we ran it all night on the alternator."

**Robert D. Lanier, Pleasant View, Colo.:** "I've made a decision never to buy from phone salesmen, no matter how good the deal sounds," says Robert, upset with phone salesmen selling small tools from so-called "salvage companies". "I've found most of the tools, such as saw blades, bearing pullers, wrenches, and so on to be of inferior quality that won't stand up to heavy use."

**Norbert Chaput, St. Adolphe, Manitoba:** "It's lightweight enough so I can cut wood for hours without tiring, even though I'm 69 years old," says Norbert, pleased with his **Princess P-41** chainsaw with a 16-in. bar. "Dependable and easy enough on fuel. Easy to start even on the coldest days, and powerful. Can cut dry hardwood trees two to three feet across without any trouble."

**Richard Templen, Solderis Grove, Wis.:** "Our **Ford** pickup jumps out of 'park' into reverse when running or with the motor shut off," says Richard about his "worst buy". "Ford now sends out stickers recommending that you set the emergency brake. We have had two close calls with this problem."

Richard's pleased with his **Case 390** tractor. "It has an abundance of power, easy shifting because of the power shift, and good visibility from the cab along with a smooth ride. Our dealer is extremely reliable and fast on any and all service calls!"

**Clifford T. Moore, Eldon, Iowa:** "Most newer cars are not made for someone over 6 feet tall so my wife and I find ourselves using it as an automobile more and more," says Clifford about his "best buy" 1981 **Ford 150** pickup with a 6-cylinder engine and 4-speed transmission.

**"It works great and is manufactured by farmer-inventors."**

Gnuse rear loader from **Gnuse Manufacturing Co.**, in Arlington, Neb. He's really impressed. Uses it to feed silage and haul manure. It works great and is manufactured by farmer-inventors!"

**Paul Boedeker, Frederickburg, Iowa:** "I don't understand how a big company could ruin a machine from one model to the next," says Paul, disappointed with the **John Deere 7720** combine he bought two years ago. "I wonder if they made changes and then didn't follow through and thoroughly test it in the field. Terrible capacity and grain quality."

His "best buy" is his new **International 1480** rotary combine. "Great capacity, good grain quality and fine dealer service. Should have bought it two years ago. In addition, it's outfitted with a grain loss monitor, manufactured by **Dickey John**, that's a top flight investment."

**W. B. Harney, Jr., Robstown, Tex.:** He nominates his **Krause** folding disk as his "best buy". "The disk angle is