

Reader Letters

"I've been pleased with the mileage at about 20 mpg. However, it is short of power in low gear."

Dave Tobiason, Scotch Grove, Iowa: "Not a typical John Deere product," says Dave, disappointed with his "worst buy" John Deere 450 grain buggy. "The welds came loose and the chain broke along with the shafts. Very undependable."

On the plus side, he's happy with his Deere 4440 tractor. "Plenty of power and easy to work on. In fact, this is our second one and it works as well as the first, which is still in use on our farm."

Charlie Gerthofer, Jr., Ladysmith, Wis.: "It keeps the house cozy and warm with lower humidity than our fuel oil heater. Besides, who wants to support the Arabs with their outrageous prices when there's lots of dying of elm trees around," says Charlie, pleased with his Ashley 15-H wood heater.

"We went through two rear ends, it has no traction, and it smokes all the time."

Jim Pflaidner, Avilla, Ind.: Jim's disappointed with his Allis Chalmers XT190 tractor. "We have problems all the time. We went through two rear ends, it has no traction, and it smokes all the time."

Bill Duckworth, Epps, La.: "This feeder and conveyor is a joke," says Bill, disappointed with his "Harvestore" Super Shuttle feeder and 105 conveyor. They were built cheap and sorry. The feeder had a tendency to disintegrate from time to time, and the chains break constantly in the conveyor. When they break, it takes half a day to dig them out, straighten them and put it back together. Extremely bad buy."

Bill says another "worst buy" was a 360 cu. in. engine in his Ford truck. "The 360 engine was designed wrong and Ford knew it. They extended the warranty 30 months but waited until the 30 months were up before sending a letter to inform us. After buying eight trucks and cars and two tractors from them in the last 10 years, we felt this was a lousy way to treat us. After three years of blown head gaskets, extreme oil consumption, water in the oil, and very little power, we replaced the engines at our own expense. Very little we can do but tell other people."

On the positive side, Bill's pleased with his Farmhand grinder-blower. "This machine has to be the most rugged-built and simplest grinder ever. We have ground over 10,000 bushels of milo and 5,000 bushels of oats with no problems. It has never

plugged up, which I couldn't say about the grinder it replaced. Truly a pleasure to operate."

Another good buy was his John Deere Max-Emerge 7100 planter. "FARM SHOW's 'Best, Worst Buys' influenced my decision to buy a Max-Emerge," says Bill. "It has the best seed depth control on the market, is well-built and easy to service. We have planted 400 acres with only minor problems."

Andy Pomerleau, St. Paul, Alberta: "This swather is more than a match for any of the hydrostatic swathers on the market today," says Andy, happy with his 1967 New Holland 905 swather with conditioner. "The flotation draper header cleans obstructions very well and is built to withstand lots of wear and tear. A dream to handle. I look forward to using it each year."

Jim Solheim, Garretson, S. Dak.: "I was not happy with my Snowco 55-foot grain auger," Jim told FARM SHOW. "It bows like a horse shoe when cranked up high for wet corn. The bolts on the gearbox have to be tightened often and there is no place to check oil in the gearbox."

Don Savjord, 100 Mile House, British Columbia: "Does anyone manufacturer a good double rake?" Don asks, dissatisfied with his "Rossi" double "V" rake. This is a 3-pt. hitch rake used to pull together two swath rows of hay. The steel frame is continually bending and breaking. Even though the bearings were greased religiously, they wore out almost immediately."

On the other hand, Don likes his Forrester round bale hauler. "It's hydraulically operated with no chains to wear out. It picks up and hauls bales very quickly and easily. I have also used it to pick up and move a machinery shed, lick tanks and bridge beams. A few small things had to be reinforced but I was reimbursed by the company."

Donald Rockwell, Maquoketa, Iowa: Donald lists his Stihl chain saw as a "best buy". "Best chain saw I've ever used. Dealer service is great, too."

Lawrance Podhajsty, Traer, Iowa: He's happy with his Milwaukee 4½ in. sander grinder. "Plenty of torque and power, real handy to use." He dislikes "super glue", however. "I can't get it to hold anything when I need it."

Dennis R. Teubel, Alva, Okla.: Dennis nominates his Echo chain saw as "best buy". "Four years ago I bought an Echo 452 VL and, except for a spark plug and chains, have put hardly any parts in it. Because I liked the vibrator-less handle and the all-around performance of the saw, I bought a John Deere 28, which is made by Echo and it has also been a good saw. Now I've bought an Echo 280E for trimming brush and it's a good saw, too."

As a result of the review FARM SHOW has done on my combine setting books, I have received hundreds of calls and letters from readers asking for help with their particular harvesting problems. Now, I would like to turn the tables and ask FARM SHOW readers for some help.

One of the things I stress in my books is the importance of having a concave fit the cylinder from front to back. In the New Generation Deere combines, the only way this can be accomplished, to my knowledge, is to have the present concave rebuilt, or replace it with a concave that has been specially built.

Since last summer, I have heard reports that some Deere dealers claim that Deere now has a concave that meets the standards and is zero in back. However, in checking out these reports, I have yet to find a Deere factory-made concave that meets the standards and is zero in back.

With a new harvest season coming up, I really need to know if, in some other part of the country, Deere is marketing a concave that conforms to the cylinder of their New Generation combines from the front bar to the back. (On the standard Deere concave, the only bar that can be brought to zero is the fourth one from the back.) If any FARM SHOW readers know of such a concave, I would appreciate it very much if they would drop me a card and tell me how the concave is designed and where it is being sold.

Ray Stueckle, Author
"Combine Settings For
Better Harvesting"
P.O. Box 1323,
Caldwell, Idaho 83605

Thanks for your article on our "no mess" fiberglass silo discharge chute in your last issue (Vol. 6, No. 3). FARM SHOW readers we talked to were excited about the fact that our funnel, which fits any silo discharge chute, eliminates mess in the feed room, directing silage to wherever it's needed. However, your article misstated the price of our chute. Retail price is \$315 (Canadian funds), plus \$6.50 for each extra foot of pipe.

Ken Glendinning
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Lucan, Ontario
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I am a farmer in Randolph, Minn., and I'd like to inform your FARM SHOW readers of a new grassroots political movement. It's called the Savings Account Party, named after my solution to our economic problems.

Very simply, my plan for saving our country from inevitable ruin is this: Upon our election to office, we will immediately set up a savings account for every citizen. Initially, 5% of the taxes you are now paying to the government would be set aside and deposited in the account. Although this might cause temporary monetary shortfall problems for the government, after just a few weeks the money in the account would accumulate to the point where it would

feed into the economy, generating enough economic activity to actually increase government revenue.

The savings accounts, inaccessible until a citizen reached retirement age, would continue to grow. The result of the accounts would be plenty of money for investments, and more responsible citizens because of their growing personal wealth. Unlike the present social security system, where the money withheld is spent immediately, this money would be working for us. In addition, the unemployed could live off the interest on the money in their accounts.

We hope to branch out across the country with this grassroots idea born in a farmer's workshop.

We've put together a detailed brochure on the Savings Account Party which sells for \$2.

Edwin Pommerening
Savings Account Party
RFD
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We do our own butchering and are in need of a 30 gal. iron kettle for frying our lard. We've watched farm sales for two years and haven't been able to find any of that size or bigger. We would like to hear from anyone who knows where we might buy one.

William Allsop
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North Liberty, Ind. 46554

I want to compliment you on the fine publication you are putting out. I enjoy reading the different ideas.

I want to congratulate Joseph Kopinnes (featured in FARM SHOW's Vol. 6, No. 2 issue) on his great idea of heating his home "free" with his home-built bale burner. After reading that story, I built one myself from his plans. I made a few changes, such as bringing the door down to fit the bottom of the barrel to make for a bigger opening and to make it easier to clean out ashes. Also, I made a grate for it which sits loose on the bottom and can easily be removed.

Benno Goerke
Twin Brooks, So. Dak. 57269

The story "Love Found In Classifieds" in your Ag World section (Vol. 6, No. 2) really brought me around. I am in the same situation Barry Eckardt was in before he advertised for a farm wife in the classified ads of his local farm paper and met Gail, now his wife. I have little time or opportunity to meet eligible young women. At 35, I have never married and operate a mixed livestock operation with my Dad, while working off the farm for a construction company. I am not much of a guy for outside activities but I do go to church regularly. If any eligible female reader is interested, I would be happy to communicate with her.

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