

Allis Chalmers, it seemed that the grader blades for that size tractor were all flimsy and cheaply made. The more ruggedly built blades were too heavy, requiring a 75 to 80 horsepower tractor. My dealer told me about the York 407 blade and I have not been sorry. It has the same design as the larger blades but is light enough for the smaller tractor to handle. Takes every job I give it."

On the "worst buy" side, he has a complaint about oil spouts. "I would be indebted to any FARM SHOW reader who could tell me about a good, durable spout. I don't understand why it's impossible to buy a spout opener for a quart can of oil that will not leak or allow the can to fall off. I've purchased spouts that leaked as much oil onto the engine as was poured inside. One spout let the can fall off, making a lovely mess."

A.P. Vaught, Centertown, Ky.: "Our 'best buy' has been our 7720 John Deere combine. After one season of 600 acres of soybeans and 400 acres of corn, we haven't broken down for even one minute. This combine seems to have plenty of power and capacity. Its cab is comfortable and quiet. Also, dealer service is excellent."

"Our 'worst buy' was our 510 Massey Ferguson combine. It's never cleaned grain to our satisfaction. The screening system is obsolete. We can't seem to produce enough air to

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blow the fines out of soybeans or the husks out of corn. It lacks power in mud. One year, because of muddy conditions, we had to have a neighbor harvest our corn crop."

L.R. Ward, Lecompte, La.: "Heading his 'best buy' list is his Massey Ferguson 275 tractor. "It's an economical, sturdy and well-built tractor. Dealer service has been excellent. We've also been pleased with our Stihl chain saw. The only problem was a failure of the chain oiler which was replaced at no cost to me. One other outstanding buy is our Campbell Hausfield airless sprayer. It sprays right from the paint can at the rate of about one gallon in 5 to 15 minutes."

Allen Littell, Rolla, Kan.: He likes his International 490 disk. "The 7 1/2 in. disc spacing takes care of weeds at a shallower depth and pulls easier. Also like the flexibility of the disk on uneven fields."

Samuel E. Hershberger, Millersburg, Ohio: Samuel likes his Miller Blue Star 200 amp welder. It has good power and amazing output for its size, producing 120-V AC current at idle speed. Some of the best money I have spent in a long time."

Larry E. Hummel, Monticello, Wis.: Larry has two "best buys". "We bought a Madison Silo Grain-O-Matic sealed storage unit six years

ago and have always had top quality feed with no spoilage. Have had no service problems and Madison Silo has been out periodically to check performance. This company is a pleasure to deal with."

"Surge Orbit Mini-Breaker cups are my second 'best buy'. They are definitely the best milker on the market. I previously had four large breaker cups with belts. I eliminated one person with the new units and still milk 50 cows in less time. Cows are much more contented with these machines, too."

Ronald N. Hill, Sedley, Sask.: "I've had good success and no downtime with my Versatile 835 tractor and my Gleaner L-2 combine," says Ron about his "best buys".

On the negative side, "I bought two 18-ft. Massey Ferguson discers and had trouble with the hitch breaking on the back discer when turning corners. It would not penetrate properly. The bottom plates on the fertilizer boxes fall off constantly. Service from the dealer was fair but the company was not helpful."

"I also bought a self-propelled Versatile 4400 swather and have had lots of steering problems and variable-speed problems that affect the canvas and ground speed. Dealer service was good but the company response was poor."

Stan Hensley, Baldwin, Wis.: He's happy with his reconditioned 6-ton fertilizer spreader from Simonsen Mfg., in Quimby, Iowa. "I was getting tired of waiting to use fertilizer spreaders in the spring rush. Half the time, when I finally got a loaner spreader to use, it did a poor job of spreading or was broken. I thought of buying my own spreader but the prices for new ones were high for my limited use, and all the used spreaders which companies wanted to get rid of looked terrible. Finally, an uncle of mine in the fertilizer business told me about Simonsen's. They take used fertilizer spreaders in trade on new ones, and then completely recondition the used ones. They do a good job and the spreader has been trouble free. And yes, the price was right, too."

Stan says his "worst buy" is the Cozy Cab he bought for his Deere 4020. "Why don't companies stand behind their product? When I bought the cab at a farm show, I asked the factory representative about air conditioning. He assured me there would be no problem. My local Deere dealer put the cab on with air conditioning and did a fine job. I really like the cab, but when I went to use it, the air conditioner broke with just two days use. My local dealer did all he could to help fix it. Cozy Cab said they would send a representative to fix it but he never did show up."

Gary Ihler, Twin Falls, Idaho: Gary's pleased with his Massey Ferguson 620 19-ft. tandem wheel disk. "The disk has the weight to cut in and chop wheat stubble, leaving a good level field."

Dan Stravers, Prairie City, Iowa: "You name it and we had it," says Dan about his "worst buy" 1979 Chev-

rolet 3/4 ton 400 cu. in. 4-wheel drive pickup. "We had problems with the radiator, the water pump, starter, exhaust, and the timing chains and gears. It used one quart of oil every 300 miles when new."

On the plus side, Dan's happy with his 1980 Subaru Brat pickup. "I bought it new and have over 25,000 miles with absolutely no trouble. I get 25 miles per gallon around the farm and 35 on the highway. Excellent mileage for a 4-wheel drive pickup. I sold my soybeans to Japan so I don't feel bad about buying their pickups."

Wayne Zimmer, Elkhart, Iowa: "After 45,000 bushels of drying, we still haven't got all the problems worked out," says Wayne about his 475 M-C grain dryer. "The company stood behind their product. They replaced a fan and some bearings without cost to me. The problem may be poor workmanship while it was being put together."

Wayne adds that "We like our International No. 14 V-chisel. The unit came equipped with automatic reset shanks that eliminate the shear pin aggravation of other makes. After more than 600 acres of trouble-free operation, this well-built chisel appears ready to serve our needs for many years."

Gary Ashburn, Blue Mound, Ill.: "Our John Deere 2440 tractor with a 146 scoop handles real well and uses very little fuel. Starts good in cold weather and has plenty of power for a tractor its size."

Ron Niebruegge, Valmeyer, Ill.: Ron's Noble 39-ft. Culti-Matic field conditioner heads his "best buy" list. "The tool does an excellent job of opening up and leveling off our fall-plowed gumbo soil in the spring without digging too deep and pulling out mud lumps from deeper below the surface. Easily handled with a 180 hp 2-wheel drive tractor and does a surprisingly good job on weeds up to 3 to 6 in. tall, considering that it is a light tillage tool."

Glenn Thurow, Saxon, Wis.: "We bought the windmill in July of 1980 and it was delivered by August 1980 but it wasn't put up until May of 1981," says Glenn about his "worst buy" windmill, a Mehrkam 40 kw model. "They didn't come with the control panel until June 1981. It

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worked until September 1981. They didn't come to repair it until November, when it worked a few days and had more trouble. They haven't been back yet. All I have had is \$30,000 worth of grief."

His "best buy" is his Pasquali 4-wheel drive 988 tractor. "This 4-ft. wide, 38 hp tractor goes anywhere—woods, ditches, rough fields, and so on. It's only 4 feet wide."

Lawrence Burkholder, Markham, Ontario: "My 'worst buy' Interna-

tional 1440 Axial Flow combine was not disastrous. I liked it enough to trade for a 1460. However, the 1440 was underpowered for the 6-row header I use. It lacked engineering 'finish' and durability in areas like jackshafts, the feederhouse shaft and the cleaning fan. The International axial design needs a better stone trap design, too. They tell me one is coming for future models. On the positive side, the dealer always gave excellent service during our downtime."

"My 'best buy' is my John Deere Max-Emerge 6-row corn planter. "Along with liquid pop-up fertilizer, applied at low rates, this planter makes 70 acre days realistic, even in our small and awkward shaped fields next to suburbia. We routinely plant at 7 1/2 miles per hour."

Aldrich Kovar, Chatham, Ontario: "I bought this tractor four years ago and got rid of it this year with only 400 hours on it," reports Aldrich about his Massey Ferguson 225 high arch tractor. "The vibration on it was so bad between 1,600 and 1,800 rpm's that it drove me nuts. Couldn't keep lights in it and it had poor hydraulics. The hydrostatic power steering was so erratic you had to concentrate on steering it full time. Truly the worst tractor I ever owned."

On the other hand, he likes his Kubota 6100 tractor. "I use this tractor with a mid-mounted mower to cut grass. It's a good, sturdy, well built and smooth riding machine. Its 3 cylinder diesel engine is very efficient. Good service from my Kubota dealer."

Gerald L. Austin, Fairbanks, Alaska: "I have put it through trees, brush and everything well beyond what it was really meant to cut and am really pleased with its strength and ruggedness," says Gerald about his "best buy" Bush-Hog rotary cutter. "I have replaced one seal on the blade spindle and replaced the blades once, primarily due to my improper maintenance of the first set. The company did have some poor quality control as I have one new-type axle and one old-type axle on the same machine. I can't order a pair of wheel seals since each side is different. I also placed the bracket for the parking stand where it should have been in the first place. Even so, I would definitely buy another 405 or 406 Bush-Hog."

Gerald's had trouble, however, with another Bush-Hog product.

"When I went shopping recently for a blade, I wanted a Rhino blade but there was no dealer closer than 400 miles, so I bought a Bush-Hog. My main gripe is with the options I ordered. The holes for attaching bolts for the extensions didn't match up and the \$30 skid shoes were worthless and completely unusable. They couldn't be set low enough to touch the ground. Really poor design. I had so many other things to do that I never got around to trying to return the shoes to the company. I finally made my own that are easily adjustable, removable, and they slide nice and swivel on turns."

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