

Best And Worst Buys

(Continued from preceding page)

Robert Trobl, Shiner, Tex.: "My 1980 4-row International 87 black land (peat) planter is one of my 'best buys'. The planter spaces the seed evenly and the seed plates and other adjustments on this planter were very easy to adjust to the desired setting. Even though the planter is primarily for black land it works well in all types of soil. I did have a minor breakdown but the dealer had the parts on hand which were replaced free of charge with little lost time.

"Another good buy was a 1980 4-row Dunham cultivator. I liked the way it penetrates even the hardest ground, and its vibrating action to eliminate weeds.

"One of my worst buys ever was a Bush Hog heavy duty offset disk. The scrapers did not do the job. The frame on the disk had a bow in it, right from the factory. This caused other problems because it wasn't made very durable. In the first week of use, the tongue pulled out and was rewelded by the dealer. The tongue pulled out a second time within one hour's use. This time, I welded the tongue back in place myself and put braces where they were needed. The tongue has held up ever since. The disc spacings were too close together and after using approximately \$500 worth of parts to rework the spacings between the discs, I now have a good piece of machinery."

D.H. Alexander, Brandon, Man.: He likes his Wen electric chain saw. "I haven't used it much yet, but have had no trouble at all. It's very handy for cutting up firewood for the shop. Indoors it's convenient as there are no exhaust fumes.

"Also on the plus side, I converted an old Case combine into a self-propelled sprayer. It works quite well with two 200-gal. tanks and booms on it. Covers approximately 70 ft. with end nozzles.

"I'm also pleased with my 18-ft. C.C.I.L. model 550 swather. Lays a real good swath and causes no trouble at all. The 200 Ford motor runs well and is easier on gas than the older model with the Wisconsin engine. The table is on a center pivot, does a good job of floating over stones and gullies, and is easy to control."

Allan Lee, Hanska, Minn.: "After owning a foreign made compact pickup, I bought an '81 Chevrolet 1/2 ton 4-wheel drive with a 305 cu. in. engine. It gets 17 or 18 miles per gallon on trips and I really appreciate being able to carry three people in the cab, pull a trailer, haul moderate loads, and to ride in comfort again."

Greg Van Zanten, Colton, S. Dak.: Heading Greg's "best buy" list is his "Knight LA-9 Little Auggie mixer-blender-bunk feeder wagon. We use this mixer wagon 4 or 5 times a day, every day of the year. Breakdown time has been near zero. This is especially important with hungry cattle to feed. Mixes rations well and, with the scale, you know exactly what's going into the cattle. Well-built with heavy roller chains, pillow block bearings,

and pintle chain throughout."

On the negative side, Greg notes that he's disappointed with his Koyker 85B 52-ft. pto grain auger. "The auger worked beautifully for the first 10,000 bu. that went through it. Then, the pins that held the auger sections together dropped out, causing the flighting to bend and shear-pins to break. Repairing meant disassembling the entire auger, fixing the pins and reassembling, which was an 8-hour job for two men. Koyker later changed the model to 85 "C" but wouldn't help me out on this one. I traded it for a Feterl auger."

Joyce W. Miller, Independence, Kan.: "In 1979 I bought a Ford 2600 3-cylinder diesel tractor. In two

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years, it has been beyond my expectations in dependability, amount of warranty work needed, fuel economy and its snappy engine.

"In 1979 I also bought a 2640 John Deere tractor. It starts good when cold, has plenty of power but is the most frustrating tractor in my 42 years of owning tractors. First, the quick couplers on the cylinder hose popped out several times, shooting about one gallon of oil on the ground. I had to wire it together for 11 months before John Deere replaced the unit.

"Then, the hose on the oil surge tank above the radiator split and, when oil hit the fan, it gave me an oil bath. Deere made a heavier hose but it took 15 months to get it. Another problem is that for the last year, after using the tractor for a few minutes, if I shut it off the starter would not turn the engine over. A mechanic told me to turn the steering wheel when turning the key. It works.

"The final problem is that the hydraulic cylinder drops its load when cold but raises when warmed up, requiring constant adjustment on the lever," explains Joyce.

Earl Schoenhals, Shattuck, Okla.: "The 'best buy' I've made was my Owatonna Manufacturing Company 595 round baler which uses rollers instead of chains or belts to form bales. I believe this is the most trouble-free baler on the market and also the fastest in the field," says Earl.

William E. Hinricks, Meridian, Idaho: William is disappointed with his electronic mouse control. "Its a Sonitron Cand is supposed to create a high pitch noise to discourage mice. Rather than chase them away, they nest right by it," he says.

He's also displeased with "the new

improved milker inflations from DeLaval. They cut everytime a cow kicks them on the floor. They were much better before they 'improved' them."

On the plus side, Willam's happy with his Lincoln AC/DC welder. "We bought the welder because it has a 6,000 watt power plant as well as a welder. We use it to run the electric knife sharpener on our Fox forage harvester when we are away from any other power source. We're also happy with our Allis Chalmers 2550 15-ft. disk that has given us no trouble in 1 1/2 years. Our Kverneland 4-bottom, 2-way plow is also a good buy and has gone through rocks with no damage in 200 acres."

Alan April, Ann Arbor, Mich.: "My International 1420 Axial Flow combine is a real workhorse and performs better than I could imagine. It's a real asset to my operation."

About his "worst buy", Alan says, "My experience with Mariner seed oats was far from good. They grow too tall and then lodge, making them hard to combine. Another bad buy is a 1470 Bush Hog disk. The transport wheels are too close to the front disc and it plugs in heavy corn stalks."

Joseph Lee Winslow, Belvidere, S.C.: "I've had two sets of B.F. Goodrich tires on my tractor and have had trouble with both sets," reports Joseph. "The sidewalls on the first set broke after two years. The dealer paid half price on another set. After four years, I am experiencing the same trouble with the sidewalls breaking. This time the dealer won't do anything about them. Both sets still had about 3/4 worth of tread left on them.

"I'd have to nominate my 1755 Oliver tractor and my 1580 Lilliston peanut picker as 'best buys'." Joseph continues. "The 1755 is a good working tractor for the 86 horsepower range and, coupled with the 1580 peanut picker, does an excellent job picking peanuts. The over and under hydraulic shift works great to give a good range of speeds for varying conditions."

Donald W. Parker, Apple Springs, Tex.: "An economical way to control hornflies," says Donald, pleased with Extrin ear tags for livestock. "They really worked great for me this year. I only used them on 30 head this year but will put the tags on all my cows next year."

Donald's had trouble with his Vicon 7-ft., 10-in. mower. "The gearbox went out after only about 100 acres of mowing. The dealer traded me another new Vicon. It did the same thing. The dealer was great, but this cost money and down time."

Alvin Goetz, Bluffton, Alberta: "My most disappointing experience with farm machinery is just trying to repair farm machinery in general," says Alvin. "Designing equipment for ease of repair seems to be too complicated for the so-called experts."

J. Allison Toner, Grand Falls, New Brunswick: He likes his Woods 990 grader. "This equipment has its own hydraulic cylinders and attaches to the 3-pt. cylinder with a float wheel behind it. On a 100 hp tractor it's more versatile

than a small commercial road grader."

Tom Terwilliger, Eaton Rapids, Mich.: Tom's pleased with Impro health care products. "We use them for dairy herd health. We're pleased with their performance and appreciate not having to use withdrawal medications that cattle become immune to."

Bill Grier, Woodmore, Manitoba: "It's the cheapest tractor on the market and it's easy on fuel," says Bill, happy with his Belarus 610. "You just bring this tractor home and put it to work."

Dale Berden, Snover, Mich.: Dale's unhappy with his Glencoe W34DD field cultivator. "When we first got it, it wouldn't raise level. We had to put in new axles but it still is not perfect. Also, the frame has broken several times. The dealer and the company have been good in getting new parts but it should have been built better in the first place."

Dale's had good luck with his John Deere 4640 powershift tractor. "It has about 700 hours on it and the only time it's been in the shop was for a 100 hour check-up. I like the power shift very much for the sugarbeet harvester and our 16-row planter."

Burl Eastman, Scio, Ore.: "We had trouble from the beginning with the scrapers," says Burl, unhappy with his 315 International Cult-Mulcher. "They wouldn't stay adjusted and we had to completely redesign the scraper set-up. The small pins on the hydraulics which set the depth on the spring teeth are constantly breaking. The arbor bolt broke in two and we had a terrible time finding a replacement. It took three weeks and we probably still wouldn't have it if it wasn't for the diligence of one employee at our dealership."

On the plus side, Burl's happy with his International 1486 tractor and John Deere 3600 land plow. "The plow pulls easily, is easy to adjust, built sturdy and has good clearance. It is definitely one of my better buys. Once we rectified minor irritations on the tractor, we are well-satisfied. Has good fuel economy and the brake system is excellent."

Jerry Richter, Newell, Iowa: "If this planter was green, the others wouldn't have a chance," says Jerry, confident that the White 5100 planter he bought after planting last spring will turn into a "best buy". "What sold me on it was the near perfect planting job I saw it do on several neighboring fields of corn and soybeans. Outstanding features include folding wings, very fast change from corn to soybeans, and very few moving parts."

Bert Feuz, Cokeville, Wyo.: He's happy with his 450B Case Crawler equipped with a 6-way hydraulic dozer and ripper. "This is a super fast and highly versatile machine to operate and an extremely well-designed and built piece of equipment."