

# Best And Worst Buys

(Continued from preceding page)

your magazine and seeing new inventions and products, as well as what other farmers are coming up with. I especially like your report on best and worst products because they're often products I'm thinking of buying and I like to read how others evaluate them."

Tim's other "best buy" nominations include the following:

Snapper rototiller: "It has the motor in front of the tines which puts added weight on the tines, letting the rototiller dig in deep with little effort from the operator. Another feature I like is that the rear wheels can be adjusted rearward to put more weight on the tines."

Super EZ Homelite chain saw: "This saw works great. It has a compression release for easy starting and an automatic and manual chain oiler. I had trouble at first with a loose flywheel that tore up the crankshaft but the dealer sent it back to the factory and they fixed it at no cost to me."

Warm Morning stove: "It really kept us warm during the coldest weather in an uninsulated large farm house. The kitchen and dining room stayed about 80° while the front rooms stayed about 70°. At first we had trouble keeping the fire going when we put another load of wood in but I found that, if we let the ashes build up on the grates, it keeps hot coals from dropping into the ash pan. When we moved we sold it because we had a fireplace. We bought an insert for the fireplace but it doesn't have the heat capacity of the Warm Morning stove. I'm sorry now that I sold the stove."

K & W Copper Coat gasket compound: "After overhauling my John Deere tractor I blew a head and couldn't get the gasket to seal. My local Deere dealer suggested K & W Copper Coat, which he uses for high compression diesel engines. The head gasket hasn't leaked for six years."

Alumnaseal radiator sealer: "While combining one afternoon, the radiator developed a leak. I thought I would have to take it off and have it repaired because I hadn't had any luck with other radiator sealers holding. I happened to have purchased a container of Alumnaseal at a local Deere dealer who said it was a great product for sealing radiators. The Alumnaseal has held for two years without leaking."

Austin A. Summers, Frederick, Md.: "In your FARM SHOW Vol. 5, No. 4, you mention Versatool accessories for chainsaws. These are without a doubt one of the worst buys that I ever made. I bought a convertor for my saw as well as a power unit. After hooking it up to my saw, the power unit would not work. I got a second one from the distributor and it also did not work. I'm now in the process of trying to get my money back."

Donald Hopf, Herman, Wis.: His three "best buys" are all red: An IH Cyclo 400 corn planter, IH 510 grain

drill and an IH 5000 self-propelled windrower. "The Cyclo air planter has proved to be a better corn planter than our 1240 John Deere planter for speed and accuracy. There's less down time for repairing fingers, excellent depth control and perfect hydraulic markers. The 510 grain drill has done an excellent job seeding grain and alfalfa. The 5000 windrower is a great machine for cutting alfalfa. There's no plugging of any kind. I've cut 450 acres a year with no down time. We have three good IH dealerships to depend on."

Robb S. Turner, Chester, Mont.: "We've used propane gas since 1958 in most of our gas burning tractors and even as an assist on a D-6 caterpillar. Just wish the propane people could come up with a tank to replace the car tank. Where do you put the spare tire if you have to put the propane tank in the trunk?"

Nick Breslawski, Hamlin, N.Y.: "It plants one seed here, two or three there and none in some places. Takes two men and a cement pad to change from planting to transport. On the plus side, I must admit that practically no repairs are needed," says Nick about his International 8-row 400 Cyclo planter.

He's happy, though, with his International 4500 diesel forklift. "Operates better than any other forklift on the market today."

Max McMichael, Spencerville, Ohio: He says his "worst buy" was "Jamesway tie-stall barn equipment package. The gutter cleaner parts were missing and it took six months to get them. Only half of the box stall sections were delivered and we didn't get the right clamps to assem-

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ble the stalls. After two years we still don't have outside fan covers. Several telephone calls were made but the company won't respond to the problem. The dealer was paid for the equipment on delivery. This was a mistake on our part because he was paid and didn't care."

On the plus side, Max has a couple good buys. "Our Knight 350 Soup 'N Solid manure spreader is great for sloppy material. The front end raises with hydraulics to let the web carry manure out on a slant. Also, our John Deere 2640 tractor is a good small tractor for a livestock farm. We are putting over 100 hours on it a month."

Harold Anderson, Lavima, Mont.: "My 'best buy' is a hydraulically operated Meyers ditcher made in Fairfield, Mont. It's a rugged ditcher with a 10-in. spade at the bottom to give

you a good wide ditch at the bottom instead of a narrow, V-shaped ditch. Makes a lot more water volume possible in the same ditch."

Sidney Smetzer, Bellevue, Ohio: He likes his White 2-85 tractor. "The performance is very good, it's easy to handle and, most important, we've had no mechanical problems."

On the other hand, he's had trouble with his "Feterel 6-in. by 26-ft. portable auger. It has poor capacity, is very awkward to move around and very unbalanced."

Jeff Adams, Stoatsville, Ohio: "Our Arps 730 backhoe has been trouble-free since the break-in period. It has fast reaction and good power when lifting. The two swivel levers that control all movements except the stands are very simple and easy to operate."

"Our no-till attachment for our 1975 7000 Max-Emerge planter has worked great. The 1-in. coulter and the cast iron press wheels open and close very well. Also, the 7000 planter, which we bought used, gives us an almost perfect stand in corn or beans," Jeff concludes.

Roger Schnell, Amboy, Ill.: "Why can't machinery companies help dealers dispose of surplus items to areas of demand and usefulness?" asks Roger. "Area dealers are reluctant to give a fair trade-in value for used livestock equipment. New equipment is commonly not in stock and over-priced for the engineering quality. Used livestock equipment in our area is under-valued due to lack of demand because companies don't get the equipment to the areas where it could be used."

"Good mileage for a 3,770 lb. automobile," says Roger, pleased with his "best buy" 1981 Caprice sedan from Chevrolet. "The car was ordered in February and delivered five weeks later. It's equipped with sports suspension and rides great. Gas mileage has been in the 22 to 23 range locally."

Richard Hatch, Hillsboro, Iowa: Richard's "best" and "worst buys" both have to do with tractor tires. "With B.F. Goodrich Power Saver radial tractor tires on my prime and dual rims, I can pull a 12-ft. chisel with no more slippage than you would have pulling a 10-ft. chisel with bias ply type tires. The ride is definitely smoother, too."

On the negative side, Richard's had trouble with "Armstrong rear tractor tires. The rubber chipped off the bars of the tread. Armstrong adjusted those but the next ones did the same thing. Armstrong refused to adjust."

Sid Williams, Kempton, Ind.: He's disappointed with his International 986 tractor. "The clutch went out, along with the rear axle bearing. The transmission seal failed and you can't steer at low idle. One front axle was bent or welded wrong and wore out the front tire. I thought there was nothing better than IH tractors but, after this, one I don't think red paint will be on our next tractor."

Sid is well pleased with his VW Rabbit diesel auto. "We had a 1977 Rabbit gas model that we liked very much. When we found we could sell it for what we paid for it, we did. We

bought a Rabbit diesel and get 45-plus miles per gallon most of the time. It's a good American-made car, better than the '77 German-made auto we had.

"I also like my P.J. Zweeiger's corn chopper from Holland. A real good chopper with few moving parts, no problems with weeds, and does a super job cutting up the corn."

Jerry Wiford, Bellefontaine, Ohio: He's pleased with a fold-up hydraulic kit he bought from Kelderman Man-

**"Works perfect and makes transporting easy."**

ufacturing in Oskaloosa, Iowa, after reading about it in FARM SHOW. "I installed it on a 12-row John Deere 30-in. row model cultivator. Instructions included were self-explanatory, making it easy to install. Works perfect and makes transporting easy. I've also recently purchased 2290 and 2590 Case tractors. Excellent hydraulics, cabs, fuel economy and power."

Murray L. Hiltz, Lagrange, Ohio: "This tractor arrived with two different makes of rear tires — one Goodyear and one Bridgestone. The dealer never corrected this. The tractor has poor selection of speeds and poor spacing of rear tires that doesn't allow hooking up some implements without widening the wheels," says Murray about his Allis Chalmers 30 hp diesel farm tractor. "I had a good experience with a 1980 Ford F-100 truck. We used it for nearly a year and sold it for \$300 more than we paid for it."

Chas Schooley, Castlewood, S. Dak.: Heading his "best buy" list is his 1460 Axial Flow International combine. "We had ordered a different brand combine but the dealer sold it to someone else, so we quickly made the decision to buy this one since we were ready to harvest. It's an excellent machine. No cracked corn and gets nearly all the grain."

"We're also pleased with our Balzer manure spreader. It's built well and we've had very few breakdowns."

Robert Strommen, New England, N. Dak.: "Compared to the 1466 International I had before, my new 1586 International tractor has more power, the cab is much quieter, visibility is much better and fuel consumption is less than the 1466. I use it on a 914 IH pull-type combine and it performs much better in that capacity, too. I use a rotary cleaner in front of the radiator for harvesting that didn't work properly on the 1466 but works well on the 1586. I'm well-satisfied with this machine."

Larry Jordan, Ridgeway, Ohio: Larry's pleased with his John Deere 7720 combine. "I bought it in 1980 and it has performed great."

D.E. Knicely, Dayton, Va.: "Our Firestone 23" rear tractor tires pull good enough, but they are wearing