

floating cutterbar. "I especially like the feature of using the sickle and guards on the original machine. Has been trouble-free."

On the minus side, he's had trouble with his 1816 Case skid steer loader. "The basic machine is good but the main part — the 16-hp. Tecumseh engine — has been nothing but trouble. It vibrates bolts loose, which causes leaking gaskets. Have had broken axle hubs. The machine is terrible to work on. For example, the battery is buried under the platform. Dealer service is good but a terrible experience."

Warren Nidlinger, Decatur, Ind.: Warren nominates his Volkswagen diesel pickup as his "best buy". "The fuel economy is as good if not better than its rated 39 mpg. Cab is roomy enough for two people. Paint job and workmanship are good, and it's man-

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ufactured in the U.S. with the exception of the motor. It starts well in cold weather and, in short, does everything the manufacturer says it will."

Lewis Dell, New Salem, Ill.: "This tractor handles like a fine automobile," says Lewis, pleased with his new Massey Ferguson 2675 tractor. "It seems to have the power and workability of a larger size tractor, yet it works well on the smaller jobs. A real pleasure to work with this tractor."

Also on the "best buy" side, Lewis says he's happy with his Schuler feed wagon. "It's simply and ruggedly built and seems to handle most any kind of feed with a minimum of operator attention. I believe it will give many years of reliable service."

He's upset, though, with a "Wikoma 3-pt. hitch cement mixer. It has to be our worst buy ever! The shafts, universals, and so on, all were too light. We have mixed less than 10 yards with it and the universals are gone, shafts have twisted and the carrier wheels have been replaced already. It will shear pins with nothing but a bucket of water in the mixer. It looks nice but needs a complete re-engineering job."

Raymond Schoen, Ft. Smith, Ark.: "Everything I bought from John Deere in the seventies turned into lemons," says Raymond, nominating Deere's 4400 combine, 4430 tractor, his field conditioner and a 20-ft. disc. "The combine would throw over too much grain. The 4430 tractor had bad hydraulics the dealer says can't be fixed. The conditioner filled with trash and we had to make major repairs the first season on the disc. I've traded everything except the tractor, which I plan to fix myself if it can be repaired."

Raymond is pleased, however, with Case's 2670 4-wheel drive tractor and his two TR 70 New Holland combines. "This is my third 2670. I

have two at this time. It has plenty of power, is built to last and used less fuel and costs less to buy than the Deere 8640. Good dealer service."

"I've cut 8000 acres with the two TR 70's and have had fantastic results from them. They may last until I retire, he concludes."

Dave Cahoon, Monona, Iowa: Dave's happy with his New Holland 489 haybine. "We've run it through 500 acres of hay ground and haven't broken a single section. The floating head is fantastic. There has been nothing wrong with it yet."

Roger Kuhnert, Swanwick, Ill.: Roger says he had trouble with Viccon's 15-ft. power harrow with crumbler roller. "A bearing went out almost every week, especially in the crumbler roller. The tine bars cracked while under warranty and were replaced by the dealer with a new style that cracked for the individual I sold it to. The company has since come out with another new style of bars. Dealer service was good and the power harrow did an excellent job in the field. I just couldn't keep it there."

"We've had good luck, though, with our Sears 250-amp AC/DC arc welder," Roger continues. "The infinitely variable amperage setting and stable arc are as good as more expensive industrial machines. I also like my 930 Case diesel that has had no engine, clutch or final drive repairs in 13 years of use. It's one reason I now have my third new Case tractor."

Calvin Jurgens, Thornton, Iowa: "Construction and workmanship were super. I was really impressed," says Calvin about his "best buy" 42 by 48 by 16 ft. shop, a Morton Energy Package building. "It's a neat looking shop inside and out. The ceiling is well-insulated, the attic ventilated, it's efficient to heat and easy to light with all-metal walls and ceilings inside."

Paul E. Bline, Mechanicsburg, Ohio: Paul's four "best buys" are his John Deere 7000 Max Emerge corn planter, his White 588 plow, his White 271 23½-ft. disc and his Miller offset disc. "All four of these implements were recently purchased. Had a very even stand with the corn planter — the depth setting is great. The White 6-bottom plow does an excellent job and the new White 271 disc is flexible and also does a beautiful job. My Miller offset disc is especially good on hilly staked areas for conservation tillage."

Leo Wilcox, Camrose, Alberta: "In May 1976, I bought a new Ford 8600. Within a few days, due to water in the system, the brakes failed. In July of the same year, the transmission locked up because a bracket broke and went through some gears. Also, the mechanic found a spare clip in the bottom of the transmission. The bracket that broke had primer paint in a crack in the bracket. This had to be a faulty part put in at the factory. From May 1976 to Sept. 1976, we were able to put 67 hours on the tractor."

"In June of 1977, the clutch became very rough and jumpy. When it was dismantled they found the clutch plate split from center to outside. In April 1978, the clutch again went out due to a lot of rust and corrosion."

"In November of 1978 I traded the

8600 off on a 4240 John Deere. At trade-in the Ford had 1256 hrs. on it. This tractor caused me more trouble than all the other machinery I ever had."

Warren Fisher, Bulyea, Saskatchewan: "Last year was the first year we used fall incorporated Avadex granules. We'd used spring applied Avadex chemicals but were not satisfied. The granules controlled the wild oats almost 100%. We will continue to use granules. I wish that other chemicals would give as good results," Warren adds, disappointed "with Stampede C for wild millet. This herbicide has too narrow a spectrum and does not work well in drought. We tried this chemical for the first time last year. It did not control the millet at all and did very little good on other weeds. We will go back to Treflan for millet control this year."

Forest R. Kline, Barry, Ill.: "The John Deere 7000 conservation planter does the best no-till job of any I have used. However, I could not get what I ordered. It's only a straight 7000 planter with different coulters and cast iron press wheels added."

Everton Nevill, Tahoka, Tex.: "My 'best buy' is a 1976 1370 Case tractor. This tractor has never been in the shop since purchased in 1977, is very economical, and easy to handle. My 'worst buy' has been a Tractor Supply Company 12-ton hydraulic jack. It won't lift and the slightest amount of water on the plunger causes the shaft to pit and leak oil."

Dale Nichols, Murray, Neb.: "I'm very pleased with my New Holland TR 70 combine. Have run it two seasons with only minor problems. Capacity is excellent, can run 5 to 6 mph in 100 to 130 bu. corn with a 6-row head. Dealer service has been excellent. Am also pleased with my Broyhill weed wiper for use in soybeans. It really gets the weeds."

James Neuhalfen, Lacon, Ill.: James likes his Deere 4840 tractor. "It replaces a John Deere 6030. It's the best handling and riding tractor I've ever driven, with no mechanical problems. There's not quite as much power there but you can do more work because you're willing to put in longer hours."

Wayne Conboy, Perth, Ontario: "My most satisfying product is the De Laval Duovac 300 pipeline milker. It does a good job of milking the cows out and drops back to low vacuum until it is removed. Dealer service has been good."

On the negative side, "I am not pleased with Waikato milk meters. They are bulky and clumsy to move in a stanchion barn," says Wayne.

M.C. Campbell, Orotoks, Alberta: "The ease and speed with which a heavy crop could be taken off was impressive. Easy to unplug, lots of power and clean threshing," reports Campbell, pleased with his IH 1460 combine.

He's disappointed, however, with his Ford 4600 tractor with front end loader. "It's underpowered for a loader or rototiller — could never keep the hydraulic system working. The front end loader is poor, with injectors that come loose continu-

ously. Has a poor system for emptying condensation from the fuel system. The clutch assembly is very weak and we replaced two clutches in one year. Service is extremely poor and expensive. Very economical on fuel, though."

W.A. Jones, III, Rocky Mount, N.C.: "Prowl herbicide for tobacco has got to be the worst purchase we ever made. Every sandy spot in every tobacco field was stunted. We irrigated some fields five times but it was of little help. The plants started off stunted and were then more susceptible to other diseases. We wouldn't use it again if American Cyanamide gave us the stuff. We used it because its cost was half our regular herbicide's cost. We will never make that mistake again and feel it should never have been cleared for tobacco."

"We've been trying to hold our new equipment purchases down for the past two years. However, we would like to mention the good service we get from our IH tractors, disc harrows, and plows. The tractors have excellent power. The IH disc harrows are the best-built and best-leveling we have ever seen. Keep up the good work IH and we'll keep on buying."

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Emil D. Ellison, Belleville, Ill.: He's happy with his combination FMC Sidewinder and IH 295 planter units. "The Sidewinder does an excellent job of incorporating herbicides and saves trips across the fields. The 295 units do an excellent job planting."

Wilbur Warner, Independence, Kan.: "I'm well-pleased with my White 4-210 tractor," says Wilbur. "I put M & W twin turbochargers on it, which increased pto horsepower from 188 to 240 with the same fuel setting. It also lowered the exhaust temperature. Am also real satisfied with my 7700 John Deere combine. It has the flexible header and really gets down and saves the beans. In addition, my Crustbuster Posi-Depth drill does an excellent job of sowing soybeans and wheat."

Robert Wakefield, Homer, Ill.: "For the first time I can combine beans and relax at the same time," Robert told FARM SHOW about his "best buy" 454 John Deere row-type bean head. "It saves more beans with minimal maintenance. I can combine faster because it feeds more even."

Roland Bilson, Eureka, Kan.: "This baler will not make a uniform bale. One side is always longer than the other regardless of how you adjust the baler. The plunger head is too light and all universals on the drive have had to be replaced with heavier ones," Roland says about his "worst buy" John Deere 346 baler. "We're also disappointed with Amway spray adjuvant. It seemed to reduce the ef-

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