

John Buman II, Harlan, Iowa: One of John's "best buys", he says, are the ACRA-Plant Trash Whippers he mounted on his Deere Max-Emerge planter. "I planted through heavy trash and had no problems, thanks to the Trash Whippers. The notched disks go through trash without making much of a furrow. There's good adjustment for varying conditions. They stop wheels from sliding and clogs or roots from plugging the press wheels on the planter."

Donald W. Parker, Apple Springs, Tex.: "This tractor was in the shop two months out of 12. I can't use

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equipment like this," says Donald about his Ford 6700 tractor. "A reliable dealer could have prevented many of the problems."

He's pleased, though, with his Deere 4040 tractor. "Handles like a dream. Had one minor problem with hydraulics and the dealer sent a mechanic out and had it repaired with only two hours down time."

Duane Burrow, Fairmont, Minn.: He's pleased with his Deere 2500 automatic reset plow. "Have used it two years in rocky ground and haven't broken a part or lost a bolt. Also like our Deere model 61 chain saw, which has a surprising amount of power for its size and is great for trimming."

"FARM SHOW is also one of our best buys. We think it's the best farm magazine out."

Dennis Bartz, Grafton, Iowa: "It's a real plus in speeding up harvest time, especially in wet fields," says Dennis about his Brent 535 bu. grain cart auger wagon. It's well-built in every way. The frame is strong enough to handle the weight of 535 bu. of grain. Auger and drive components are heavy enough as well. Hydraulically controlled auger gate is nice for topping off trucks."

He's not so pleased however with his "Clay 1250 bushel per hour grain screener. The cleaner is rated at 1250 bu. per hr. but it does not screen anywhere near that amount and doesn't get a very big percentage of the screenings out even when grain is run through it at only 400 to 500 bu. per hour. Have had trouble with the foreign matter outlet plugging with chaff. Also, the access door to the screens is difficult to open quickly."

Marjorie Plain, Lee, Fla.: She likes her Sear's ceiling fan. "It was just what they described, with simple instructions and no added expense after we got it. Just what we ordered."

Glenn E. Parks, Goleta, Calif.: "Like the simple touch-on-the-go 4-wheel drive," says Glenn about his John Deere 2240 tractor. "When any hill or ditch gets in the way, just push the button and you're in 4-wheel drive. When past the obstacle, another push of the button and you're

back in 2-wheel. Excellent one-finger power steering, hydraulic brakes, and more."

Glenn has no "worst buys" to report but says he's generally disappointed with the quality of chain saws on the market. "Manufacturers make them too cheap. They won't stand up due to the use of plastic parts."

James A. Grantham, Kearneysville, W. Va.: "This is the best farm tool we have ever had and we do everything with it," reports James about his John Deere 125 skid steer loader. "Built heavy enough to do what we need it to do. Everything from scraping feedlots to burying dead livestock and lots more in between."

"We were disappointed with Top-O-Bond cement mix we used in our dairy barn. It's slow to set up and dry, and doesn't stand washing very well."

John Warren, Ames, Iowa: At the top of John's "best buy" list is a 150-head solar pig nursery manufactured by Confinement Livestock Systems. "Easy to heat and you need no other lighting because so much sunlight shines through. The pigs are always clean, dry and warm on the plastic-coated floor. In the summer you can open windows and rear vent doors to cool it without running expensive fans."

Dale F. Maxwell, Kakabeka Falls, Ontario: "This grinder might be one in a thousand but it has given me continuous service for over a year without disintegrating. Has worked as well as an industrial model costing four times more," states Dale, pleased with his Black & Decker 7½-in. angle grinder.

Edward M. Wegner, Watertown, Wis.: "We have two Oliver 1365 diesel tractors, bought in 1976 on our 360-acre dairy farm. They're easy to handle and relaxing to drive. We work them hard with no breakdowns and few repairs. Very economical to operate."

Gary Dean Nelson, Martin, S. Dak.: "In 1979 we windrowed 700 acres of winter wheat and 100 acres of wheat grass for hay. We had not one minute of down time, and didn't even lose a sickle section," says Gary, about his International model 75 18-ft. pull-type windrower. "This year, we windrowed 140 acres of wheat and for the first time since we bought it, put in new sickle sections, but that is all."

He's unhappy, though, with a 30-ft. Morris rod weeder with hydraulic wings and round rod, bought in 1978. "I never had actual breakdowns, but I could not adjust the rods. They were level in the ground but not at the same depth. I sold the Morris rods and bought two 14-ft. John Deere rods and am satisfied now. Also did not feel the round rods performed as well as the square rods do."

Clarence and Mark Hibbing, Paullina, Iowa: "I wish all dealers would stand behind their products as well," says Clarence, pleased with his "best buy" Case 2290 tractor. "Dealer service and warranty have been excellent on the few problems we've had. The cab is quiet and comfortable and one of the biggest assets

is the ease of access to daily service items."

Donny L. Ogle, Elora, Tenn.: "My best buy in the past 12 months is a 2 plus 2 1588 International Harvester tractor," reports Donny. "Fuel consumption is low considering the horsepower and it has the most comfortable cab I've ever been in. Does a good job in the field."

"Our 1980 Oldsmobile Delta 88 diesel runs good but service has been terrible," he continues. "I took it back four times to be spot-painted, and to have the front-end checked. They still haven't fixed that right. It has a rim out of round, a separated tire, the trim won't stay on, a knob came off, seats had to be resealed, and it had a bad oil leak."

Paul Dillon, Porter, Minn.: "For people starting new groves of trees, the Weed Badger from Marion, N. Dak., is the answer. It takes the work out of weeding trees," says Paul about the tractor or skid steer mounted, hydraulically operated weeding "arm" he first read about in FARM SHOW.

John M. Curtis, Harrington, Del.: "This spreader can handle any waste, from soupy to solid manure, and the only maintenance required on the entire spreader are two bearings," says John about his V-model Martin manure spreader. "It spreads a nice even pattern 60 ft. wide with the fan-like beater on the side at the rear."

Robert Boots, Hudson, Ind.: "It's easier to set the amount per acre than older drills and much easier to change the feed gates from wheat to soybeans. We also like the large grain boxes which save time on refills," says Robert, pleased with his John Deere 8300 grain drill. "We've used the drill as part of a minimum tillage system. We use a chisel plow pulling a double disk harrow to work our ground after we have combined soybeans. Then, we go in with our drill, pulling the harrow up front and a cultipacker behind and have the seed in the ground in just two operations. Saves fuel and time."

Steven Hickenbottom, Fairfield, Iowa: "You can mow anything with it as fast as you can drive and stay on

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the tractor," Steven told FARM SHOW about his Vicon disc mower. "You can even go to the field and mow at 6 a.m. in heavy dew."

"Another good buy is our 504F Vermeer big round baler. Makes the best bale of hay I've ever seen. No problems."

"The worst product I've bought lately is the Walsh fiberglass 'skinny minny' spray tank. I've had a pair of them three years and although the size works well on the tractor I've got them mounted on, one tank has just about cracked to pieces. They both leak and all I do when spraying in the

spring is patch them up."

"Along with the tanks," he adds, "the Ace centrifugal pump that came with the outfit lasted about 100 acres. I went through three more pumps in about six hours. The Ace pump just kept throwing the belts off. We found out that the machining on the pump was off, but the company made no adjustment except on the first pump."

Garry Graham, Bristol, Quebec: "This baler would not tie. After repeated adjustments by my dealer it performed better. However, it still misses about one bale in ten," reports Garry about his New Holland 310 baler. "Also, when you change from one crop to another it needs to be adjusted to make it tie."

John Collins, Simcoe, Ontario: "At purchase time, the tractor was reading 151 hp on the dynamometer. After 100 hrs. break-in period, the horsepower reading is still the same," says John about his "best buy" John Deere 4440 tractor. "The tractor which has a very organized and quiet cab, handles our Deere 5-bottom 2600 semi-mounted plow easily. It handles the plow at 6½ mph at a depth of 7 in. with an 18-in. furrow setting."

"This plow, too, is everything Deere says it is. We no longer have problems going behind the combine in tall cornstalk trash. With the plow bottoms placed behind the beam there is unlimited trash clearance."

John Hightower, Mt. Pleasant, Iowa: He's upset with his GSI 5,000 bu. grain bin. "First the fan motor burned out, then the Stirator quit working. They came three times and got it working again. The auger wore the flighting out the first year. When we emptied the bin, the unloading auger motor pulley broke in half. The pulleys were cheap, pressed tin that just wouldn't hold up."

"My best buy is not new, but a used John Deere 730 diesel tractor, one of the last two-cylinder models," Jack continues. "This tractor starts and runs like a new one, but it uses less than two gal. of diesel per hour, pulling a 4-14 in. bottom plow. My Farmall M, by comparison, uses three gallons of gasoline per hour pulling a 3-14 in. plow. John Deere should start building these tractors again."

Mark Neuman, Crawford, Tex.: Mark's happy with his International 1460 Axial Flow combine. "Minimum grain loss, clean samples, outstanding capacity, and exceptionally comfortable and quiet cab. I've had no downtime in 2,000 acres."

Dale Woods, Reed City, Mich.: "You can put up more hay in a shorter time when the hay is at the right stage. Let's you get the best protein content. It's also a labor saver. Very efficient!" says Dale about his New Holland 851 baler.

Dale has no "worst buy" to report, but notes, "We bought a used John Deere combine this year because of the enormous prices for new ones. The price we get in return for our farm products is so uneven in comparison."

Loren Finseth, Fountain, Minn.: "The trailer is easy to maneuver be-

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