

John D. Nelson, Ashburn, Ga.: "This truck rides like a two-horse wagon and wouldn't pull the hat off your head. Gets about 15 miles per gallon," reports John about his "worst buy" Chevy Luv pickup. "Replaced all engine gaskets at 2,900 miles and traded it back to the Chevrolet dealer at 5,900 miles. Was I ever glad to get my money back. Traded it for a Chevrolet diesel. So far, so good."

"This has got to be the smoothest running combine on the market. It's

"This truck wouldn't pull the hat off your head."

replacing two 510 Massey Ferguson combines," says John about his "best buy" New Holland TR 85. "Had no trouble at all to speak of."

Justin Mackay-Smith, White Post, Va.: He's pleased with his "best buy" Athens 131 disc. "The springs on the gangs allow it to flex over hidden rocks. Also, it's built heavy enough to withstand years of use."

Richard J. Noel, Highgate Center, Vt.: His "best buy" nomination is a Gehl FB99 blower. "It says in the owner's manual: 'It has the capacity to elevate forage as fast as your self-unloading box can dish it out.' I said to myself that these guys were crazy for making a statement like that, but I tried it and they were right! I had an 80-hp. tractor on the blower and opened my forage wagon wide open. The blower took it all — three beaters high."

"Our International 720 plows were our other good buy. In sod ground, they plow so you can't tell how many furrows the plow is ... a sign of a good plow. It also has good clearance in trashy conditions and turns a nice furrow on side hills."

On the negative side, Richard says he's disappointed with his 2350 International Mount-O-Matic loader. "The bucket twisted pushing dirt, so I had it reinforced. A front mounting bracket broke so I had it reinforced. Finally, the frame started breaking in the welds, so I had that reinforced. The dealer was good about fixing it, but why wasn't it designed to take the power a 1066 can dish out in the first place?"

Edwin I. Brohomereski, Roseau River, Manitoba: "Most of the bolts were hardly finger-tight, the gear drive vibrated, and the buck was passed around until the warranty ran out," says Edwin, disappointed with his "Wetmore 768 feed-mill with 1,000 rpm gear drive. I've spent \$200 on it, which improved the drive some. The mill is a good feed maker, but service and the 1,000 rpm drive leaves much to be desired."

Baron L. McCaskill, Jr., Cayce, S.C.: "I'm most happy with two recent purchases — a Massey Ferguson 720 disc and a Tumblebug large round bale carrier. However, both have minor problems. The rubber bumper that the Tumblebug fork

drops down on is attached with two small screws which should be strengthened. The furrow tiller disc-mounting bracket on the MF harrow is cast and much too light. If you catch it on even a small sapling around the edge of a field, it will break. Otherwise, the disc is a real heavy-duty workhorse."

Baron's disappointed with a New Holland 975 combine he bought used. "It's never run more than half a day without minor or major repairs. My fault for making the purchase but the manufacturer could have designed the cab and header so that you could see the cutterbar without laying your belly over the top of the steering wheel."

Anthony Cain, Brookston, Ind.: "What makes this tractor so unique is that we can select the proper engine speed with the correct variable ground speed," reports Anthony, pleased with his IH 186 tractor with hydrostatic transmission. "This tractor was not built for heavy work such as plowing or chiseling. We use it for planting (8-row), cultivating and spraying. We've been pleased since we traded for it in the spring of '78."

Kent Miller, Roann, Ind.: He's happy with a Sears 1 hp., 2 cyl. air compressor he bought for his shop. "It has enough power to keep up with my air impact wrench and run my air tools. Also, when the switch went bad, Sears fixed it almost immediately without questions."

David Norris, Palmetto, Fla.: "We've hauled more than 500 loads from our 600-cow dairy with no troubles," says David about his "best buy" 200-gal. Lely honey wagon.

"We're also pleased with our John Deere 336 baler. In three years, it has baled 15,000 bales a year and been almost trouble-free. We also like our 1977 Ford 150 pickup with supercab. Rides great and hauls loads well — 55,000 carefree miles so far."

On the minus side, David's disappointed with his "Vacmeer milking vacuum pump. It corrodes from hard water, and needs repair every few months. There's no repairman in the state to do the job right."

Donald Carder, Continental, Ohio: "We really like this plow's clearance in plowing stalks as well as the moveable hitch for adjusting width of the first furrow. We also like the way it lays the furrow as you plow," Donald told FARM SHOW about his "best buy" Ford plow.

William D. Schneider, McDavid, Fla.: "It wouldn't level from the start. After the factory man had finished with it, it still wouldn't level," reports William who's disappointed with his John Deere 220 disk harrow. "We finally re-did the front gangs and got it to work fairly well. The bearings have been going out too soon, though. One goes out about every 150 acres disked."

On the plus side, William says his Case 2590 tractor has been a "best buy." "It has good lugging power and uses only 8 to 9 gal. of fuel per hour despite its 188 hp. When it was in the shop, they offered to bring out another tractor for my use while it was down, but I didn't need it. Excellent

dealer and service."

Ron Baker, Mechanicsville, Iowa: "This chisel plow is one of the biggest disappointments I ever bought. From day one it plugged up, things worked loose and it pulled like a 10-bottom plow," says Ron about his Bush Hog 1450 Soil Hog. "It's just 14-ft. wide but, behind a 200 hp.-plus tractor, you would swear it was 18 ft. You go 10 to 20 ft. and it plugs tight. I'm thoroughly disgusted with the company for putting it on the market."

Ron's happy, however, with his Case 1570 two-wheel drive tractor. "Runs perfect and the dealer has treated me with first class service, coming when I need him. In 1½ years it has been to the shop once, besides regular checkups. They also came out to the farm twice for minor break-in problems."

John Olinger, Central City, Iowa: John's disappointed with "Goal herbicide produced by Rohm & Haas. I put it on 177 acres of cornstalk-ground that was fall chisel-plowed, disked three times and culti-mulched in the spring. It was applied pre-emergence in a tank mix with Lasso and harrowed in as recommended. As the beans emerged, we had a 1½ to 2-in. rain and my stand was reduced 35 to 50%, depending on the soil type. Also, vapors emitted from the herbicide blew on the plants and injured the stems. We cultivated once and planted more beans between the rows four weeks later."

Scott Swanson, Ollie, Iowa: "Anytime it's below zero and the wind is blowing, these waterers freeze up," says Scott about his Pride of the Farm two-drink hog waterers. "Also, the thermostats sometimes stick wide open and bring the water almost to a boil. For as much as they cost, they do a poor job."

On the positive side, he's pleased with his John Deere row crop soybean head. "It allowed us to harvest more acres and, at the same time, get more of the beans in the tank instead of leaving them on the ground."

Gary Johnson, Chester, N.Y.: "It handles the manure from free stalls in large quantities without dropping it on the road. Built heavier than any we have seen and is simple to operate," says Gary about his "best buy" V-model manure spreader from Martin Manufacturing.

John Hodil, Glenshaw, Penn.: "I wouldn't say it's my worst buy, but

"No-plug mowing at its best."

it's the roughest riding truck I ever owned and the worst gas hog," reports John about his C20 Chevy 4 by 4 1979 pickup.

He adds that he has two recent "best buys": "With our 7-ft. New Idea Cut-Ditioner, the last cut in heavy tangled hay on our narrow strips is no longer a problem. This is no-plug mowing at its best. We're also well pleased with our John Deere 2240

4-wheel drive tractor. It's more than we expected. No more two-wheel drive tractors for me."

Homer Williams, New Ross, Ind.: "Mowed the beans is what it did," says Homer, who's disappointed with the performance of Mowdown herbicide from Mobil.

On the plus side, Homer is happy with his "best buy" International rotary 1440 combine. "Anyone who hasn't used one doesn't know what they're missing. Does a real good job of getting all the grain, is easy to handle, easy to service and harvests good quality grain. Dealer service is good too."

Tim R. Cowan, Turner, Mont.: "The pto shaft going into the gear box is not a splined shaft. Instead, it has a sheer pin that breaks every time it hits a rock. If that one doesn't break, the one on the auger does so you are constantly fixing one or the other," says Tim, disappointed with his John Deere No. 3 post hole digger.

Edwin Demory, Shepherdstown, W. Va.: He's well pleased with his 316 John Deere lawn and garden tractor, bought in the spring of 1979. "It's performed beyond expectations mowing grass and in snow removal, and has needed no parts to date."

Kenneth Bunger, Wellsburg, Iowa: He nominates a fuel conditioner from Trans World Chemical Co. as his "worst buy." "It plugged the fuel filters and there was no noticeable improvement in performance, as claimed by the salesman."

Kenneth's pleased, though, with his Makita model 2412N portable cut-off saw. "It's faster than a band saw and will cut metal that a band saw won't touch."

Bernard Crock, Mechanicsville, Iowa: "The incorporation does more good than the product," says Bernard, unhappy with Eradicane from Stauffer Chemical Co. He's happy, however, with his rear-folding Kinze toolbar equipped with the new Kinze planter units, which he read about in FARM SHOW. "My 15 row (18 in. spacing) planter is great for planting soybeans, and for the seedcorn I grow, for Northrup King & Co."

Arvine Brown, Richland Center, Wis.: He's had some trouble with his Gleaner F combine: "A shaft on a header pulley wasn't lined up, along with a lot of small things that I call 'poor' workmanship. But our dealer has been real good to correct problems."

On the plus side, his John Deere 4040 90-hp. tractor gets his nomination for "best buy": "I've owned the machine for 18 months and everything worked from the day of delivery. Handles well, and is easy to start in cold weather."

Melvin Hupfeld, Dysart, Iowa: "I used it on white corn, which is difficult to dry and was very pleased with the quality of corn after drying. This dryer is very economical to operate. Dealer service has been great," says Melvin about his "best buy" Model 675 crop dryer from the Mathews Company, Crystal Lake, Ill.

Mike Smith, Kenton, Tenn.: "This is not a bad planter, it was just set up

(Continued on next page.)