

out at 76 hours and it took nine weeks to get it fixed. The motor has had two major overhauls in less than 2,000 hrs. The main bearing burned both times, shutting off the flow of oil."

David Leonhardt, Waskish, Minn.: He's pleased with his Case 2470 4-wheel drive tractor. "Has much more power than any other tractor we've had, and we like the 3-speed power shift. Operator comfort is outstanding; it's just as quiet in the tractor as in my car. It would be nice, though, if it had a window on each side in the lower-side panels of the cab."

On the other hand, David's had trouble with his 12-ft. Northwest rotary tiller. "Does a good job of tilling and runs smooth. However, in our first season, we bent the main rotor shaft several times. A couple of other braces buckled, too, and I had to reinforce them," says David, who raises wild rice and uses the tiller in paddies after harvest.

Mark Greene, Pittsford, N.Y.: "It's really been a life saver," says Mark

"I'm allergic to dust and couldn't get along without it when combining wheat and oats."

about his Airstream Dust Helmet (from Mike Nelson Distributing, Rt. 1, Elbow Lake, Minn.) for filtering out dust, pollen and other irritants, which he read about in FARM SHOW. "Since I'm allergic to dust, I couldn't get along without it when combining wheat and oats."

On the minus side, Mark's upset with his International 105 combine. "I bought it several years ago, and have had major breakdowns every year. First, the starter burned up and then the shaker rack broke three times before we discovered a key was left out on one side, causing it to twist. The slip clutches were never adjusted properly, causing one of the augers to twist off. Have also had several bearing failures."

Bob Stine, West Salem, Ohio: "I look forward to reading all farm magazines but since I'm an innovator at heart, I particularly like FARM SHOW," says Bob, noting that he's "a small, part-time farmer. Another of my best buys has been stainless steel arch supports from Featherspring International Corp., Seattle, Wa. They've made the hard factory floors where I work more tolerable and, in fact, have helped to gradually eliminate painful callouses on the bottom of my feet."

Jim Diebert, Colby, Kan.: "They do everything I was told they would do. After one year and seven radios, I haven't even replaced a fuse," reports Jim about his Motorola "business band" Maxar radios. "I also like my Deere 7720 combine. Quiet cab, reversible feederhouse, and very little problems with grain loss. Also like the hydraulic-actuated variable speed cylinder."

John Nelson, Brayton, Ia.: "Had virtually no maintenance in the first 3,000 bales. The only repairs were one bearing, two belt splices and some teeth in the pickup attachment. The combination hydraulic and spring tension makes making tight bales easy. Extremely well-built," says John of his "best buy" Vermeer 605 F big round baler.

Duane Franklin, Winnebago, Minn.: Duane's pleased with his 10,500-bu. Continental "natural cure" drying bin. "Cost about one-half what it would cost to dry with gas, and corn in the bin is of excellent quality. I think there's less shrink with this system. The corn kept fine this past winter, with corn at the top of the bins at 22% moisture. It will dry down as outside temperature warms, and I'll hold it at about 15% moisture."

Clifford Aikens, Jr., Clymer, N.Y.: He's disappointed with his New Idea 9-ft. Cuditioner. "Does a good job of mowing, but the windrowers are not designed right. If the hay is damp, it builds up on them and falls off in bunches. It gradually builds up until it plugs the machine."

Clifford's "best buy" nominations include his Martin manure spreader ("does an excellent job on semi-solid manure") and his 7000 Allis Chalmers tractor ("excellent cab, good power and handles well. Local dealer is tops for service").

Frank Schluttner, Verndale, Minn.: He's pleased with his John Deere 336 baler and ejector. "Works perfect and is fast. Better than the 24T I had before, in part because the tractor governor does not surge, as it did with the 24T. Plunger speed is balanced and faster."

Delmar Mumma, Alamota, Kan.: His "best buy" nomination goes to his 4440 Deere tractor. "Easy to shift gears. Best cab and seat of any tractor I ever owned. Hydraulics works great. Plenty of lugging power."

On the negative side, Delmar's upset with his Chevrolet 1/2-ton, 4-wheel drive pickup. "The fuel system was not right from the start as it was hard to start and gas mileage was poor. I put on a new carburetor, which didn't do any good. Had it in the shop at least once a week for the first six months."

Gary Domnick, Morris, Minn.: "I'm very disappointed with only 7 mpg on the highway, and 5 mpg in town," Gary told FARM SHOW about his 1979 Ford 250 4 by 4. "It should have had four gas tanks instead of just two. On a recent cross-country trip, we ran into a bind with only a 200 mile range and most stations closed. Also, the 400 cu. in. motor has no power."

Gary's pleased, however, with his Stihl 041 Farm Boss chain saw. "The finest I've ever seen — makes wood-cutting a pleasure. I've cut about 400 ash trees into firewood length. Have only had to sharpen the chain 5 or 6 times."

Bruce Lovdahl, McGregor, N. Dak.: "My best-liked product has to be the Chrysler slant six engine," says Bruce. "I've got three vehicles with the engine. One, a 1964 Dodge Dart,

has 190,000 mi. and the engine has never been touched, including the original pumps. The others are a 1973 Dodge pickup with 65,000 miles, and a 1972 Plymouth Duster. Neither has ever had the valve cover off. Mileage on the cars has been as high as 27 mpg."

Larry Ketelson, Charter Oak, Ia: He's well pleased with his "best buy" Mira Hut farrowing system. "The Mira Huts don't require a lot of time and do a good job of keeping baby pigs warm and comfortable in cold weather. I like the idea of having the sun clean them."

Bobby Hall, Seneca, S. Dak.: "At least one of my neighbors decided to buy a Hesston after seeing my bales in the field," says Bobby, happy with his Hesston 5500 round baler. "Works extremely well on dry hay and no problems with start-up or making tight bales. They're just the right size for our loader. One problem, since corrected by the company, cropped up when one row of pickup teeth began hitting the synchronizing bracket. No problems since."

Kenny Victor, Rogers, N.M.: Kenny nominates his 9700 Ford tractor as a best buy: "Power is more than adequate, hydraulics dependable, and the Dual Power transmission extremely handy in varying soil conditions, and for jobs such as baling hay with varying windrow density. Cab visibility is the best I've seen and all controls are conveniently located at the right hand. Lots of comfort with the new quiet and dust-free cab design."

"I'd like to see a different brand of tires as original equipment, though. The Armstrong tires on our tractor showed severe cracking after just one year of use," Kenny points out.

Carroll Bishop, Osage, Ia.: "My wife liked it so much I had to buy one

"My wife liked it so much I had to buy one for her so I could drive this one."

for her, so I could drive this one," reports Carroll about his International 986 tractor. "It's the best cultivating tractor I ever worked with."

Carroll's disappointed, however, with his Bush Hog 60-ft., 8-in. pto grain auger. "It broke down before the first 2,000 bu. went through. And, after 1,500 more bushels, a gear and shaft had to be replaced. To top that off, the fighting came unwelded and piled up. At that point, the dealer was called to come and get it, and told to not bring it back. The auger also had a grease zerk inside the gearbox and, to grease it, you had to drain the gearbox. The gearbox wasn't water tight."

John Voight, South Haven, Kan.: "We finally had to park one combine to have enough parts to keep the other running," relates John about problems with two Deere 7720 combines. "The parts situation was bad, and the

downtime so costly it's ridiculous. Deere has sacrificed quality for beauty.

"Another worst buy was our 54 by 90 ft. Morton machine shed, built in 1975," John adds. "The white sidewalls are two different colors of white, part of the nails were left out and the roof has always leaked. The only time they come out is when it's too cold to be on a tin roof. They drive a few nails in and the next time it rains, it leaks where they walked on it. I wouldn't think of storing a truckload of grain in it without covering it with a tarpaulin."

On the "best buy" side, John notes that, "I switched to a Versatile tractor so I could get my farming done without constant breakdowns. Nothing but good to report."

Charles T. Cleaver, Mt. Pleasant, Ohio: "We ordered the machine in Dec. 1977 to be delivered in time for the 1978 hay season, but our dealer didn't receive it until mid-June, 1978," says Charles, about his Vermeer 504-F baler. "Service was good but it was a new model that still had bugs in it. Our main difficulty was getting bales out of the machine. We even had to try pulling them out with another tractor. It turned out that the frame of the machine was narrower at the back gate than in the center, where the bales were made, so they wouldn't fall out. Our dealer was told from the factory to put a big jack in the back and spread the back of the machine and this seemed to solve the problem. Two bearings went bad on an idler roller in the first 300 bales of operation. The 1979 season went real well after they worked on it."

His nomination for "best buy" goes to Splice-It fence repair tool. "With rising fence wire costs this tool is a big help. You can use up short pieces of wire for patches where before we had to make loops in the wire ends. Makes tighter repairs easier."

James VanDerPol, Kerkhoven, Minn.: "It killed the cockleburrs as the company said it would, but even at the 1/2 strength rate, which I used, it held the soybeans back at least two weeks, giving "second crop" cockleburrs a clear shot," says James, upset with Dyanap soybean herbicide from Uniroyal. "I think it cost me 5 bu. per acre yield on 80 acres. Much cheaper than Basagran to apply, but for me it was no bargain."

On the positive side, he's had good results with his American automated 1706 AN grain dryer. "It's dependable, does a good job with corn and dries a lot with relatively small motor horsepower so it doesn't run up the electric bill. Also, it's automatic so we can start it and forget it. On the negative side, the company gave poor start-up and trouble-shooting service."

W. Lyle Bentley, Oakland, Ia.: "Plenty of capacity, clean sample, no fines in corn, cab is excellent and controls are well-placed," Lyle reports about his 1440 International combine. "The 820 bean head worked perfect but the 844 corn head gave trouble with sheetmetal failure.

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