

en't fixed it. Also, the automatic transmission jerks too much when shifting to 7th gear."

Owen E. Ran, Van Wert, Ohio: Owen says his "worst buy" was "a membership in National Farm Purchasing of Ohio, Inc. They were supposed to be able to tell us the cost of any item and buy it for us. We've asked for 8 or 10 quotes and on only one could they save us money."

On the plus side, Owen is happy with his Johnson Sickle Service from Johnson Farm Machinery Co., Box 1237, Woodland, Cal., which he read about in FARM SHOW. "Every time I use it I say it sure was worth the \$80 we paid for it. Removes the sections and rivets from any mower or combine sickle, and rivets new ones on with the push of a lever."

Charles Condra, Harrisburg, Ark.: "You can go 3 mph and yet it throws over very little grain, compared to the older Deere combine I traded off," Charles says about his "best buy" Deere 7720 4-wheel drive combine. "And, if I get hung up on a high dike or other obstacle, I just push the button for the hydraulic all-wheel drive and it pulls you right out."

William H. Neese, Anderson, Ind.: "The International 400 Cyclo planter transport is something out of the stone age," says William. "After six seasons and 15 modifications on the transport, I have had enough! The Posi-Depth wheels helped but were only a stop-gap measure. I'm buying a Shoup front-folding planter toolbar equipped with 16 Deere Max Emerge units. It's made by Shoup Mfg., Bonfield, Ill., and was written up in a previous issue of FARM SHOW."

On the positive side, William is happy with his International 490 disc equipped with a Harlan anhydrous

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ammonia attachment. "We can apply 200 acres of preplant ammonia daily with the 28-ft., 7-in. disc and the Harlan kit, plus work fall plowed ground in one application. The disc is built super tough and is very flexible over uneven terrain. The Harlan kit has handy hydraulic shut-off."

J. Herbert Brubaker, Mount Joy, Penn.: Heading his "best buy" list is his Conservation Max-Emerge 6-row planter, model 7000, from Deere. "Pleased with the operation and structure of the planter. No problems except a broken adjustment arm due to rock damage — not Deere's fault. Very accurate with spacing and depth. I can plant conventional or no-till."

"We're also pleased with our 4240 John Deere tractor. Only problem has been a fuse on the air conditioner which the serviceman took care of."

Gail & Henry Hart, Bardstown, Ky.: "Up till now we've had trouble even finding information on raising orphan pigs." Gail told FARM SHOW. "But we've just tried a bag of Melk — a milk replacer product manufactured by Wayne Feeds. Looks and smells like a chocolate milk shake. Has already paid for itself by saving a whole litter of 3-day-old pigs."

The Harts are also pleased with their 1977 Volkswagen Rabbit diesel. We bought it used a year ago and it's been a real money saver. Handles well on the farm with good ground clearance, and takes away some of the despair of traveling long distances for high priced machinery parts. We drove to Colorado this summer for just \$35."

The Hart's also list their Sears Kenmore trash compactor, model 74601, as a "best buy".

On the negative side, the Harts are disappointed with their "portable fiberglass Mirahuts from Miracle Recreation Equipment. We bought one last spring. Farrowed one litter in it, liked it and bought five more. We'd been farrowing in a makeshift pen on the ground but decided to do it right and poured a concrete slab with a slope to it. The huts have fiberglass floors and are hinged for supposedly easy disinfecting. But, in cold weather, pigs will not go outside to mess and it's impractical to raise the huts to clean. The result is a filthy inside — and no way at all to clean out the corners.

"As a consequence of filth and rough floors inside the huts, we lost 17 pigs in 4 litters in one night because of infections entering their skinned and cripple legs.

"Another problem was that the huts were too short and narrow for our sows. We're sure these huts work for some people in some places, but not here and not for us."

Norman Graham, Arundel, Quebec: Norman says his "best buy" wasn't a buy at all but a woodsplitter he built himself. "I've looked at a lot of woodsplitters and most of them are built about a foot off the ground on small wheels. That means you work bent over. When you split the wood, the pieces fall on the ground so you have to bend over again to pick them up," he explains. "The center of my log splitter is a 6-in. wide I-beam supported by the tractor 3-pt. hitch at one end, and legs that fold up for transport at the other. It has a 4-in. cylinder with 24-in. of travel and a control valve. The splitting axe is 18 in. from the end of the beam. I built a table underneath to catch the wood. You can build it any height to suit the operator, and to avoid sore back-aches."

Jeff Jensen, Carrington, N. Dak.: "Had absolutely no trouble with it drying 1 million pounds of sunflowers and 4,000 bushels of wheat," reports Jeff about his Tox-O-Wick 370 batch grain dryer. "Has its own bottom loading auger and unloads from the top, eliminating the need for extra augers. Easily moves from farm to farm so the trucks can keep up."

LaVerne McDanel, St. Cloud, Fla.: "We've used our Owatonna big

round baler for both dry hay and/or making big bale silage. It handles either with no problems," says LaVerne of his "best buy". "Lets us bale 15 tons of dry hay per hour with a 100 hp. tractor."

Marvin Mechtel, Page, N. Dak.: Marvin's disappointed with his "worst buy" 8820 Deere combine. "Monitor systems were not right. One brake keeps tightening up and has burned up the linings three times. Self-tightening cylinder belt keeps slipping. Sunflowers wrap on the feeder-house chain. Clean grain sieve was welded wrong at factory and needed replacement. Our new 7720 Deere combine runs circles around it in the field and saves more grain. Dealer has been great but he's stumped on this machine."

On the positive side, Marvin is pleased with his 4640 John Deere tractor. "Handles a 16-row mounted planter and cultivator with ease. Have had no problem other than losing anti-freeze because the tank heater was never tightened onto the engine block. Firestone 20.8 by 38 deep-tread radials really give an extra soft ride and provide good traction."

Marvin's wife adds that their 1979 4-wheel Chevrolet Suburban is a best buy. "Fuel economy's not great but it sure is a versatile vehicle. Marv can have the car and leave me the Suburban."

Dick Heatherman, Almira, Wash.: "It's as close to indestructible as any piece of machinery I've ever seen."

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says Dick about his Allis Chalmers 7-shank, 3-pt. V-ripper subsoiler, his nomination for "best buy".

He's also happy with Kelly Tire Co. for promptly taking care of problems with the company's tires on his John Deere 8630 tractor. "They started to crack at the lugs so the company sent a dealer out to measure wear. They figured 80% left in the tires and sent me new ones at 20% of new price. At last, I was treated fairly by a company."

"I wish the Deere 8630 was as reliable," he adds. "John Deere or I have spent close to \$2,000 for every 100 hours the tractor has run and there are only 2400 hours on it. Down time is the joke with John Deere. I was down six weeks once waiting for parts and right now haven't seen the tractor for 32 days waiting for parts."

Dick adds that he's also had problems with his "Adja silver spot marker. The principle is great but it isn't accurate enough. The marker might drop all its paint every 4 ft. for half a mile, and then be empty for the rest of my 5 mile spray supply, leaving me wandering around. Its pattern

of paint spray is erratic and unpredictable."

Dick also has a combine complaint: "I've rented a new Allis Chalmers MH or MH2 for five years and will verify that they can eat a lot of wheat and do a good job, but each lacked quality control at the factory, and dealer prep, too," he explains. "I've lost bearings, the air conditioner quit after one half hour, belts weren't lined up and other small things were wrong, requiring a 160 mile round trip to get parts."

Glenn R. Damman, Melbourne, Iowa: "I'll match it against any competitive brand of the same horsepower. Just can't say enough about this tractor," says Glenn about his "best buy" White 2-70 tractor. "I bought it in November of 1978 and have put on 500 hrs. without a bit of trouble or expense. Plenty of power and economical on fuel."

"I'm also pleased with my New Idea manure spreader," he adds. "Nothing cheap about it and well-constructed. Use it every day without a bit of trouble."

John Simons, Marienthal, Kan.: He's pleased with his "best buy" FK-240 Sun-Master Flail King shredder. "We used the machine on about 800 acres of irrigated corn and wheat stubble. No problems and easy to service," reports John. "It replaced a Brady of the same size which was nothing but a headache from day one."

He says he's also happy with his CrustBuster 3-pt. mounted disc drill. "Works good on bedded irrigation ground but could be built heavier in places."

John is disappointed, however, with his 4840 Deere tractor. "Something constantly wrong with it," he says. "A seal has gone out on the steering pump twice in the year we've had it, requiring it to be hauled to the dealer. Also had trouble with one wiring harness, replaced the radio, fixed a leaking fuel tank and had some factory recall work. I'm also displeased with the traction it has and wish I would have purchased a 4-wheel drive. However, I'd list this tractor number one in operator comfort. Dealer service has been good and the warranty covered everything other than work done ourselves. But down time is costly."

Gary Woodley, Clarion, Iowa: "The most troublesome product I've come across is my SpraySickle recirculating sprayer," reports Gary. "It should come equipped with nozzle strainers and also needs a larger filter and filtration area so it could be operated longer between filter rinses."

On the plus side, Gary nominates his Year-A-Round 500 Harvest Box as a "best buy". "Its ability to unload from either the side or center makes it extremely versatile. It has a well-engineered running gear and the brakes do an excellent job of slowing the wagon."

Rod Langstraat, Hospers, Iowa: "With the high cost of drying, ear corn picking may increase, and I'd like to have more equipment options available," states Rod. "For one

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