

Randomly selected farmers "tell it like it is" in nominating their "best" and "worst" buys.

by Harold M. Johnson  
Editor

## Farmers Nominate Best, Worst Buys

**LeRoy Mayfield, Bovina, Tex.:** "This tractor has been in the shop almost constantly," says LeRoy about his 1977 IH 1086 tractor. "It's a sorry tractor from front to rear. Front end wheels are weak, gears lock, it's hard to shift, clutch is hard to press and won't stop without grinding gears, hydraulic and power lift cause trouble, cab doors are weak, and the air conditioning fans are poor.

"The tractor has not been abused in any way," he points out. "I have a 1973 Deere that's been in the shop only once and a 1975 Deere that's been in only twice, and they've been driven and maintained by the same operators. Our 1975 1566 IH has been about the same as the 1086 for trouble. There won't be any more IH tractors on my farms."

On the positive side, LeRoy says his John Deere 7100 Max-Emerge planter "is the best planter made. I

carburetor, along with the complete drive train, has never been repaired.

"My worst buy ever was a used 1600 Oliver tractor bought in 1968 with less than 500 hours on it," reports LeRoy. "The tractor now has about 3500 hours on it and there's not a single component that hasn't been replaced or repaired, including the engine, two clutches, both transmissions, hydraulic system and final drive."

**D.J. Moore, Council Grove, Kan.:** "Our Hesston Hydroswing swather easily handles heavy alfalfa, oats, or sudangrass without problems," he reports. "Ease of handling and maneuvering is comparable to much more expensive, self-propelled swathers."

He also likes his IH Cyclo planter, except for the transport wheels: "You have to lift the two row gangs to install the back transport wheel. If the engineers had to lift those row gangs themselves just once, they'd build them different."

Moore nominates his 3020 John Deere tractor with power shift transmission as his "worst buy." "The tractor was purchased new and started using oil after two or three hundred hours. Deere replaced the rings on warranty, but two or three hundred hours later it was still using oil.

"Deere repaired it again on warranty but didn't do the job right. Finally, when the tractor started using oil the third time, the dealer said it should be overhauled, replacing rings, pistons, sleeves, and so on. Of course, we paid the bill this time.

"Years go by and the transmission needed work. The tractor was taken to the same dealer and he worked on it. The transmission still wasn't right, so we took the tractor back again. It was taken apart and they waited a couple weeks to let the Deere field man tell them what to do.

"Now, two years later, the power shift transmission failed again. After the experience at Deere, the tractor was taken to another mechanic. When he tore the tractor down, he found the wrong parts had been put in the transmission — would you believe they put a 4320 part in a 3020?

"After a good mechanic put the tractor together, it operated fine and is still running well.

"I've paid for on-the-job transmission training for Deere servicemen and dealers. I've also paid for parts to go along with these fiascos, not to mention time and money lost in down time. I talked to the John Deere district man and got the run around. The original dealer has since retired and the new dealer said it wasn't his problem."

**Virgil Champman, Conesville, Iowa:** He's pleased with his Deere 4840 tractor and 7000 Max-Emerge 8-row planter. "The 4840 has the power and all-around performance we were looking for in a tractor this size with the ease or handling of much smaller tractors," says Virgil. "Quality control was also very good. No problems to report so far.

"The 7000 planter has performed as advertised and all rows plant the same depth even in the softest ground. No problems but would like

plant corn, soybeans, cotton and milo and am pleased with this planter on all my crops. Especially like the seed depth adjustment, the speed of changing seed drop, and the way it handles herbicides."

**Marvin V. Yelk, DeForest, Wis.:** "This planter is as good or better than the dealer said it would be," reports Marvin, about his Deere 7000 6-row planter. "I planted 500 acres with no problems, except that one bearing on the fertilizer opener wore out and the dealer replaced it."

**Howard Kropf, Buffalo, Mo.:** Howard's pleased with his Lilliston 4-row rolling cultivator. "It really cleans up our crops — we seldom even use a sweep cultivator anymore," he says. "We're also happy with our John Deere C-380 3-pt pto fertilizer spreader. Does the most even spreading job of any fertilizer applicator we've ever used."

**Leroy Schulte, Mascoutah, Ill.:** His "best buy" is his 1978 White 1-85 tractor. "The only trouble I've had was with the air conditioner, but good service from both the dealer and company got it repaired under warranty.

"One of the all-time best buys I ever made was a new GMC 2500 series pickup. Bought it new in 1972 and it now has 90,000 miles on it with little or no trouble, and has the original starter, fuel pump, alternator and water pump. Gets 16 mpg and uses no oil. The 350 engine with two barrel