

to see Deere come out with a folding system for a planter this size."

James McFallen, Union City, Penn.: "Dealer service has been excellent but it would take an act of God to make that machine work right," says James about his "International No. 10 green chopper. The discharge chute breaks about every two weeks and is a piece of junk. The dealer installed a new one that lasted about a week. The spout control is hard to reach and, on uneven ground, the machine picks up more dirt than grass. The thing keeps falling apart."

"It would take an act of God to make that machine work right."

On the plus side, James nominates his Gehl 800 chopper as a best buy: "Changing heads is a snap and I've done it several times in less than 15 minutes. The hydraulic knife grinder works well and the machine has about three times the capacity of my New Holland."

Larry Compton, Altamont, Kan.: "Although the company paid for welding and parts, it would be a lot more convenient for the farmer if they'd test this stuff before they sell it," says Larry. He had trouble with his "Grass King pasture rejuvenator from the Werts Corp. The hitch was entirely inadequate — literally went only 50 feet before it gave up. Company sent a heavier one that worked better, but the 3-pt. pins still wouldn't take stress. Finally had a clevis-type mount made for the lower 3-pt. arms that works. Also will not go into the ground without added extra weight."

Larry's well satisfied with a combine grain loss monitor he bought from Dickey-John. "Well-made with high quality hardware, and fits perfectly. Just an outstanding unit that even works in light seeds, such as lespedeza and fescue, which I didn't expect. Have used it one year with excellent results, except that it's too sensitive in milo. Should be able to turn sensitivity down more."

Larry also likes his "Carmaco big bale loader for hauling two big bales in a pickup. Well-built and mounts easily in truck. Picks up bales that are in any position or even damaged, and comes with spikes to unroll bales if desired. We've used it under extreme winter conditions and it has performed perfectly."

Bruce A. Schultz, Lapeer, Mich.: "I nominate my Uni-Sheller system from New Idea as my best buy. Shells clean and fast and I can keep up with most conventional 6-row combines with my 4-row head."

"My 14-ft. Case chisel plow is also excellent," he adds. "Well built with tremendous trash clearance. Plugged just once in two seasons covering 900 acres of combine stubble."

"My worst buy was the purchase of a used Allis-Chalmers 2300 disc. This machine is just too weak structurally for any field work. It looked

like new but in less than 20 acres the hitch mount broke. After welding it, we watched it break within the next fifty acres. Finally, we made a new one three times as strong. Whole machine is under constant maintenance."

Waldo Stinson, Owosso, Mich.: He's pleased with Craftsman's 1/2 in. electric impact wrench. "Sure speeds up changing the combine from grain to dry beans, then to corn and back to grain. We also use it for other jobs in the shop."

James E. Baltzly, Beach City, Ohio: He nominates his 1978 John Deere Turbo 7700 combine as "best buy". "Did a good job in our small grain as well as in corn. As you always do with a new machine, we had a few minor problems that the dealer fixed right away. The Deere 643 corn head is one heck of a good head. Didn't use a wrench on it in 1,000 acres."

Robert Worrell, Winchester, Ill.: "Easy to load and has two compartments for hogs," reports Robert about his 24 by 7-ft. gooseneck trailer from JW Manufacturing. "We can haul 46 head of 230 lb. hogs with ease."

"Another good buy is our FS Star Craft farrowing house and nursery. Bought it last fall and it worked well through the cold winter and spring."

On the negative side, Robert notes that Pannier hog feeders haven't worked out for him. "Every time we get a blowing rain, feed gets wet where the hogs eat," he points out. "Even with sun and rain shades, it rains in and it's tough to clean out and get feed started again. Also, the sun and rain guards are too low. Hogs tear them off when they get to 200 lbs. because the guards hit their backs. Same is true of sow and creep feeders."

Ralph Hauter, Morton, Ill.: "One final drive cracked in shipping and the pickup reel broke while combining," says Ralph of his White 8600 combine. "Otherwise, I like the way the header control works on this bean platform and also the quick-cut sickle. It lets you drive faster and does not shatter beans."

His "best buy" nomination is his Deere 7000 planter: "It's the first planter that puts the seed where I want it," he says. "Also like our GMC K-15 pickup. Have had no problems. It sure was handy in the ice and snow this last winter."

Richard Ferrell, Barclay, Md.: "I sent my issue of FARM SHOW (Vol. 3, No. 4) with the story defending Ray Stueckle and his combine modifications to New Holland's engineering department," says Richard, who has used Stueckle's modifications on his own New Holland 1400 combine. "Ray's recommendations helped me switch from harvesting chewed up corn to whole kernels."

Richard's other "best buys" include his Stoltyfus wet lime spreader, and his Moore Uni-Drill, which he read about in FARM SHOW. "The spreader can spread up to 100 tons a day pulled behind the tractor," he says. "The Moore drill did a very good job planting no-till soybeans 5 in. apart in wheat and barley stubble."

John Nichols, Jr., Oneida, Ill.: He's happy with his 1979 2290 Case tractor. "Really like the power shift transmission," he says. "I feel comfortable operating the tractor. Very quiet, handles well, seats are comfortable and the lifting hood and battery location are great additions. Only had minor problems in first 80 hours and the dealer has been good when a problem occurs. Good purchase!"

Gerald Thomsen, Ryan, Iowa: He's been happy with a used 1974 model 400 Deere combine he bought in 1977. "In two years it has needed only belts and a minor bearing while picking 400 acres a year," he reports. "Keeps one man busy hauling in from the field."

Gerald adds that he bought "a new John Deere Max-Emerge planter because I've seen nothing but good about them in FARM SHOW magazine."

On the negative side, he's disappointed with a Hanson 8½-ft. double auger snow blower he bought in 1977. "The machine is rated for 145 hp and I used only 85 in 1977-79. The machine really blew snow but has a weak hitch. In 1978-79 I used 135 hp and reinforced the hitch. Could hardly run the engine before it would shear pins. I'd give it a 100 hp maximum rating."

J.W. Thompson, Mt. Vernon, Ga.: He's pleased with his IH 1066 tractor. "Runs and performs well in every way, although the lift has given some trouble and still is not corrected."

His "worst buy" nomination is a Johnson all-purpose sprayer. "The spray arms are too weak — they break off — and the roller pumps only last one season."

Garret Geisler, Callender, Iowa: Garret had trouble with Pioneer 3591 seed corn. "I planted 3591 with half my planter and another hybrid in the

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other half," he says. "The 3591 had emergence of about 60% compared to 95% for the other hybrid. Pioneer admitted at winter meetings that 3591 had problems in 1978. Their excuse was that they bought the seed from another division. This 18 acre 'test' cost me about 35 bu. per acre. But Pioneer's attitude bothered me more."

On the plus side, Garret's happy with his Deere Max-Emerge planter which "makes the most of any moisture you have when planting in dry seedbed conditions. Depth control is excellent compared to International's "posi depth" control on the Cyclo planter, which this planter replaced. I was happy to sacrifice the large IH seed hoppers for John Deere's depth control. Also, resale value of the 500 series is pathetic."

Steve Barta, Perkins, Okla.: "Although many dairymen in my area have used it, I had bad luck," says Steve about Rabon R.O.L. oral insecticide.

"I put R.O.L. in the feed according to directions. Milk production fell from 50 lbs. to 45 lbs. per cow per day. The cows just wouldn't eat feed containing the additive. After cleaning the feed out and starting over without it, production resumed."

On the plus side, Steve notes that his John Deere 2280 self-propelled windrower has performed up to expectations. "I bought the swather in April 1978 and, even though it costs much less, the 2280 weighs more, has a better cab and a lower profile than other machines I looked at. Never plugs up, even at quick speed in heavy hay. Also like the heavier section knives and the many speed adjustments on the reel and auger."

Larry Thiedeman, Westside, Iowa: His "best buy" is a Koyker K-5 loader and grapple fork. "This loader is easy to mount and the grapple fork eases the job of loading tough, packed, strawy manure. Real happy with the reliability of both loader and fork," says Larry.

Steven Porter, Corning, Iowa: He's had good service from his Homelite Super 2 chain saw with 14-in. bar. "Easy to start, well-balanced and fast cutting. I cut wood for the house, a 30 by 40 ft. machine shop and two wood water tank heaters, so the saw really got a workout last winter," says Steven. "It's so light I can work fast. Only complaint is that it could use a larger fuel tank."

Tom Craft, Butler, Mo.: He's disappointed with his 1978 W200 Dodge pickup. "It was in the shop 10% of the time the first year," he reports. "The transfer case chain broke and we waited four months for repairs. The dealer said the 400 engine would have enough power to pull a gooseneck grain trailer but it can't pull over half a load."

Tom says his "best buy" is the Gooseneck Grain Trailer. "Handles well on or off the road and lets me handle harvesting pretty much by myself."

Richard J. Scott, Kimball, Neb.: He's pleased with his John Deere 410 round baler. "I bought it in September, 1978, to bale about 80 acres of sorghum for cow feed. Simple to operate and does a great job baling up green forage."

Milford Ediger, Newton, Kan.: "It cost me \$1 per hour for parts and labor the first 1,300 hours of use," says Milford about his International 1066 tractor. "First the water pump went, then the brakes. Next, a tooth broke out of the ring gear and the dealer was no help at all. I called the district and state block men. They told me they'd check on it and let me know, but never heard a word from them."

On the positive side, Milford notes that his Stihl Farm Boss chain saw is "the most trouble-free piece of equipment I have. Easy starting and has plenty of power, even after cutting many cords of hardwood. Good service and dealers have ample supply of parts."

Herman VanderVos, Bozeman, Mont.: He's happy with his Campbell

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