

and they've proved it to me. Their attitude is refreshingly good," says Don, who had some initial problems with a 10-hp. electric floating tail-water pump purchased from the Dobbs Corp., Canyon, Texas, that were quickly ironed out. "The first time I pushed the button to start it, nothing happened. I called for service about 4 p.m. Saturday and, although I said Monday would be okay, the fellow was willing to come 75 miles right then. He found the problem in the switch box. It has worked like a charm since, with no trouble. It's a pleasure to deal with people willing to service their products!"

**Herbert & Brian Espensen, West Branch, Iowa:** They nominate their Deere 7700 hydrostatic combine as their best buy. "Tremendous capac-

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ity, easy to handle and comfortable to operate. Have had only \$14 in repairs in 145 hours," says Herbert.

"We also like Deere's 4400 series tractors — a pleasure to drive, easy to handle and quiet. We've had two 4430 tractors and now have a 4440. Earlier models needed a little improvement on the hydraulics but I think that's been corrected on the 4440."

Their "worst buy" nomination is a Chevrolet K-10 4x4 pickup. "It wouldn't idle for the first 30,000 miles and ran as if it had an anchor dragging behind it. The mechanic couldn't seem to remedy it so finally we found the problem ourselves.

"At 50,000 miles we discovered that the emergency brake has been partially on since coming from the factory. We replaced the transmission at 40,000 miles. The fenders are all rusted out, the vinyl on the seat is cracked and apart at the seams. Just seems to be a poor piece of equipment," says Herbert.

**Michael Gramm, Gridley, Ill.:** His "best buys" include his IH 830 chopper, his Case 444 garden tractor, and FARM SHOW. "The rubber gathering belts on the 830 chopper work beautifully and the rotary cut-off needs very little maintenance.

"Case's garden tractor has large rear tires that give it great traction and a smooth ride. The hydraulic drive is wonderful.

"And FARM SHOW," he adds, "is the best farm magazine I've ever seen. Keep it up."

**Richard Mayer, Cobleskill, N.Y.:** "Does a superior job of mowing," reports Richard about his International 990 mower/conditioner. "Glides over woodchuck holes instead of through them, like the New Holland 469 we had before. Knife and guard replacements have been minimal."

On the negative side, Richard's unhappy with his Leyland 384 tractor. "The tractor seemed to be in the shop whenever there was work to be

done and never had any pulling power. The cooling system was always heating up until the dealer finally put new sleeves in it. It then developed an oil leak which the dealer said he was going to come and fix but never did. We ended up trading it for an International 966."

**Philip M. Sprenkle, Spring Grove, Penn.:** "I bought 5 gal. to try on alfalfa and did one half of a field with it. Couldn't see that it made a difference," says Philip about Medina soil additive. "It seemed to me like a waste of money. I won't buy any more."

On the plus side, he's pleased with his 1460 International Axial Flow combine. "I can start earlier in the morning and work longer in the evening. Works swell in grain, doing everything they said it would, and service is good, too. Fewer moving parts than on our old 815."

**William Brase, Edwardsville, Ill.:** "Has reduced our milking time from 10 man hours per day to 5 man hours and repairs have been negligible," says William about DeLaval's A.R.M. milking system. "Animal acceptance has been excellent."

On the minus side, he's disappointed with his "McNaught mini-lube greasing system. The system's high pressure grease gun isn't nearly as high pressured as the salesman said. The high volume setting is almost useless on any bearing."

**Bill Curtis, Morrisville, Penn.:** He's pleased with the Herbi Weed Control Sprayer he read about in FARM SHOW. "It's lightweight and has a long range — we can cover almost an entire acre with one filling," says Bill. "We use it for spot spraying weeds."

**Richard E. Adams, Winnebago, Minn.:** He's happy with his new 1979 Ford F-100 pickup. "This is the second one I've had. The first one ran 13 years. Ford's 6-cylinder motor is hard to beat."

On the minus side, he says "Basagran herbicide is good stuff when it works, but is highly unpredictable."

**Scott E. Morgan, Allen, Nebr.:** Scott's been disappointed with his "52-ft. Bush Hog bottom drive, 8-in. auger — a 1976 model. The flighting came apart inside the tube after only about 5,000 bu.," he says. "The dealer repaired it at no cost but couldn't make up for lost time. The gear box on the bottom end is poorly designed — has grease zerks on bearings inside the box that has 20 or so bolts to remove. This has been changed on newer models."

On the positive side he's pleased with his Little Rounder skid steer loader, model L 600. "It's narrow enough to go through small doors, and has plenty of power. Really saves the back. However, it's too light in front and could easily tip over backwards on rough ground. Foot pedals are difficult to use for a tall person."

**Melvin Aderman, Malinta, Ohio:** "Has more power than the 1066 I traded in for it," says Melvin about his IH 1086 tractor. "The cab is very quiet. Have had only minor problems — mainly an oil leak which was corrected by the dealer.

"I also have an IH 400 Cyclo planter

I'm well pleased with," says Melvin.

**D.W. Till, Jr., Sardis, Ala.:** "I'd like FARM SHOW to know that along with IH's reputation for producing good equipment, your "Owners' Report" article in FARM SHOW (Vol. 2, No. 1, 1978) on the IH Axial Flow combine influenced me to buy one — a sight unseen," says Till, whose Axial Flow heads his list of "best bus". "It's the finest piece of equipment I own. Capacity is good, the cab is quiet and comfortable, and the grain sample is excellent. Only problem might be that the turning radius needs improving."

Till is disappointed with the performance of his Chevrolet 1/2 ton 4x4 pickup. "In less than 20,000 miles a rod bearing went out, the rear axle stripped, causing the differential to tear up, parts of the front wheel drive hub had to be replaced, a throwout bearing failed, the ring gear and pinion is noisy, and now a hydraulic lifter is tapping."

**Thomas A. Hughes, Herscher, Ill.:** "You could mow your lawn with it if you had room to turn," reports Thomas about his Cadet 72 Woods Rotary Mower. "Does an excellent job mowing and have had no trouble with it. Easy to hook up to, especially the top link."

On the negative side, Thomas notes that he's had trouble with Anderson windows and doors. "In November of '78, we installed two new Anderson windows in our house. They leaked air around the seals and the company was called. In March they finally came to fix them.

"Last summer, we decided to put on an addition with three more Anderson windows and one sliding glass door. Because of the previous problem with leaks, we decided to

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see if these new windows had good seals, so out came the water hose. Of the four units, two leaked. I hope it isn't next March before the company gets the repair crew out."

**Wendolin Ochs, Hoxie, Kan.:** He's excited about his "best buy" 1979 GMC diesel pickup. "Drove it 1,600 miles on a trip and made from 22 to 24 mpg. Never added a drop of oil the first 3,000 miles."

**Peter F. Eisenmenger, Pesotum, Ill.:** "Does everything the company claims and more," says Peter about his DMI "V"-chisel. "You need power to move it but it keeps the depth that it's set for."

**Gayle Isham, Jr., Gustine, Tex.:** His "best buy" nominations are his Gehl 1500 round baler and a Gehl round bale handler. "The round baler has made haying a one-man operation. It's been trouble-free. The bale handler works well for hauling and stacking, as well as feeding in bunks or for unrolling on the ground to feed."

**Stanley Binkley, Hubbard, Neb.:** Stanley says his "best buys" are all

International machines — eight of them. "We've purchased eight new machines from IH in the last year and a half — including two 986 diesel tractors and a 715 diesel hydro combine — with only a few minor problems. Dealer service has been absolutely super.

"Our worst buy was a Mighty Mac skid loader. Five minutes after the warranty ran out we had nothing but trouble. Cost us \$1,800 in repairs to use it 18 months. Traded for a Gehl 2600. No trouble with it."

**Earl Horning, Manchester, Mich.:** He's unhappy with his DeLaval "low line" milking system. "This system does a good job of milking but trouble developed with the receiver group. It was a matter of poor quality equipment," Earl told FARM SHOW. "The entire receiver system had to be replaced within one year. It took 6 to 8 months to get parts."

**James R. McMillan, Phillipsburg, Mo.:** "A well-designed machine that really works," says James describing his "best buy" New Holland 850 round baler. "After using it one season and observing competing belt-type balers, I can't see how they even sell one."

**George W. Westerman, Nashville, Kan.:** George is pleased with Rapid Roof, a roof-sealing replacement for shingles made by Conklin Products which he read about in FARM SHOW. "I've been using Rapid Roof for some time now and it does everything the company says it will."

George also reports good results with his Rino 26-ft. field cultivator. "Does everything I wanted it to. No problems whatever."

**Ivan Nipper, Mesa, Wash.:** "I've never seen a tire blow up the way this one did," reports Ivan who nominates a set of Uniroyal tires as his worst buy. "I bought them from a distributor who is now out of business. I had the tires a few months before mounting one of them on my pickup and drove it less than 200 mi. before the tire blew all to pieces — not just a blowout.

"I contacted a Uniroyal dealer who refused to make an adjustment, saying he hadn't sold them and they had been improperly mounted. This was not true; the tire had to be defective to blow to pieces like it did.

"My next recourse was to write the company. They sent out their regional representative and he also refused to make an adjustment to my satisfaction. I still have three of these brand new tires and will not use them due to this experience."

**Charles R. Jacobi, Grand Forks, N. Dak.:** "We were having breakage problems with our standard ammonia applicators," Charles told FARM SHOW, "so we mounted 27-in. John Blue heavy-duty shanks on our 31-ft. IH 55 chisel plow frame. Works great, although two of the shanks had to be modified to get the right spacing — about 14 in."