

rounding off. The Remlinger harrows are heavily-built and never cause problems."

Victor Laskowski, Yuba, Wis.: Victor's excited about his New Holland 489 Haybine. "It's one of the best haymaking machines on the market. Never plugged once and the floating header works great over stones or rough ground."

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Victor adds that "my worst buying experience was the purchase in 1971 of a John Deere 4320 tractor with hydraulic front-wheel drive. It was a lemon from the engine back. First the drive disintegrated and deposited debris in the transmission and hydraulics. After the oils were drained, it took nine filters before the hydraulics would work again. The front drive fell apart two more times. The clutch and pto have been replaced four times. With only 3069 hours on it, the tractor has been in the shop 26 times for repairs."

David Kluender, Bricelyn, Minn.: He's pleased with his 350A Farm Fan corn drier. "We can let it run all night and not worry. Easy to operate and good dealer service."

"One of the worst buys we ever made," he continues, "was a 30-in. Snapper riding lawnmower. It was purchased about four years ago and haven't had two straight hours of trouble-free use from it. The engine has never started or run properly, and the only thing that will blow into the grass catcher, without plugging the tube, is very dry leaves. Brake and clutch cables are placed so they don't last and the gas tank sticks way out, where it hit the first tree I tried to go past."

"The only good thing I can say is that we got so disgusted we went out and bought a 620 Allis with a 5-ft. mower that works great. We really get things done now."

David is also disappointed with his Sunmaster FK 164 6-row stalk shredder. "A bushing was put on the wrong end and not discovered until it had ruined two bearings and chewed up a \$75 belt. Did about 200 acres of stalks and had over \$100 of repair, to say nothing of the down time. Dealer and factory are recalling it and will repair, but not replace belt."

A. M. Curry, Maysville, Ark.: He says his 890 New Holland forage chopper "is the best forage harvesting machine I've had in 20 years of farming."

Ronald Hill, Leon, Iowa: "I liked the tractor — it had plenty of power — but I think you should be able to buy better quality when equipment costs so much," states Ronald, who nominates an International 1086 "as one of my most troublesome purchases. At 300 hours, I lost several o-rings out of the hydraulics and it required a new injector pump and a completely new rear end housing.

While installing the new housing, they found a faulty bearing and a soft ring gear and pinion. At 900 hours, I traded the tractor, with the injector pump leaking badly and a loose top on the rocker arm, causing it to exhaust through the air intake. I did receive good service from the dealer, and had no problems on the warranty."

Roy Reuter, Monticello, Iowa: "We used it to move snow last winter and found it has extra reach to load over the fence. Very handy also for loading manure and getting into small places," reports Roy about his "best buy" 425 New Holland skid steer loader.

Robert DeBerard, Jerome, Idaho: "This combine performs even better than it's rated for," says Robert about his John Deere 6600 combine. "Because of its performance, we were able to complete our grain harvest just before the rains came last fall. My wife does the combining and enjoys the comfort and convenience of the cab and controls."

Robert also is well pleased with his XL 175 Honda motor bike. "It's the best transportation for checking irrigation I've found. It's cheap to operate, dependable and fast."

Allen Davis, Bladenboro, N.C.: Responding to a reader in an earlier issue of FARM SHOW who wondered "if International Harvester ships their parts by mule train," Allen offers this rebuttal: "Although IH may leave a lot to be desired, they would be hard to beat around here for parts service. Sometimes they may not stock as many parts as other dealers but their equipment doesn't break down as often either."

Allen also put in a plug for his bale equipment — a New Holland 850 round baler and a Tumblebug bale mover. "The baler has been no trouble so far and the Tumblebug takes the sweat out of picking up big round bales. With the machine attached to my Scout, hauling hay is as simple as just riding around."

Wendell Hanson, Ryder, N. Dak.: "You can travel as fast as you like with this baler," says Wendell about his model 1500 Gehl. "Accepts any size hay or straw windrow. It's the best purchase I ever made."

On the negative side, Wendell notes that his 450 International big round baler has been a disappointment. "The big drive chain would get hot and stretch, and the shafts were soft and would bend. I had to travel at slow speeds and spend too much time repairing. Baler would not feed well at all."

William Olson, Dolliver, Iowa: "Just hasn't worked well the past two years in peat ground," reports William, who's disappointed with the performance of Aatrex on peat-ground to control weeds in corn. "We applied it at a heavy rate with crop oil when the grass was one inch high, and it set it back about 10 days, then it grew like mad. We cultivated a couple times, but grass in the rows hurt our corn yield."

William is happy with his 3-pt. John Deere 1100 field cultivator. "It rides on two tires and is 24-ft. wide with fold-up wings. One cylinder

raises both wings. Has 4-in. sweeps, three bars and spring teeth. Mixes soil well, and seals and levels nicely, bringing rocks to the top without damaging the machine."

Benny Erickson, Leonard, Minn.: "This baler has been terrific for hay and custom-baling flax straw," says Benny about his New Holland 273 baler. "It's a little low on intake but real good for the size."

Benny is disappointed with his New Holland 278 baler. "This baler is just too high-speed. It knocks out U-joints and the overriding clutch. Besides that, it ruins just about any power take off on the tractor, plus it vibrates the bolts out of tractor drawbar."

Lloyd G. Bartelt, Woden, Iowa: "This is a good shop drill, but it's not working for me because OSHA removed the button that locks the power switch on," reports Lloyd about his Milwaukee 1/2-in. power drill. "I want to use the drill in my small drill press, but how do you hold the switch on, pull down the press lever and pump oil on the iron and bit — all at the same time with two hands? I understand OSHA had the switch removed because they felt it was a safety hazard," says Lloyd.

He's happy with his John Deere 7000 planter. "Does everything they said it would — plants at a good, uniform depth and it's easy to change plant population. I wouldn't want to be without the monitor."

Gene Bateman, Mansfield, Ill.: "Can't see why anyone would buy any other brand," says Gene, who's had "nothing but good performance" from his IH Cyclo planter. "We bought one of the first air planters and now have our second. Especially

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proud of it in corn and beans. Easy to fill, with only one hopper, and empties completely. Change from corn to beans with only one bolt.

"Another good buy," he adds, "was my IHC 1586 tractor. Really a quality tractor."

Howard Entler, Humboldt, Iowa: He's unhappy with the performance of "Golden Harvest seed corn, number H-2450. The corn had small ears, and when it got dry — around 18% — it started to fall off. Yield was 15 bu. less than my Moews corn of the same maturity."

On the positive side, Howard nominates two "best buys" — a Massey Ferguson 2775 tractor and a Schweiss 8 ft. snowblower. "We've only had the tractor for a short while, but it has demonstrated plenty of power and pulling ability so far. Dealer service has been good. The snowblower turned into a good investment last winter. No problems at all."

Alfred F. Hanse, Cut Bank, Mont.: "Our main reason for buying an In-

ternational 4366 tractor was the fact that we had two dealers in the two closest towns to our operation. Now IH has closed both of these dealerships and we have to go 100 miles to the nearest dealer. Both former IH dealers are now established in other lines, furnishing good service."

John Whitney, Belleville, Ill.: His "best buy" is a Binkley model 4100 Port-A-Bale. "We've moved more than 2,500 round bales from field to storage with no problems. Handles part bales, bales without string, and misshapen bales, taking them four at a time. No other machine is as fast, durable and versatile."

On the other side, he says he's "learned a lesson the hard way with Paraquat herbicide. We used it on our no-till corn in red clover. It didn't kill the clover — 2-4,D did. Paraquat works well in grasses and on many weeds but it won't kill red clover."

Charles A. Anderson, Jamestown, Kan.: "Maybe one of your readers has a solution for our problem. The local dealer's only solution is to replace worn parts," says Charles. "At least once a year, I have to replace the bearings — or the bearing and shaft — on my 1974 Gleaner F combine's ground drive clutch power input shaft. We use it on about 450 acres of wheat and milo every year. It has been a reasonably satisfactory machine except for the bearing problem."

Paul Speck, Glenwood, Iowa: "Far exceeded my expectations — sows and pigs of all ages walk easily onto it without extra work on my part," says Paul about his "best buy" Hampton hydraulic trailer. "It's well-built, with cylinders large enough to lift the heaviest loads. Lifts high enough to load hogs into a big truck."

He's disappointed, however, with his Nelson baby pig creep feeder. "They're made out of plastic and lasted one night. The sows nudged them; several times and they tore immediately. There's no way to repair them."

Richard Bradford, Chanute, Kan.: He's disappointed with his Ford F-250 Ranger pickup. "My first problem was a brakeline that wasn't tight. I lost the brake fluid two days after I bought the pickup. Within the first month, both front disc brakes were loose. Gas mileage is around 8 miles per gallon. When I complained about such low mileage they checked and I was told the choke was stuck. They freed it, but within a few days it stuck again and wouldn't budge. After several attempts, this still hasn't been resolved. I now have 11,000 miles on this pickup. Has more squeaks than my old one at 75,000 miles. I was told all these squeaks (in the brakes and steering) were common to this model and could not be repaired."

On the positive side, Richard is happy with his Case 4-wheel-drive tractor. "We chose this model because of the steering and have been completely satisfied. Drives just like a 2-wheel-drive and, after 750 hours, we've had no major problems and have lost no field time."

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