

our '78 cotton crop. A hard rain packed the top 3/4-in. of soil three days after planting just as the cotton was trying to break through. We ran the hoe over the seed and had a very good stand. In the turn row, where we missed with the hoe, nothing came up. It's also a great sand fighter.

"I'd have to say that the herbicide Roundup didn't live up to our expectations," adds John. "We had about 1/2 acre of bindweed and, following directions, obtained only about half a kill. I don't like to say the product was bad because we've had nothing work better, but the company seemed to over-advertise the product as a cure-all."

Don Paul Heg, Petersburg, Texas: "Cyanamid's integrity is damaged in my eyes," says Don who's disappointed with Prowl herbicide. "It was advertised as needing no incorporation if rain was received after application. I got plenty of rain but I also got weeds. Later, a Cyanamid representative told me that Prowl must be incorporated in our area regardless of rain. He said the commercial I saw was made for general distribution and should have been changed for our area.

"Although there's been a few problems, I'm generally satisfied with my 915 IH combine," adds Don. "Does a good, clean efficient job of harvesting my corn and soybean crop."

Gene Delap, Broughton, Ill.: "It doubled the number of acres I can harvest in a day," says Gene who's excited about his Gleaner 1978 L & M 20-ft. grainhead with a floating cutterbar and wobble box drive. "It also saves 2 to 3 bu. per acre more beans over the original 13-ft. grainhead I bought with my combine in 1974. And, you can drive faster."

Gene nominates Dyanap herbicide as his "worst buy". "I put it over the top of beans and, although it killed about 75% of the cockleburbs in the beans, it also made the beans look severely burned. I had it right alongside Basagran herbicide which killed all the cockleburbs and didn't damage the beans at all."

Jessy Sharp, Greenup, Ill.: "My best and worst buy is the same piece of equipment," reports Jesse about his Do-All tillage machine. "It was recommended by neighbors for preparing corn and soybean seedbeds. We had trouble adjusting it at first — one end went deeper and trash wouldn't pass through. That was fixed by removing some of the shanks and shovels — a problem the company has since solved by adding a third row to spread the shanks out more. I like the Do-All tool very much after these adjustments and changes, which the company is now making on its new models."

Dale Hollingsworth, Hereford, Iowa: Dale's pleased with Sinniger low pressure irrigation nozzles. "To conserve water and lower our electrical bill, we converted our Lockwood sprinklers to low pressure — about 20 to 30 psi. The nozzles, placed on a 4 to 5 ft. drop, cut our loss of water from winddrift and don't pack the soil, which is important when you irrigate before the crop has emerged."

Paul Aukes, Luverne, Minn.: "It was the biggest piece of junk I've ever owned," reports Paul about his "Commander Medicator from Merit Industries, Inc. With some 50 moving parts and o-rings, it ruined more medicine than it cost. We tried five different units and they all worked for a while, then quit. Nothing but trouble."

On the plus side, Paul is well pleased with his "MonoFlo Livestock Medicator. It has no moving parts and doesn't have to be primed. Fast to load and hook onto the line, reasonably priced, very accurate, and works great."

LaVerne Waters, Middleport, N.Y.: He's happy with his New Idea 218 tandem-axle manure spreader. "We use it every day, year round, here in western New York where the weather is not always the best. There have been no problems and few adjustments. Bought it to replace a Ford 340 which we could not keep out of the shop."

Clifford T. Moore, Eldon, Iowa: "It turns the ground well even when it's somewhat frozen. Trash is no problem," says Clifford about his "best buy" Deere 2600 semi-mounted adjustable plow. "I'm more than satisfied. My only objection is with the offset arms which the coulters fasten to. The single U-bolt just doesn't hold the coulter in place with frost in the ground."

Clifford adds that he's had belt problems with his Ariens 10 hp, 38-in. lawn mower. "I'm not entirely dissatisfied with this mower — it leaves the grass looking good and handles well. However, two \$18 drive belts in one season is too many for a \$1,000 lawn mower."

Merlin Magnuson, Clear Lake, Wis.: He's upset with a Frigidaire automatic washer. "It's guaranteed for five years but had to have a major overhaul in one. The washer quit again last March so we bought a new machine."

Merlin's happy, however, with his 1979 Harley Davidson motorcycle. "It looks good and runs even better. Sound dealer service. I'm also pleased with my '78 GMC 3/4 ton truck. Have only had one loose bolt in 15,000 miles."

Donald Lenhart, Goddad, Kan.: "It's designed well and has the holes in the right places," states Donald about his Black and Decker workbench. "We use it for woodworking and holding small electric motors, generators and so on. The wood jaws don't harm the armature. In fact, I just bought another one."

Lauren Lucas, Academy, S. Dak.: Lauren's "best buy" nomination is a John Deere 2840 tractor. "For an 80 hp tractor, it's a real workhorse. In 18 months, I've had no trouble with it and it's always ready to go. Really helps when the dealer lives up to his half of the bargain."

George Nederhoff, Jr., Sumner, Iowa: He's unhappy with the performance of "plastic-coated Tenderfoot Pads with 3/4-in. openings. We bought 30 5 by 7-ft. pads in April, 1978, and began to see cuts in the plastic coating by September. By October, we had six bad pads and by

July, 20 out of 30 were cut and letting go of the steel mesh. Pig performance is excellent on the pads but quality is disappointing. No results yet from the company on warranty."

On the plus side, George notes that, "I traded a 1000 psi cold water pressure washer for a 600 psi Hotsy washer and can now clean twice as fast, using 5 gals. less water per minute than the old washer. Pressure is constant and it has excellent cutting ability for dirt, oil, grease, manure or whatever. An all-around good machine backed by excellent service."

Henry Haack, Stewartville, Minn.: "Very happy with the easy handling, starting and overall performance," says Henry about his 7000 Allis Chalmers tractor. "The cab is comfortable and the view to the front and rear is excellent. Swing-out batteries are easy to service and the hydraulic oil level windows are a good idea."

Henry adds that his only complaint is that two weeks after he bought his, the company came out with a \$300 rebate on the 7000. "My dealer contacted the company for me and I was told that those were the breaks, and that I was not entitled to the promotion money."

Ira Felz, Chadron, Neb.: He's happy with his F-250 Ford Crewcab 4-wheel-drive pickup. "We've had it

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one year and put on 59,000 miles. Gets up to 16 miles per gallon. Only complaint was a rough running clutch throw-out bearing and especially the difficulty in replacing it. The longer they make them, the harder they make them to work on. Also, seat is poor compared to other Fords we've had."

Fred Dudte, Newton, Kan.: He's pleased with his 1086 IH tractor. "Has a solid cab with excellent visibility and climate control. The large fuel tank is a great help because we don't have to transport extra fuel for many jobs. Really like the digital readouts on mph's, rpm's; pto, and so on."

Fred Tillinger, Sturgeon, Mo.: His "best buys" are John Deere's 6600 combine and the Deere 7100 fold-up planter. "We're extremely pleased with performance of both machines," says Fred. "The combine has good capacity, especially in downed corn. The planter is very accurate on planting rates in corn when set to charts in the book. Bean rates are less accurate. Very poor service on both products from the dealer I bought them from."

Jeanette Borgerding, Marysville, Kan.: "One of our best buys is a Krause Flex-King 20-ft. disc," says Jeanette. "Levels the ground wonderfully with no ridges, and we've found the dealers stand behind their product."

"Our worst buy was a GMC 1/2 ton pickup," she adds. "It leaked oil, the door didn't close right, the gas gauge didn't register correctly, and the battery went dead regularly. Took it to the dealer who was supposed to do the warranty work. The oil still leaks and the door hinge is still out of line so the metal broke. Very disappointed in the pickup and the service."

Billy Fields, Groom, Texas: "These drills are very good for sowing crops. What I don't like about them is the material and workmanship — poorest I ever saw," says Billy about his two 40 ft. Crust Buster drills. "We've had to pull a welder behind them in the field. The dealer I bought them from finally quit handling them because of poor workmanship."

On the positive side, Billy's happy with his Krause Flex Wing tandem 1425 disc. "Has given wonderful service with no breakdowns or repairs. Hard-faced discs are an outstanding feature — after 2,000 acres, discs are sharp as razors."

Fred Krueger, Delavan, Wis.: He's had trouble with his "hitchhiker type harrow made by Gruetts. Mounting brackets were extremely weak and quickly bent. Bolts on the brackets refused to stay tight. I solved those problems by rebuilding the brackets, but how do I keep from losing springs that hold the harrow to the ground? Impossible to keep them hooked."

Duane Paulson, River Falls, Wis.: "I just bought my ninth Patz silo unloader to put in my ninth silo and it has the best digging chain I've seen, with claws to dig out frozen silage. Really a rugged unloader. I'd recommend it to anyone," says Duane.

Amon R. Anderson, Milaca, Minn.: He's pleased with his '78 Chevy Scottsdale 3/4 ton pickup. "Have only driven it 10,000 miles but have nothing but good words for it."

Michael Wilson, Creston, Ohio: He's pleased with his Hesston 1090 mower conditioner. "We picked it up in the middle of first cutting and were able to pick up downed, tangled hay. The optional center-skid shoe keeps the header floating nicely even over groundhog mounds. Good dealer service."

Michael is unhappy, however, with the dealer who sold him his "Countryside all-steel Cuckler building. When they unloaded the building, they unloaded the wrong roof brace rods. My dealer signed for the building. I wasn't able to get him to even come and look at them (the rods). I had other parts that were wrong because the dealer ordered wrong. I had to threaten to take him to court to finally get the right parts."

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."