

ment would bury itself at the back, this disc is flexible and moves at an even depth. Easy to lift and move hydraulically. Does a beautiful job."

**George Lee Streit, Electra, Texas:** George is happy with Koehn's Wac-A-Trac. "It did a remarkable job of getting rid of tractor tracks ahead of grain drills. You could still turn short. Eliminated skips in the field from tractor tracks."

George is disappointed with the Speed-King 34-ft. auger he bought. "Fighting came off the bar six times in the first 10,000 bushels, 12 or 14 bearings have been knocked out in the drive-line and it's so poorly balanced it has to be moved with a tractor. It can't be handled except by 2 or 3 men."

**Nelson A. Rasey, Nashville, Mich.:** His "best buy" nomination is Round-

## "I'd like to hear from manufacturers on how they justify list prices for repair parts."

up herbicide. "I used it for quackgrass and bull thistle control on set-aside land. Quackgrass had nearly reached dormancy when Roundup was applied but the kill was nearly 100% — much better than expected. Bull thistles also were completely killed.

"I haven't made any bad purchases lately but I'd really like to hear from major farm machinery manufacturers on how they justify their list prices for repair parts and supplies," adds Nelson.

**Clarence C. Folkerts, Carleton, Nebr.:** He's pleased with his Orthman flex-gang 12-row cultivator. "It follows the terrain well, with no gouging or skimming over the top. Each gang is flexible and gauged with a rubber tire. Stays on the row well with two disc stabilizers. We use it on a 4020 John Deere 3-pt. hitch and it does well with a lift assist wheel."

**Jay Long, Nome, Texas:** "Our Massey-Ferguson 750 combine will thresh all the rice you can stick in it, and produce a good clean, undamaged sample. Has good power in mud and is an all-around quality machine."

Jay adds that he likes his Krause 27-ft. disc harrow. "Keeps the ground level and I can plow 15 acres an hour with it," he says.

**Jim Toney, Stockbridge, Ga.:** "I'm really pleased with my New Holland 478 Haybine. It's the best mowing machine that I've ever used, mowing downed and wet hay with great ease. Never seems to plug and makes fluffy windrows that dry fast."

**M. G. Martin, Colwich, Kan.:** His "best buy" is a 1976 Honda station wagon. "Great gas mileage and excellent handling. Like the good design and durable construction, although it could ride a little smoother."

On the negative side, he is disappointed with his Ford 750 truck. "We

lost the engine at 36,000 miles because of poor construction and design. It seems as though American manufacturers cut corners and then charge more than the limit. Ford did replace the engine parts."

**Robert Rasmussen, Irwin, Iowa:** Robert's had good results with Bladex plus Attrex herbicide. "I have 800 acres in a corn beans rotation," he explains, "so I can't afford to have any carryover. We've been using 1 lb. Attrex with 3 lbs. Bladex for three years now with no weeds or grasses left, and no carryover in the beans."

Robert is disappointed with his Pamline pressure washer. "It's supposed to be one of the best washers on the market but ours is always broke down."

**Carmon Dilworth, Greensboro, Md.:** He's had trouble with his Sears 3-pt. hitch pallet lifter. "It was rated for 500 to 3000 lbs.," he explains. "We thought we'd try it out on 1,000 lbs. of fertilizer and, when we did, it folded under. We took it back, then went home and made our own. It's the handiest thing on the farm."

On the positive side, he's happy with Tew Manufacturing Company's 16-in. vegetable washer and absorber. "It's a fantastic piece of equipment," he reports. "Washes peppers, eggplants, tomatoes, cantalope, and more. It leaves no water spots, like washing in a tub, and doesn't use much water. Two or three people can wash and pack a truckload in just a short while."

**L. M. York, Hartwell, Ga.:** He's happy with his New Holland TR 70 combine. "Does a good job threshing and cleaning any crop with little damage to the grain. It's a well-built machine, easy to service and operate, and we like the cab. The company put on update packaging for no cost, something some other companies won't do. The only thing it needs is a guard rail around the engine service area.

"My worst disappointment has been my 1086 IH tractor. The cab is one of the hardest to get in and out of that I know of. The short wheelbase does nothing for handling, and changing gears is something out of the stone age. The rear fuel tank location is poor, as is the cab air filter. Very poor design overall but has a good engine."

**Lester Wehr, Keota, Iowa:** Lester likes his Ford 9700 tractor. "This is the most trouble-free tractor on the market. Never a breakdown in the field and it has more power than our John Deere 4440."

He adds that his 1978 Ford F-150 pickup is also a "best buy." "We have 40,000 miles on it and no sign of any problems. The best pickup we have ever owned."

Heading his "worst buy" list is his John Deere 4440 tractor. "At 100 hours the main bearings went and ruined the engine block, and at 300 hours the hydraulic system failed."

Lester also has had trouble with his Chevrolet C-20 pickup. "It was a lemon from the start," he says. "The motor went out at 3,500 miles and two weeks later the transmission

went out. Am buying nothing but Ford 150's from now on."

**Ivan Jones, Oakley, Ill.:** He's happy with his John Deere 7000 planter (six 30-in. rows). "It puts seed in the ground at an even depth and is reasonably accurate on the population count. And, with the Max Emerge units, seed germinates sooner."

**Sam Lambert, Pontiac, Ill.:** "Our IH Fleetstar diesel tandem axle grain truck, licensed for 50,000 lbs., gets better fuel mileage than the smaller truck we traded it in for. It's dependable, quiet, pulls well, keeps up speed and has a good cab."

On the negative side, Sam's disappointed with his Massey-Ferguson 760 Combine. "This combine has had fuel line leaks, oil leaks, broken hubs, bearing failure, belt failures, loose bolts that allowed parts to come off and go through the combine, electrical problems, and steering troubles."

Sam also has had problems with his Massey Ferguson 2705 tractor. "We've had fuel leaks, water level and temperature problems, trouble shifting and the draft control is very poor. I must say our dealer has been good but finds it hard to keep up with all the problems."

Sam adds that he appreciates FARM SHOW's "Best and Worst" buys section. "Companies can't give us the old routine anymore that our unit is the only one with problems. We expect problems with new machines but some things become intolerable and telling people about them can only help."

**Phillip Zehart, Papineau, Ill.:** He nominates his 1979 Ford F-250 4-wheel drive Ranger pickup as his "best buy." "This pickup drives so much better than the 1977 I traded in on it, it's unbelievable," says Phillip. "It rides more like a 2-wheel drive and handles like a car. With the 4-wheel drive, it takes the place of an extra tractor. I've even pulled out stuck tractors with it. Unbeatable performance."

**Dale Mikel, Milford, Ind.:** Heading his "best buy" list is his Owatonna skid steer loader model 320. "It's easy to operate and service, and has given excellent performance. Dealer service is good."

On the negative side, Dale was disappointed with the condition in which his New Idea 41-ft. elevator was delivered to him. "I noticed it was bent under two of the joints where it was assembled," he explains. "I told the dealer about it and he would do nothing, so I separated it myself and straightened them the best I could. But, after spending so much money for it, it doesn't look like a new piece of equipment."

**Elmer Ridder, Marienthal, Kan.:** He's pleased with PAG corn and milo seed. "I've planted PAG seeds for several years and am very satisfied with the results. The new milo varieties that came out last year have great potential and we're looking forward to trying the new SX 333 corn number."

On the minus side, he's had trouble with his IH 150 hoe drill. "When I first went to drill wheat in dry soil — I live in western Kansas — I found IH

had changed the drill boot from the way it was on the older 150 models, which were as good as any I've ever seen. They changed the angle of the point so the seed does not get to the bottom of the furrow. My dealer is trying to see what can be done but IH doesn't seem to care since this is probably a problem only in our area."

**Carroll T. Keller, Rio Medina, Texas:** His best buys are John Deere's 653 row-crop header and 40 series cornhead. "We use both headers on our IH 1460 combine with the aid of a Bish head-changer, which works great," reports Carroll. "The row-crop head is just the thing to get every bit of a milo or soybean crop into your combine. We've had no problems with the header in two seasons. The Deere cornhead is unbeatable, and I've owned and seen other cornheads."

Carroll adds that his IH 1460 Axial Flow "works great in certain conditions, but in our dry south Texas cornfields its productivity is very low. However, they're still trying to improve the machine.

"I also wish IH would improve their parts system," he adds. "The dealer has no parts, the Dallas branch has few parts and, if it has to come from the factory, they send it by turtle-back express."

**George Wolf, Doland, S. Dak.:** "We've had no trouble with our 1978 GMC 4-wheel drive pickup," says George. "Gets good gas mileage — about 16 to 17 miles per gallon on long drives — if I stay under 60 miles per hour — and always starts well."

He adds that he's been disap-

## "This baler needed a lot more refinement before it was put on the market."

pointed with his Lundell big round baler. "This baler needed a lot more refinement before it was put on the market. The twine-cutting device is a constant malfunction and cheaply made. There's no way to adjust the tension of the drive belt on the twine-feeding system."

**Brian Huber, Cedar Falls, Iowa:** He's happy with his Valley Electric corner irrigation system, model 1234. "It has even water distribution and we've had excellent service. The machine performs flawlessly."

On the minus side, he's disappointed with "John Deere's Monatrol for the Max-Emerge planter. We had numerous blown fuses caused by an undersized motor on the variable speed drive," he points out. "This failure caused uneven population, frequent activation of the alarm and operator frustration."

**Marvin Jontzi, AuGres, Mich.:** "Our best buy in the last year was Noland freeze guard hog waterers," says Marvin. "They use less electricity than those we used before and

(Continued on next page)