

**Karl Retzlaff, Morris Minn.:** He's happy with his Farm Fan AB-8B automatic batch dryer. "I set it up myself and have run 30,000 bu. through without one problem developing. Easy to set and to show someone else how to operate it. Big time saver."

Karl is less satisfied with his Dickey John digital moisture tester. "I have two of them for drying corn but they are never within one point of each other. And, when mine would read about 17%, the elevator's would read 19%. I have two of them because one is always in the shop."

**Phillip Curtis, New Vienna, Ohio:** "We're happy with our new Ag-Best Capsule calf nursery," says Phillip. "The calves are free from disease and gain rapidly. We made the purchase during Farm Science Review Week in Columbus last fall. One of our best buys ever."

**Jack Bieri, Letts, Iowa:** He's disappointed with his American 2416 automatic batch dryer. "They've serviced it six times and it still doesn't work right. When we bought it in 1977, it was delivered two months late and then didn't work properly. One time last year, we waited four days for service."

Jack is happy with his Deere 4630 tractor ("Had no trouble with it at all") and a 7200 combine ("Got 1000 hrs. on it and have had very little trouble. The few problems we did have were taken care of by the dealer").

**James P. Mencl, Virginia, Neb.:** He's well pleased with his 2-135

is a part-time 4 wheel drive pickup with lock-out hubs," explains Earl of his "best buy" 1978 F150 Ford pickup. "The advantage is to be able to put it into 2 wheel drive manually so for about 9 months out of the year you're not turning the front driveshaft, front differential and two front axles. This saves on fuel and on wear."

**Ronald Hand, Billingsley, Ala.:** "We purchased it new and it has given good service with no trouble," says Ronald of his 1977 ¾ ton Chevrolet 4 wheel drive, automatic pickup.

On the negative side, he's disappointed with a 986 International tractor: "One month after the warranty expired, the torque amplifier, alternator and hydraulic pump tore up. The transmission shifts bad. Overall, it was a purchase regretted."

**Tom Schlarb, Bermen, Ind.:** "My best buy last year was a John Bean gear driven spray pump. I always had trouble holding pressure with the centrifugal type, but the gear driven model is constant until the tank goes empty. I would highly recommend it to anyone with this problem."

**Fred Pimm, Rock Tanern, N.Y.:** He notes that he's well pleased with his Ford 6600 tractor. "The cab is quiet and well constructed but I would not recommend Armstrong tires or tubes to anyone. One rear tire went flat with less than 50 hours. Tube ripped because of a thin spot. Ford would not recognize and neither would the local Armstrong dealer."

On the negative side, Fred lists a Ford baler Model 542 as a worst buy: "Both knotters miss too much. Had a Ford model 530 with about 150,000 bales on it that I wish I had back."

**Donnie Collins, Centralia, Mo.:** "We saved several thousand dollars by buying a Ford 8700 tractor instead of a John Deere or Allis Chalmers model of the same size. We own a John Deere tractor and three Allis Chalmers but the Ford 8700 is the only one that has gone a full season without a breakdown. We were so satisfied we bought a Ford 9700 to go along with the 8700."

Donnie adds that he's "very pleased with our Deere 7700 planter, especially last year when planting was late. We could easily plant 90 acres in a half day, leaving the other half to work our ground."

**Kenneth Upshaw, Colfax, Wash.:** Kenneth nominates a used Versatile 4-wheel drive tractor as "one of the best buys we've made in years. We bought the tractor with 1,000 hours

on it and have since put on 1,200 with only normal maintenance," he says. "We like the power, simplicity of design, and fuel economy. It replaced two smaller crawler tractors on our farm."

On the negative side, Kenneth is disappointed with his "IH 360 field cultivator. It isn't flexible enough. When going over hilltops, it slips out of the ground. It won't handle enough trash."

**Mike Edel, Scottville, Mich.:** He's enthusiastic about his new Deutz

## "We couldn't find a mudhole big enough to stop it."

10006 4-wheel drive tractor. "We finished harvesting corn a week earlier than most everyone else in our area with the Deutz, and at the same time, cut our fuel bill in half over the previous year. It's comfortable to drive, all the controls are within easy reach and we couldn't find a mud hole big enough to stop it."

**B. J. Boyd, Marion, Ohio:** He nominates his Landoll Soil Master as a best buy. "It works better than a chisel plow on bean stubble—ridges the ground much higher. Cuts stalks and covers them well, and you can go at an angle. Well built."

**Douglas A. Wiken, Winner, S.D.:** "I think your "Farmers Nominate Best, Worst Buys" section could be put to better use. Why not survey farmers about their equipment problems, then tabulate the results. Patterns of incompetence would turn up. FARM SHOW has extra credibility because it carries no fluffy 4-color ads.

"If you did run a survey like that," adds Wiken, "I'll bet Chevrolet 350 4-wheel drive pickups would show up. Our 1974 Chevy has had a cracked manifold, 3 starters, 2 alternators, new radiator hoses, three 'U' joints, a 4 WD shift that won't work because mud plugs its linkage, a tailgate latch so flimsy it pulled apart in my hand, and a second carburetor repair. It came from the factory using oil, and probably needs a new camshaft. The interior has fallen apart with normal use. I might think this was just bad luck on my part, but

from talking to neighbors and reading an earlier report in your magazine, I think the problems are common. The truck now has 41,000 troubled miles."

**William A. Sparks, Milmine, Ill.:** "There's nothing wrong with this tractor except that you pay \$20,000 and get a \$15.00 seat," says William about his Allis Chalmers 7030. "I spent \$300 to make my own bracket and mount a Bostrom heavy-duty Viking T-bar. For \$20,000, that's what I should have received in the first place."

On the positive side, he's pleased with his Chem Farm 400 gal. side-mount herbicide tanks and control valve. "The tanks are easy to mount and take off because the mounts are made to fit my Allis Chalmers, something I couldn't find before. The calibration book with it is right on the money."

**Alfred A. Stillhorn, Evansville, Ill.:** He's impressed with his 1250 gal. Dari-Kool Bulk Tank with Thermo-Stor. "Thermo-Stor cools milk with 170 gallons of water and then retains the heat it collects. We use the water to wash cows and clean out the pipelines. We also run it through a radiator and it warms up the milkhouse from 40° to 72° by the time we're done milking. It's a real money saver."

**Jerry Scheekel, Preston, Minn.:** "It'll really clean out cattle yards where conventional loaders just make bigger mud holes," says Jerry of his Versatile 150 4WD tractor loader. "Works in deep mud and manure and can be used to replace a tractor for some jobs. Good traction, hydraulic system and cab."

**Charles F. Nicol, Hoehne, Colo.:** "My 12 ft. Lely Rottera Model 350 reduces field tillage problems by 50%," says Charles. "It's great for preparing seedbeds and incorporating chemicals, and ideal for renovating alfalfa fields in the spring. Very durable and pulls economically with an 80 hp tractor."

**Walter F. Yeager, Berlin Center, Ohio:** "It was the worst seed corn we ever bought. We had a 20% harvest," Walter says about "O's Gold Varieties TX85 and TX95. It took some of the corn five weeks to come up. One field had about a 60% stand and the other 50%. Neither the dealer nor the company would stand behind the seed, but I notice the dealer is no longer selling these varieties. My neighbor had a good crop but from a different brand."

## "First tractor with a cab that lets you see the drawbar when hitching."

White tractor. "It has all the power I need, great fuel economy, convenient controls and a roomy cab. First tractor with a cab that lets you see the drawbar when hitching up to something."

**Don Schmalig, Delavan, Wis.:** "This has got to be the easiest plugging blower available today. Also very hard to get at to replace the shear pins. A real lemon," says Don of his "New Idea forage blower".

On the plus side, he's happy with his New Holland pull type 479 Haybine. "This is a truly fine machine. Provides fast cutting. Makes even, fluffy windrows that dry out fast. Almost a plug-free machine."

**Robb Turner, Chester, Mont.:** He's well pleased with his combine and 30 ft. self-propelled swather, both manufactured by Canadian Coop Implementation, Ltd. "These units have a two year warranty and dealers have carried it out completely, and then some."

He's unhappy, however, with his Saab car. "It stalled 3 miles from the dealership on the way in for the 1,000 mile checkup."

**Earl Brand, Lafayette, Ind.:** "This

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