

Kenneth Mohling, Hale Center, Texas: "Unbelievable service." says Kenneth of his "best buy" — a Larson Versatrac Model 6100 high clearance tractor, with Model 7200 boom sprayer, purchased from the Larson Co., Plainview, Texas. "I purchased this equipment to do custom spraying and wanted a machine that would withstand vigorous use under all field conditions. I was well pleased

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with the way it held up under hard and continuous use. The warranty service I received was outstanding. I called the service department at 6:00 p.m. on a Saturday and was back in the field by 8:00 p.m. Another time the company sales manager personally spent half a day correcting a minor manufacturing flaw in the steering system that was one of those hard-to-find-things. Of utmost importance to me was that the needed service was done around my schedule, not the company's."

Jim Knapp, Yates Center, Kan.: He's happy with the performance of his Allied 51-ft., 7-in. auger. "It doesn't rattle or vibrate, even when empty," says Jim. "And the transport position is lower than some 34-ft. augers."

Max Huston, Montour Falls, N.Y.: "It's lived up to all my expectations," says Max about his Kioritz power scythe. "It has three cutting attachments: nylon cord, brush blade, and saw blade. The brush blade will mow grass as well as cut brush up to ½ in. in dia. The unit itself is extremely lightweight (6.8 kg.) and well balanced. It's one of the best buys we've ever made!"

Max says his "worst buy of the year" was his Cadillac Coupe de Ville. "At first the dealer had the car more than I did. The paint didn't match, there was a bad short in the dash and the radio quit working, the seat ripped out 4 times, car would stay on fast idle for over 1/2 hour, the vinyl roof pulled loose, and the power seat wouldn't work. The dealer was extremely reluctant to admit anything was wrong, much less attempt to fix it."

Harry Anderson, Eagle Lake, Texas: "My 8630 John Deere 8630 tractor cost \$10,000 more than competitive brands but the dealer performance is excellent. We have two strong Deere dealers in this rice-farming area, and dealer performance is 75% of machine output."

Harry wishes Deere would make combines for rice "the way they used to. Deere discontinued the 105 combine in 1969 and IH discontinued the 915 series in 1977. These machines were the last durable, simple, de-

pendable combines in rice." Harry now has a 1974 Deere 7700 combine which he says works fine in soybeans but only fair in rice.

Wesley Volkert, Aurelia, Iowa: "The box and gear are just wonderful but we had the misfortune of it being equipped with B.F. Goodrich tires," says Wesley about his Year-A-Round 500 bu. gravity flow wagon. "One tire blew, another went flat and one had numerous cuts when we got it. The dealer didn't have the right size on hand so we still haven't been able to use the wagon."

Wesley says his best buy is his Kinze Folding Tool Bar with Deere Max-Emerge planting units, from Kinze Mfg., Williamsburg, Iowa. "The convenience of using this is unbelievable. I can go from planting to transport in two minutes. Sure saves time going from one field to the next."

Lynn Dunkle, Circleville, Ohio: "After only 50 hours, the transmission locked up. Took the dealer 6 weeks to repair it. Had very poor company service and, after owning the tractor three months, I traded it in," says Lynn about his "Allis 7040 tractor with power shift transmission. I only put a total of 285 hours on the 7040 and had nothing but breakdowns from the beginning. I now have 600 hours on my 4430 Deere and it runs perfect, with no major troubles."

Rolland L. Emch, Perrysburg, Ohio: He's happy with his "best buy" IH 133 6-row cultivator, and IH 720 6-bottom plow. "The cultivator does a nice job of cultivating, better than the rolling cultivator and the plow does a real good job so we don't have to disk or anything."

Rolland adds that he's been unhappy with his IH model 56 6-row planter. "It skips while planting. A new clutch and something else was put on it, but we haven't tried it since. I had a model 58 planter for eight years and never had a bit of trouble with it."

Stanley Greathouse, Johnsonville, Ill.: "Engineers need to visit farms!" says Stanley, pointing out improvements he'd like to see made on the Hiniker floating cutter bar. "This is not a bad product, but it's extremely difficult to remove the knife. The bolts are hard to remove and replace. Then, you must be careful to time the sickle as it was before."

On the positive side, Stanley says his 750 Massey Ferguson combine "has good power and has performed with excellence and only a few minor problems. Service from the dealer is excellent."

Frank Anderson, Lakeville, Minn.: He nominates his Acme "Red Rooster" LP injector for his diesel tractor as his best buy. "After I read about the device from Acme Mfg., Mankato, Minn., in FARM SHOW, I decided to install one on my Moline G-900. The dyno reading went from 102 hp to 116, where I sealed it. Under load, the engine gains about 75 rpm when the LP is turned on, and there is an audible improvement in the tractor's performance. Fuel consumption is about ½ gal. per hour

less with combined fuels than with straight diesel. I believe it is a simpler, less expensive way to boost a diesel than turbo charging."

Dwight Strassheim, Oakville, Iowa: "My Superior 8-in., 57-ft. pto auger was a real bummer. The auger screw was not welded tight to the center shaft, which made it too big for the tube. After twisting the pto shaft off twice — \$150 in repairs after 10 hours use — I pulled the screw out of the tube and found the splice in the middle put in backwards and not welded. Also, the deflector at the top of the auger was factory bent the wrong direction."

"After three weeks of telephone conversations with the district man and absolutely no help whatsoever, I told him the next call was going to the company president at 7:00 that night. Thirty minutes later he called back and said they were shipping me a new screw — prepaid."

Dwight's best buy was a Deere 8434 tractor which "has power to spare, is easy to handle in tight spots and has excellent hydraulics. After owning IH tractors for 10 years I now understand why J.D. costs more — they're worth more!"

Dwight adds that his Case 1816 Uni-Loader is the "handiest thing on the farm and as easy to operate as a scoop shovel."

Ralph Roschen, Lake City, Minn.: "We bought a Ford 8700 tractor about a year ago and we're well satisfied with it. It's economical to operate, handles great and has plenty of power. The dealer's service has been excellent."

Ralph adds that he would like to



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see an end to completely sealed bearings. "I wish all machinery would come with regreaseable bearings. The sealed bearings just do not stand up."

Norman Horn, Mt. Pulaski, Ill.: "The only thing else that could have gone wrong was for the wheels to fall off," says Norman about his Gleaner M2 corn/soybean combine. "The transmission wouldn't work and at the end of the year, it was taken out. It needed a new fork, two new bearings and two new bevel gears. The electronic system was a nightmare. Lights blinking at the wrong time or not at all, and we had to re-wire the whole thing. The header control didn't work right all season. Quality control was terrible — sprockets not aligned, adjustments wouldn't adjust. Neighbors finally were good

enough to help me finish harvest."

On the positive side, Norman purchased a 4500 kw Lincoln welder/generator and used it last winter during an ice storm. "It had plenty of power and we used it for 10 days to keep my farm and house in partial operation. It worked very well. Also, it's a real 'hot' welder, using direct current."

Wayne Brown, Martinsville, Ohio: He's excited about his Hotsy hot water washer model 842. "We needed something to clean our hog barns and nursery building and this machine does a wonderful job. It did break down one Saturday but we called our dealer and, in less than two hours, he had a man out and had it fixed. That kind of service is hard to find today."

Wayne didn't have such good luck with another water-related product, a Chem-Tech model 100 water conditioning system. "It hasn't worked right since it was installed. You call them and they come a week or so later, work on it and by the next day it is the same thing all over. They've made five or six trips here. The last was yesterday and I doubt if it will work now."

Jimmy Webb, Bells, Tenn.: His "best buy" is a Cyclo 500 International air planter. "This planter spaces seed any distance desired with unbelievable accuracy. For instance, I plant 9 bean seeds per foot of row. Once set, the planter need not be changed again, even when the size of the seed changes. The planter is equipped with a digital monitor, which is a necessity."

On the negative side, Jimmy notes that "the worst buy I ever made was a Chevrolet 350 4WD pickup. I have put in the third transmission, the fifth starter the third alternator, the second carburetor and the second fly wheel. I have kept it serviced perfectly and the drive train has performed excellent. I have five close friends who also have put transmissions in their Chev. 350's within the first 18 months of service."

Roger Schnell, of Schnell Brothers Rising Sun Farm, Franklin Grove, Ill.: "In late April of 1977, we took delivery of a new model 7600 Field Queen self-propelled forage chopper. Having run two Field Queen Standards with excellent results, we thought the 7600 series would be equal or better in all respects. During the first month of haylage chopping, we experienced blowing problems in 40 to 50% haylage. In fact, it was impossible to fill the front of the pull-behind wagon. About this time, Field Queen was taken over by the Hesston Corp. After repeated letters and phone calls to the company in the last year, some updates have been made — a new drive clutch, a fuel tank that's easier to fill, a hydrostatic reservoir that doesn't leak and a speed-up fan pulley have been installed. Poor workmanship in the cab area can never be corrected. And, a different blower housing, neck and spout are needed before the machine

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