

20 minutes, he was out to find the trouble. It was a faulty injection pump which was replaced at once."

**Gordon Mamer, Brawley, Calif.:** He's well pleased with his Chevrolet 4 by 4 1/2-ton model 77 "Short Bed" pickup. "Second one I've owned in the last 3 years. They don't give any problems and run very cool, which is important when you live in the Imperial Valley. Has good power and rides comfortably. I run radial tires for comfort. In 4 wheel drive and pulling a loaded wagon, this truck will go right through a soft disked field."

**Don Johnson, Kingston, Ill.:** "I recommend not buying anything over the phone when you don't know what the product is," advises Don, who is disappointed with "Super Concentrate cleaner and degreaser made by Chemical Industry . . . This detergent, which was supposed to do a super job in my high pressure

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cleaner, wouldn't cut grease off the tractor engine even when water was boiling hot. I bought this product from a high pressure salesman who called me late in the evening when I was half asleep."

On the plus side, Don nominates an Avco New Idea 708 diesel with hydrostatic drive, 717 combine and 738 corn head as his best buy. "Had to put a speed-up kit on the straw chopper for soybeans. I did have trouble blowing hydraulic hoses on the tractor unit, but the dealer and company have stood behind the machine 100%. I also bought a new John Deere 4630 last fall and it's working good so far."

**Aaron Shirk, Lebanon, Pa.:** He's disappointed with his "Husky liquid manure spreader. Power shaft runs on a hard slope from the tractor to the tank. Bearings blow out. Spreader hitch can't turn short and the spreader fan doesn't spread manure uniformly. Wheels are too narrow so that the spreader sinks too deep in fields. It unloads too slow."

Aaron nominates a 12 ft. offset Bush Hog model 146 disc harrow as a "best buy". "It's a tough, heavy duty disc that really goes in. Does a level job. Has backup plates between the disc plates and spools to prevent breaking. The disc also has 12 bearings whereas some popular brands have only 8. Disc balances when in the transport position. Weighs 25% more than some popular brands, yet costs approximately 20% less."

**Maynard Wanner, Dickinson, N. Dak.:** He notes that his Deere stack wagon is "one of the best machines I've purchased. No breakdown at all for 2 years. It works on any type of feed you want to put up — hay, straw or stover. You also can pick up chaff

poles."

**Lloyd Justiss, Daingerfield, Texas:** "My worst buy was a 1505 Massey Ferguson with all factory options. A rod went out at 71 hours. Clutch bearings out 3 times at 265, 630 and 748 hours. Planetary gear housing broke at 581 hours . . . Differential assembled four times before it worked. Fuel gauge broken when delivered. First filling of diesel went onto the floor mat . . . Transmission slips out of gear. Completely down 37 weeks out of the first 91 — 40% of the time. No time has everything worked. Auxiliary hydraulics never worked properly. No fuel problems with 7 other Massey Ferguson diesel tractors and few other problems since 1949."

**David Billiar, Filer, Idaho:** He notes that his Hesston Model 6400 windrower "does all that I expected. Lays down a uniform, easy baling windrow and you can really eat the hay — down or tangled. Probably the best feature is the hydrostatic drive which can be disengaged for towing."

**Robert Weiler, Mt. Gilead, Ohio:** "It's a real plow," he says of his International 720 automatic reset six 16 in. plow with "on land" hitch. "With its 33 in. clearance, we have plowed heavy stalks in light rain. The reset works perfect with no maintenance. We have fairly rocky soil but we haven't broken or loosened a point yet. The on-land hitch takes getting used to. In wet, sticky conditions, you are in trouble. But, let it get dry on top and you really can move. The plow is the best of a trailing plow and a semi-mounted as far as handling."

Robert is disappointed with his 52 ft. New Idea bale elevator. "It was off balance so bad that they wanted to put a weight box on the foot end with 140 lbs. in it. If you got it within 15 ft. of the ground it folded up, bending everything. I called the main office 3 times and the last time I got real action."

**Walter Schmidtke, Wheaton, Minn.:** "I'd recommend it to anyone who is thinking about a plow," says Walter of his International 710 automatic reset plow. "I have plowed some of the rockiest land around here and have no breakage. Very well made and well worth the money."

Walter is disappointed, however, with his "Massey Ferguson Model 655 Swather with 15 ft. table. First the main drive pulley for the table fell off in the first half hour of use. Then, the main drive belts kept stretching and jumping off. The dealer gave me new belts and I put them on and they still keep stretching. Next, both hydraulic motors broke loose from the frame and the welder had to be brought out to the field because I couldn't move the machine. I also ruined a cross-shaft between them and that had to be built up and turned on a lathe. Then, the puller on the hydraulic lift pump came loose and ruined the pump shaft. The dealer gave me a pump but I had to put it on. Next, a pin fell out of the steering linkage and I had to walk one-half mile to get one. Last, but not least, the engine will not cool on real hot days. I have told my dealer about the cooling problem and he had a whole list

of warranty things to check on it. That was a season ago, and I have been after him 3 times since then and he never did show up. Very, very poor service. On the plus side, it is a very nice handling machine and has

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a good floater header system but I don't know if I would buy another one. Just too much trouble for \$8,000."

**Robert Noggle, Plainfield, Ill.:** He notes that his 2470 Case "performs well but has a shrill whistle noise which we have had poor results in getting corrected. The noise is still there and the company says they do not know what to do to correct it. It's very hard on the ears to listen to all day."

Robert adds that he is well pleased with a Port-Align precision drill guide which he purchased from Sears Roebuck for \$9.95. "This attachment fits in a 3/8 or 1/4 in. electric drill for drilling holes in exact center and straight through shafts or pipe. Has many uses and really worth the money."

**Marvin Lapp, Wapato, Wash.:** He's disappointed with "Nuflex plastic irrigation tubing. It was claimed to save labor, but, in my opinion, it is harder work than siphon tubes and dams used previously. The only thing it did do that was claimed was to save water. It's a mess to get rolled up at the end of the irrigation season when its got an inch of muddy silt in it."

Marvin nominates Monsanto's Roundup weed killer as a "best buy": "It kills weeds with one application that would take 2 or 3 of another chemical to do the same job."

**Lawrence Schluter, Armstrong, Ill.:** He's disappointed with "the Posi-Depth gauge wheels" on his 8-row International 500 Cyclo planter. They will not work well on plowed stalk ground. Roots get wedged in between and they drag more than they turn."

Lawrence lists a 653 Deere row crop soybean header (six 30 in. rows) as one of his best buys: "This head will consistently cut lower than anything we have seen, including floating cutter bars. Also, operator comfort is outstanding, especially at night. Eliminates reel shatter and hypnosis of watching the reel. Almost impossible to get rocks in separation because the slip clutch will slip when rocks get between the gathering belts. Each row unit flexes individually so it cuts lower on uneven ground. Together with electric header control, the operator can do a better job and be relaxed."

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Lawrence also lists a Deere 121 OA Grain Cart as a best buy: "By unloading the combine on the go most of the time, we feel we gain as much as 20% while combining corn. It holds 400 bu. and unloads in less than 5 min."

**Russell McClellan, Butler, Ind.:** Heading his "best buy" list is a Lely Roterra model 300-30. "I like it because the rotor tines work the soil as desired. Soil is not reversed — top soil stays on top and moisture stays below, making an ideal seedbed and leaving the ground more level. The stirring action assures thorough mixing of fertilizer and chemical with the soil. Gives me real good weed control."

**Dennis Carlson, Akron, Iowa:** "It must be a Friday or Monday car," he says of his 1978 Ford Fairmont four door car. It's equipped with air conditioning, power brakes and power steering. "They advertised 33 mpg and I'm getting 15 to 16 mpg. Automatic transmission is leaking fluid. The reverse gear doesn't work correctly. Rubber seals on all windows are falling out."

**Stephen Lacina, Iowa City, Iowa:** "My next new tractor will be another Massey," says Stephen, who couldn't be happier with his recently purchased MF 1155 tractor: "This tractor has a V-8 diesel engine that outlugs any tractor I have owned."

Stephen would like to see some design changes on the Deere 1600 chisel plow he purchased. "The gauge wheels were mounted under the frame so that deep penetration was not possible. The dealer mounted them on the back, but then the wheels gathered mud and lifted the plow out. The plow needs a stub frame on front."

**Tyrell Furman, Savannah, N.Y.:** "It appears to be a well designed and tested machine," says Tyrell of his Kan-Sun continuous flow dryer. "The only problem we encountered was with some bad diodes on the moisture control printed circuit board, which is somewhat sophisticated electronically and requires service by a technician."

On the negative side, he's disappointed with his "White 4500 Plant-Aire 4-row corn planter. The Plant-Aire is not a plateless planter as we were led to believe. The only difference between it and a plate planter is that air holds the kernel in the plate cell which is in a vertical plane, rather than gravity in the conventional horizontal plate. Thus, one plate will not plant all sizes of corn seed effectively. After 200 acres, the shafts that drive the plates in the in-

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