

“Best” and “Worst” Buys (Continued from page 9)

dividual units were worn out, and the bushings that hold them. The drawbar was too short and too light in construction. The electrical lines going to the individual units are not protected and subject to physical damage, as well as corrosion from fertilizer. Most importantly, we lost income due to a poor corn stand from skips and doubles which I believe are attributable to poor design and not thorough enough testing.”

Fred Trefz, Cardington, Ohio: “When you invest that much money for automation and have to babysit with it, there is something wrong,” he says of his “American grain dryer (Model 1706). It only ran 8 hrs. the first day and then the hours got shorter. We burned up three unloading motors. The agri-electric unit wouldn’t quit unloading and a high limit switch was bad. This all happened in a period of one week or two. To get our crop dry, we had to push the start button on every load or check it. You couldn’t trust it to run.”

On the plus side, Fred applauds American for “an excellent serviceman. He was great. The company was going to charge us service calls but we called our salesman and he changed that situation. When you buy a product with a one year warranty, you expect no charges for their products that don’t work. The serviceman spent last Thanksgiving day here working to get us running. Our hats off to him for the good service.”

Teddy Grabinski, Orr, N. Dak.: A seed cleaner made by Forever Industries, Winnipeg, Can., heads his “best buy” list. “It does a good job of cleaning. Has full capacity and is easy to clean out for certified seed, or for cleaning different kinds of grain. Well pleased with it. It’s well built.”

He’s disappointed with “a Wil-Rich 8-18 moldboard rigid frame trailing plow which I bought in Sept., 1976. Since then, it has ruined 3 righthand rear tractor tires. The company paid for 2 of the tires but did not pay for the solution I lost in the same tires. It’s impossible to turn to the right with it when you lift it out of the ground, or even on a straight-ahead if the ground slopes to the right. The plow will slide sideways and catch the tractor wheels.”

Herman Hubbard, Jr., Coughatta, La.: His International tractors — a 1586 and two 1086 models — earned “best buy” nominations for these reasons: “Good pulling power, large fuel tanks and good service from the dealer.”

Paul Wiebusch, Goodhue, Minn.: “The dealer I got this machine from has done his part. But what gripes me is that they advertise this thing at the State Fair as the biggest machine in the world,” says Paul of the 760 Massey Ferguson combine which he purchased used last August. “Paid

\$40,000 for it. This thing is not built for the hills I live in. When you fill the hopper with shelled corn, weight of the combine and corn is just too hard on the drive belts and transmission. One other thing — it just doesn’t eat high moisture corn like it should. I got a new 16 ft. grain table with it, and a floating sickle which I really like for beans.”

Paul also registered disappointment with the riding comfort of his new 1086 International tractor. “I like the cab on this new tractor. What I don’t like is that it is about the worst rough riding tractor I’ve ever been on and it does not have the power it should have. I’ve had it back once but no results. . . . The one thing I did buy which I really like is a cattle waterer that runs without any heat in it,” says Paul.

Robert Imhof, Ferndale, Wash.: “They’re extra heavy duty and work just like the salesman said they would. After one year, we have not had a bit of trouble with them,” says Robert of the new Aggro stalls he and his brothers purchased for their new milking parlor.

He’s unhappy, however, with performance of “the Surge milking

“They’re heavy duty and work just like the salesman said they would.”

equipment we purchased for the new parlor. First of all, the QTO which was supposed to take the inflations off automatically has never worked properly all at one time. Hoses are too long and drag on the floor, and cut off the vacuum on big uddered cows.”

Larry Eakins, Lafox, Ill.: He’s happy with a Johnson tank heater. “Does an excellent job of keeping the water warm in my hog waterer, and doesn’t blow out in the wind.”

He’s unhappy, however, with a 15½ ft. Cook offset disc which he purchased from an area Case dealer. “The dealer said I would be able to pull it easily with my 1370 Case tractor. But even when fully weighted with duals (20.8 by 38), it doesn’t have enough traction to pull this disc when it is fully in the ground. Also, the scrapers are made in such a way that corn stalks plug it up even in dry ground. This isn’t helped any by the close blade spacing — 8¼-in. The hitch is so short the tractor wheels hit the disc on short terms.”

Day Nichol, Indiana, Pa.: “It’s economical and easy to operate. Very satisfactory,” he says of his new

Moridge grain dryer.

Massie Brothers, Louisa, Va.: Heading their “best buy” list is a Big Jim unloader from Jamesway. “We had this silo constructed in August and filled in September. The Big Jim did a splendid job leveling and packing while filling, and is doing a splendid job unloading a high quality feed. It has saved us feed and labor.”

Donald Meierhofer, Minonk, Ill.: He reports that his 4WD Steiger Panther III 310 “has done everything I was hoping for in a tractor this big. Dealer has been very good on service and the company has done a great job of updating all items they felt may cause a problem later on.”

Donald adds that “I haven’t really had a bad product for a few years now. The last poor product was 12-row Cyclo IHC Model 500 planter. The dealer would try to service what he could but the company did not do a thing. They knew the planter was wrong because the company made a large number of changes the next year on this planter.”

Sam Scarlett, New Market, Tenn.: Thanks to good service, he’s happy with his 2000 gal. Mueller Model OH bulk tank. “We bought the tank from our dairy supply dealer and, although we’ve had several minor problems, he has been quick to take care of it and the company has been good to back the dealer on it.”

Robert Deidrich, DeKalb, Ill.: “This monitor really takes the guesswork out of spraying chemicals,” he says of the Dickey-john sprayer control-monitor. “I determine the gallons of product per acre I wish to apply, set a dial, turn the switch to automatic and then travel at any speed desired. The monitor does the rest, making sure I don’t over or under apply costly chemicals.”

Robert registered disappointment with a ¾ in. electric Black and Decker drill. “The chuck on the drill is poor quality. Drill bits slip and won’t tighten enough to hold bits tight. This is very time consuming and often causes small drill bits to break.”

Robert Warner, Iowa Falls, Iowa: Here’s how he sizes up the 3 DMI 450 bu. side dump gravity wagon he owns: “They have the steepest slope of any wagon that size on the market, they turn short and have breaks on four wheels.”

John Nauwerth III, Lakefield, Minn.: He’s well pleased with a “Lampert LS open ridge confinement hog finishing building. Makes hog chores real easy. Pigs do good. No problems getting it built — 69 days from bare ground to completion. Also purchased a Mix-Mill automatic feed grinder. Saves 95% of the labor required in feedmaking.”

John adds that he’s disappointed with “a 5 Star Tiller Rod. Plugs up with trash real easy.”

Jeff Moravits, Prairie du Chien, Wis.: “It picks up down hay with very little plugging. Can mow at high

speeds. Does a good job with very little vibration and rattling”, he says of his “best buy” New Holland Hay Bine.” The only disadvantage we have found is that it picks up rocks, causing breakage of sections and guards.”

Richard Kouba, Regent, N. Dak.: “Our best buy the past year was a slightly used Model 3000 Deere double offset disc. It’s a 15 ft. model and

“Does the job we wanted it to do for a price we could afford.”

we bought it for \$2,000. I’m not saying this is the best disc made but it does the job we wanted it to do for a price that we could afford.”

Stanley Bloomstrand, Buckley, Ill.: He nominates his Allis Chalmers 720 tractor with a 60-in. mower as one of his “best buys”: “The tractor has plenty of power to handle the mower in tall, wet grass. All controls are well located and easy to use. It would be easier to maneuver in tight places if it had power steering and a quicker steering ratio. The mower is virtually plug-free under all types of mowing conditions.”

Gene Shoup, Bonfield, Ill.: He’s happy with his 1586 International tractor, noting that “it’s the best improvement in a tractor I have seen. Has plenty of power and handles very nicely. The tractor cab is very quiet. It’s equipped with an AM-FM radio and is the first cab I could even enjoy FM radio in because it is so quiet.”

“The advertisement sounded good but the disc did not live up to it,” says Gene of his “Deere 220 centerfold disc — 21 ft. 6 in. cut with 22 in. cone blades. The scrapers bend down and cut the spools in half. The frame has bent and busted several times. Hydraulic system has given out several times.”

Douglas Purser, Monroe, N. C.: “I recommend it highly,” says Douglas of his double offset Amco 21 ft. flex-wing harrow. “I especially like the way it leaves the land level. It also does a good job of soil penetration and I have had no trouble whatsoever.”

Ralph Andler, Renfrew, Pa.: “It does a good job and is well made. Folds up to around 12 ft. - this is about the narrowest we have found,” says Ralph of his 17 ft. Kewanee 1000 series disc harrow.