

"Best" and "Worst" Buys

(Continued from page 9)

made. I really like the diesel engine. It does an excellent job of cleaning corn, beans or small grain."

Jake adds this comment about his Ford 4000 tractor: "This tractor has a good engine. That's it. The selector transmission has been completely rebuilt twice in 2 years. The lift doesn't work properly and has been worked on twice, including one complete overhaul."

Herbert Cross, Afton, Neb.: "We've been satisfied with our equipment but the parts situation from most companies is very poor. They are very slow in getting them out. Parts are about 95% of the machine's worth," says Herbert. He's happy with his new Surge pipeline (deluxe model) milker: "It works very good and has cut our milking and cleanup time about 1 hr. each day. Service is very good."

Alvin Hoffman, Demotte, Ind.: "I have no one worst product to complain about but would like to see more quality control on new machinery. Many times there are bolts or other items that are not tight or properly aligned and it takes several days to correct. At the prices paid for new machinery, it should be made better," says Alvin. His "best buy" nominations are a Deere 853 soybean header — "Our irrigated soybeans get quite tall and have been a hassle to harvest until we used the new bean head. It does an excellent job of feeding with no problems." — and a 986 International tractor — "Too had it took so long to improve the cab. I'm well satisfied with noise level, handling and power."

George Cypert, Hillsboro, Tex.: He's well pleased with his Gleaner F combine: "The cab is real quiet and the engine and separator have been real good. It's easy to service and maintain and I like the dealer's service. My only complaint is that the brakes are poor."

Orval Baum, Lytton, Iowa: He's happy with his White 5400 Aire planter: "This planter has performed very good for me. It's equipped with a Dickey-john seed monitor which is very accurate to establish a seed count for plant population. And, for a high speed planter, this is it."

Orval adds that his White 7300 combine "had lots of bugs in it. Had to replace several bearings and a couple of sprockets. Last season, I replaced three new water pumps on the motor. If you can hold it together, it does a good job combining."

Donald Murray, Milan, Mich.: "We purchased an International 1800 tandem truck which we like except for the heater. The truck pulls out of wet fields nicely and carries a good load."

Here's how Donald sizes up his Deere 6600 combine, purchased a year ago last fall: "The straw chopper shook the combine to pieces. The cab is real dirty inside and we had trouble with the brakes. We had a lot of trouble trying to cut grain with the flexible cutter bar. The machine does do

good work in corn. Dealer service is poor."

Jacob Lind, Argyle, Iowa: He says his Kewanee hydraulic wing field cultivator "has performed satisfactorily, except in harder soils. Six-inch sweeps wouldn't penetrate. Would like to see more downward float in the wings. Also, larger wheels on the wings."

Vernon Munson, Brunswick, Mo.: "I have had very poor results from the use of Baldwin filters. I had a Deere 4630 tractor engine lock up from a gasket failure on the Baldwin filter. The company gave me very poor service."

Don Tietjen, Bellevue, Iowa: "Great and invaluable" is how he sizes up his "best buy" Lely Roterra tillage tool: "We have found it leaves a perfect seedbed. Even on clay hills, where planter tracks left corn hills open, they were covered, resulting in a near perfect stand. The ground retains moisture and doesn't wash even though it's loose and great to cultivate."

Lynn Metcalf, Leslie, Idaho: He nominates Frantz TP Oil filters as one of his best buys: "This isn't a new product — We've used it on our ranch for about 20 years. We don't drain the crankcase oil as this filter will keep the oil clean enough for continuous use. We have had very good success with it and have had no motor repairs because of poor lubrication. This last

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year, we started using synthetic and synthetic blend oil in some motors and this is better yet. You generally have to set the idle speed down when you use synthetic oil as it is slicker and the motor runs faster. With the no-drain system we use, I figure the expensive synthetic oil is less costly in the long run, especially with a motor in good condition. The oil is renewed to some extent as you add new oil when needed, and also a quart when the filter element is changed at about every 3,000 miles, or at 60 to 100 hrs. on a 100 hp diesel tractor. We save the used filter elements to start fires in our fireplace."

Harvey Gilbert, Powell, Wyo.: Commenting on his new 1977 Massey Ferguson 750 combine, he listed "the things I did to get it in field condition. Bearings on the pickup drive were on wrong, put new switch on variable drive. Had to get Chevrolet dealer to fix air conditioning. Had to fix filter holder. Shaft of pickup bent. Repaired warning lights. Hydraulic pressure low. Dealer fixed straw walkers. If I can get them to fix the transmission, I'll be in business — I hope."

William Collins, Myrtle, Miss.: He's well pleased with his Love Till-All tillage tool. "It has heavy duty spring teeth in front of the stalk cutters. You can go into raw pasture land and make two passes and plant. The manufacturer stands behind the product and parts are readily available. No bed is too hard or high to knock down and pulverize in one pass."

William notes that "my 300 bu. Eddins bean buggy is built strong and heavy but they goofed on the pto clutch. We have to kill the engine, put the pto in gear, then start the engine to prevent the clutch from slipping."

Earl Miller, DeKalb, Ill.: "We've never owned a piece of equipment that needed such little field adjustment and does such a good job," he says of a new Deere 21 ft. level action disk. "Toward the end of corn planting, a shower of rain made the ground too damp to pull the 24 ft. drag we had been using. It would load up. So, we unhooked it and disked without the drag. The disk did a nice, level job."

Robert Ayers, Whitehall, N.Y.: He nominates a Surge energy converter as his best buy: "It has been hooked up since Sept. 15. With a little re-plumbing, the milk tank compressor, together with the Surge energy converter, has furnished all the hot water to wash my cows' udders and to supply very warm water to my electric water for washing milk equipment. Wish I had an electric meter to pinpoint the actual savings."

Sam McGhee, Scott, Ark.: "To cut soybeans lower and more even, I bought a 20 ft. Deere floating platform. This has been a very good investment. My worst investment was a Til-Rod attachment to go on the disk to level ground behind it. It might work on field cultivators or similar equipment but wouldn't work behind the disk."

Coy Moxley, Jr., Bel Air, Md.: He says his 1977 510 Massey Ferguson combine "does a very good job and is very nice to operate if you can stand the noise. I can't see any reason for a machine of this price and supposed quality having a cab so noisy as this. My 1972 510 was much quieter and pleasant to operate. This machine's cab is a headache and no credit to the company."

Coy adds that he's well pleased with a 10,000 bu. Stormor bin with Stirator, fan and heater. "It has been a pleasure to work with. It was dealer installed and was done very satisfactorily."

Howard Spoerl, Weston, Ohio: "Excellent" is how Howard sizes up performance of his 8600 White combine with 15 ft. header: "The hydrostatic drive floating cutter bar and header control are important to have and work very well. It's well put together. I never did run this combine as fast as it would take grain."

Robert Wiley, Jr., Boone, Colo.: On the plus side, he notes that his Allis Chalmers Model 93 6-row cultivator is "the best weed control we've tried. It's easy to adjust. We have always had trouble cultivating small corn. With this rig, we can move at 3½ to 4

mph. It gets the weeds, leaves a very fine mulch and doesn't bury or cut out corn."

On the minus side, Robert is disappointed with a "Fox model 6200 self-propelled chopper. It was not designed to straddle 30 in. irrigated rows. Corn, wet or dry, would not feed into it. It had to be modified

"It had to be modified twice by factory men before it would work."

twice by factory men before it would work. They both knew what to do — so why put an unmodified machine in the field in the first place? The rubber feed bands do not last. Used 3 sets in one season. The hay pickup won't pick up light alfalfa windrows. Extension blower pipe collapsed and deflector cable was too light. Broke at the start. Perkins diesel engine was excellent. Good cab. Dealer did all he could do to rectify Fox's bungles."

Lo Beddard, Snowhill, N.C.: He's sold on Monsanto's herbicide Roundup: "It will really get Johnsongrass and Bermuda grass when used as directed. I have used different material over the years and none of the others have worked. Roundup has."

Also on his "best buy" list is a Ford 7700 tractor: "It has even more power than its rating. Visibility from the flat deck is real good, as well as riding comfort. Fuel consumption is excellent. I am well pleased."

Tom Simbro, Hillsboro, Ohio: "The International 720 is the best plow I've ever owned. It has plenty of clearance for the heavy trash and the toggle trip bottoms work as advertised. When you put this plow into the ground, it stays there. No shallow plowing in the hard clay banks, no trash showing anywhere and the furrows break up uniform in all types of soil."

Wayne Ralls, Bennett, Iowa: The Kinze rear-folding corn planter toolbar he read about in FARM SHOW heads his "best buy" list: "I'm well satisfied. It's a 12 row (30 in. spacing) and folds to 14 ft. in only several seconds. At present, this hookup is far ahead of any competitors in design and price."

Laurence McCall, Mesa, Wash.: "I tried some of the new Toro rotary, gear-driven sprinkler heads which are touted as being far superior to and much more durable than the usual impact sprinklers. However, I had very poor results with them — only functioned properly from 1 to 2 months. I get years of use from my Rainbirds. One nice feature of the Toro head is that tall crops don't interfere with its rotation."

Commenting on his recently-purchased Deere 4430 tractor, Laurence notes that "it's strong, very versatile and is probably the handiest tractor to control that I've used re-