

Fred Ifft, Jr., Fairbury, Ill.: He nominates a Century heavy duty arc welder with high frequency arc stabilizer as a "best buy": I farm 750 acres with a brother-in-law and have a farm shop. I also make bean walking machines in the off-season. This new welder has infinite amperage control and 250 amps DC for using the low hydrogen rods to weld the harder steel used in the newer machines. Another feature is the force cutting tap which enables gouging metal that is broken or cracked and then welding without disassembling from the machine. I found the welder to do everything it is supposed to do."

Fred is disappointed with "an Aldens 10 x 10 ft. storage building. The metal is so thin that my finger dented it just to pick up the panels when I was trying to assemble it." Other purchases on his "best buy" list include a 62 ft. Hutchison 8 in. grain auger, on which he mounted a hydraulic motor on the winch assembly to raise and lower the auger without getting off the tractor, a Deere 150 tractor loader and a Dietrich 300 bu. side-unload wagon with rear wheel surge brakes: "This wagon trails real well and is made with heavy gauge metal throughout. We left our 300 bu. Gooseneck trailer set last fall and used the 4WD pickup to pull the Dietrich wagon."

Dean Sharp, Rexburg, Idaho: "Since switching to John Deere equipment, everything has been running quite smoothly," says Dean, who is particularly pleased with his Deere 6600 Side Hill combine and the service received: "It performed exceptionally well. Never before has harvest time been such a joyful and relaxing experience. The combine was a dream to operate and the 200 series header performed marvelously. But aside from the praise I have for the machine, I have tenfold more praise for the service we re-

find we must heavily consider the service we will receive even more than the machine when making purchases. Our Deere dealer is Farmers Equipment, in Rexburg."

Marvin Bacon, Cherokee, Kan.: He's disappointed with a Superior grain bin he bought last summer. "There were no instructions on how far to put the unloading auger into the concrete floor, and a piece to keep the auger from working back and forth in the auger tube was missing. Got no answer to my letter when I wrote and asked about it. There were no instructions for the unloading auger in the center of the bin and it was put together wrong. After so long, the bin salesman, who is a farmer, came and took it apart and drilled some new holes so we could mount the motor. The manhole lid in the roof has no inner-liner to keep grain from running out if the lid is opened when the bin is full."

Duane Hinkle, Lockridge, Iowa: Commenting on his "Hoffman Nutri-Seal bottom unloading poured concrete silo", he notes that "these are the good things about it—ground control cables, does not plug while filling, above ground access tunnel, fills in the side rather than the top, and it has a roller track to slide the hopper and discharge auger back when servicing the unloader. My dealer, Carl Graber, has given me good service."

Features which he feels would improve the silo include: "The roof lids don't seal the air out and there is spoilage between layer fillings. The silage discharge auger fills with silage between feedings and takes 1 to 10 minutes to clean out. The unloading auger stalls when feeds settles and the unit has to be run forward and backwards to get it started."

Duane says he is well pleased with his Farm Eze belt silage feeder and bunk. "It's more expensive than many other feeding systems but worth it. It has few moving parts, good quality construction and is dependable no matter how cold it gets. It is built so that high velocity winds don't blow feed away before it gets into the bunk. Very little service work is required to keep it running."

Duane adds that "every cow needs a space to eat. Otherwise, medium size cows or heifers can get pushed into the bunk and end up on their backs."

Don Dann, Ulysses, Kan.: A Bish header adapter kit he read about in FARM SHOW was his "best buy" nomination: "The Bish head changer, which allowed us to use an 8-row Deere corn head on our L Gleaner combine, worked great. We're in a Southwestern corn borer area and have to handle corn that is from 30 to 90% lodged. The Deere header does a superior job of gathering the crop."

Russell Hansen, Moses Lake, Wash.: He notes that his "best buys" include two International 620 grain drills, the herbicide Basagran, and adding an automatic reverse to a center pivot irrigation system.

"The grain drills gave perfect stands in wheat, barley and soybeans in speeds up to 6 mph. On the minus side, they need a heavier hitch,

which I reinforced. I enjoy the large hoppers. Applying Basagran post-emergence to soybeans gave a 100% kill on mustard. Adding the automatic reverse control eliminated having to get up in the middle of the night to reverse a circle. Really works great when growing two crops in one circle which mature at different times."

Wesley Sanders, Boise City, Okla.: He's happy with "haystack hairnets" which he first read about in FARM SHOW. They work fine," says Wesley, who adds that "I really enjoy your magazine."

Clem Engle, Cochranville, Pa.: Commenting on his International 1586 tractor, he says, "The cab is the quietest I have ever ridden in and has good visibility. It has plenty of power to pull a chisel plow." Clem is disappointed, however, with his White 8-row air planter: "It did not hold planting depth good enough. Sometimes the seed would be 2 in. deep and then you could see some laying on top. The seed corn hoppers are not big enough."

Phillip Prickett, Jr., Mt. Holly, N.J.: "The removal of every other tooth on my F Model Allis Chalmers combine cylinder bars worked out real well. The machine worked easier, used 25% less fuel and did a cleaner job in corn. I learned of this in my first issue of FARM SHOW and I am well pleased."

Phillip adds that he had a disappointing experience with a 1066 International tractor: "It leaked hydraulic oil from the valve body under the seat from the first use. For this hydraulic leak, the dealer replaced the O-rings three times. He finally replaced the valve body and stopped the leak. The crank shaft and bearings went out because of restricted oil flow to the crankshaft. The dealer and IH backed up some of the problems but they all came about because of poor quality control and design. I bought the unit to work, not to sit in the shop."

Forest Kline, Barry, Ill.: He's pleased with performance of his TR-70 New Holland combine. "I've had very little trouble, and the service has been the very best." On the negative side, he registered disappointment with his Gleaner M combine: "Had so much trouble you wouldn't believe it, and the dealer and company would not stand behind it at all."

Eagle combine air conditioner: "Works real good. Don't know how I'd got along without it the first two years I owned the combine." Gerald Johnson, Hector, Minn.

Commenting on his "Watchdog grain loss monitor and tachometer," he notes that "I was never able to get it to count grain loss. A man from the company came out but that was after wheat harvest was over. And, the way he set it, it would not work on soybeans or corn so it didn't do me much good. Also, the sensing tube for straw walkers always plugged up with straw and wheat, and plugged the whole combine on soybeans, so I had to remove it. The first unit didn't work so they had to exchange it and I didn't have it for the first part of har-

vest. The tachometer works real good."

Surge cow flow trainer: "When I started feeding my dairy cows grain in the outside silage bunk, they quit coming into the milking parlor voluntarily. The trainer does a good job of bringing them in, including new heifers, without frightening them. It does not interfere with my tractor and blade while I clean off the holding pen or when I bring the calves in. It sure saves a lot of dirty boots." Arnold Schmeink, Carlyle, Ill.

Arnold notes that he "installed a Surge water softener in my milking parlor because the salesman said I could reduce my soap bill by one-third. The softener fails to regenerate properly. The serviceman comes out and it may work for a week or a month. This has happened four times in the past year."

Ace hydraulic-driven centrifugal pump: "It had enough pressure for spraying and agitation at all times, and I was able to mount it at the most convenient place on the tractor." Robert Hartigan, Princeton, Ky.

DMI Loc-Rail tractor duals: "These duals go on with no juggling. They line up every time and once on

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they stay tight. I can get them on or off 3 times faster than my old axle duals. Burton Cooper, Kanawha, Iowa.

On the negative side, he notes that his Mulch-Till Deere 1710 "wouldn't go through corn stalks behind the combine. The chisel plugged up. Cutting the stalks still had to be done in dry weather. Then, when it got wet, the disc kept plugging up with mud. Finally unbolted the disc and pulled it as a straight chisel to finish this past fall. Local dealers don't want to trade for it either. One year old and obsolete."

Coon implement trailer: "I used this trailer (model 8 by 28) to haul five large 1500 lb. bales of hay up to the barn. It is easy to load because it lays flat on the ground and has a gross weight capacity of 12,000 lbs." Charles Springer, Bluffton, Ind.

He also notes that "they didn't put the pins in the right place on my new New Holland bale mover Model 80 so I could use my quick hitch."

Owatonna model 260 win drower with 20.5 ft. header: "I simply can't praise this machine enough. I covered 1,000 acres without even a minor breakdown or repair. The float on this big header is fantastic and the hydrostatic 'power wheel' drive is great. The whole machine is very ruggedly built. Also, it's the fastest cutting machine I've ever operated."

W-150 Dodge 4 WD pickup with 360 engine: "The engine ran hot from

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ceived from the dealer. The only problem we encountered was due to overpaid, undertrained factory workers who forgot to install a simple lock ring in one of the final drives. It was toward evening when the problem surfaced, locking one front wheel. I made a phone call that night and our dealer's servicemen were at work on our combine bright and early the following morning. Downtime was limited to only a few hours instead of a crippling day or more."

Dean notes that "other makes of machinery may perform as well or possibly even better than our John Deeres. However, from our experiences with service from other machinery dealers in the area, we