

# "Best" and "Worst" Buys

(Continued from page 9)

the beginning. It was replaced. The second engine dropped two valves before it left the shop. The third engine is poorly tuned and very sluggish. After 9 weeks in the shop, it was driven 25 miles and the front axle went out. Two more weeks in the shop. Drove the truck home and noticed vibration. It is now back in the shop for more front axle repair." Leroy Robinson, Ashland, Ill.

He adds that he's pleased with "our full line of John Deere equipment and we like your FARM SHOW paper very much."

**Bladex herbicide:** "It didn't do what it was advertised to do. Didn't keep the weeds out of the rows (we banded it)". Marvin Lenz, Spring Valley, Minn.

Commenting on his new Deere 4400 combine, he notes that it has "fantastic capacity for its size, does excellent work and the diesel engine is very economical. It's easy to handle and cab comfort is exceptional. Only one minor difficulty was a faulty clutch arm which was replaced by the company."

**IH 800 Flex Frame 10-18 in. plow:** "Much better plow than the old IH Model 709-18 in. plow. Good depth control. Hope to have years of service from it." Albert Meyer, Gaylord, Minn.

**New Holland hay stacker 1048:** "It has performed very well in all the fields and has been 99% trouble free. The dealer was very good about fixing a minor thing and getting it back on the job. We stacked over 70,000 bales and were very pleased with it."

Raymo Alberico, Orland, Calif.

**John Anderson, Illinois:** He notes that his 220 Deere grain head "did an excellent job in drilled soybeans. When compared to the older model head, it was just super. If I had another brand of combine, I'd buy the Deere 220 header to put on it."

John wishes equipment suppliers would put better tires on tractors and other machines: "I can't understand why a big company like Deere would only put 6 ply tires on their 8630 tractor when they know it will be expected to do heavy work. We had to replace tires at only 500 hours and that is when we found out they were only 6 ply. I've looked at several other 8630's and they also had 6 ply tires."

**Homer Williams, New Ross, Ind.:** He is well pleased with his new GMC 3/4 ton pickup with the 454 motor, and with his International 400 Cycle 8-row planter: "Plants a perfect stand and as accurate a population rate as you could ask for". He is disappointed, however, in his "Kewanee 1020 wheeled disk. It does the poorest job of leaving the ground level of anything I have ever used. The springs on the hitch are too weak."

# Reader Letters

I want to express my pleasure with your paper. I am glad to see that good old American ingenuity still exists and you are providing free exposure. Also, I liked the review of last year's most popular products in your last issue.

Larry Powers  
Eagle Lake, Texas

As a charter subscriber, I've really enjoyed your magazine. I wonder if any business is manufacturing an irrigation ditch cleaner that trims off a chunk of sod or sediment that has filled in the side of the ditch? I'm referring to a ditch that is too big or deep for a regular V-type ditch cleaner. I would be interested in this product, or the address of a manufacturing company.

Duane Ramseyer  
Filler, Idaho

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** If any readers know of such a machine, please contact FARM SHOW, or write direct to Mr. Ramseyer.

Ken Monfort's comment about raising grain price by cutting back on fertilizer really caught my eye (Jan.-Feb. issue). I have been proposing that the USDA adopt exactly such a program.

The current liberal use of nitrogen fertilizers is a major factor in the enormous increase in the yields of recent years. Thus, a significant reduction in the use of synthetic nitrogen, through a rationing system, would certainly reduce the amount of feed grains produced. This would immediately result in a much stronger market price.

USDA economists can determine how much they wish to reduce the

1978 crop of feed grains, apparently about 10%. Agronomists can determine how much nitrogen it would take to produce the desired crop yield. Then, through ASCS, a certificate allowing the purchase of just the correct amount of nitrogen could be issued. No Federal subsidy; no increase in the bureaucracy. And minimal interference with the plans of the individual farmer-manager.

Farmers and farm organizations would support the plan. It is fair to all, both large and small farmers. All would have an equal chance at production; all would benefit by stronger market prices.

Dayton Nordin  
5612 Fairview Avenue  
Downers Grove, Ill.

Congratulations on your fine publication. Two items in your magazine which we have purchased and are very satisfied with are Clarence Trimpe's modified combine cylinder bars and the Rapid Roof product from the Conklin Company.

Don Sherper  
Elk River, Minn.

Really enjoy your FARM SHOW Magazine. Have found it very, very interesting and quite helpful. My favorite section is, "Best, Worst Buys." Wish you could enlarge this section so more comments and complaints could be printed. It's the only magazine that provides a section for us farmers to complain about factory service.

Melvin R. Albertson  
South Mills, N.C.

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