

hard to get in gear without gears clashing; the brakes were never any good, which makes the tractor hard to turn; the fuel tank is too small; back wheels wobble when driving down the road, which makes the tractor sway from side to side; front tires had air seep in between the plys, and had to be replaced; seals in the back main crankshaft bearing have been replaced three or four times and still leak; after seals were replaced, the tractor still consumed two quarts of oil in eight hours; lights do not function properly."

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Clayton Berg, Hendrum, Minn.: "I got a new 8430 John Deere. It does everything I planned for it to do. The Fargo Implement, Fargo, N. Dak., gives the best service for parts and repairs. I have been very satisfied with them."

An Illinois reader reports that in the past 12 months he has purchased "a used IHC 966 diesel tractor, used New Holland 469 Haybine and a new LHC 480 disc: No problems. Everything and everyone performed as expected."

Another reader cites his Big Bud tractor, from Northern Mfg., Havre, Mont., as his "best" buy: "A quality made tractor with very good service." A Wisconsin reader who didn't sign his name nominated a White 2105 tractor as his "best" buy.

As in previous FARM SHOW buying surveys, sloppy workmanship at the factory was a frequently mentioned complaint.

"The workmanship was lousy," says Louis Herdegen, Birdtail Ranch, Chinook, Mont., of his 1855 White tractor which he purchased new. "It was only half put together and was nothing but one big pain."

Louis is well pleased with two Ban-A-Fly electronic fly control units from the Schlueter Co.: "Have two in the farrowing house and they really are flashing and popping all the time. They surely seem to be doing their jobs of getting rid of flies."

Roger Kopp, Maiden Rock, Wis., says his 3200 IH Skid Steer loader "has leaked hydraulic oil somewhere from the first day I bought it. This leak has never been found by the dealer or company."

Heading his "best buy" list is an Ashland scraper for a 4-wheel drive tractor: "I build my own waterways and ditches. I had my doubts if I could pull it or not but it's no problem at all. The scraper holds 8 yds. heaped and 6 yds. level full. One set of hydraulic hoses is all that is needed for operation. It goes from load-haul-dump and back to load in one complete cylinder cycle."

Sloppy engineering prompted these comments from Thomas Small, Walton, Ind., regarding his recently purchased IH 1650 Hydro Cadet which he notes is "heavily built and does a nice job."

"A machine with a price tag this high should be close to perfect when leaving the factory. One little part — a metal depth regulator — stripped its thread the first time it was used. Such a shame to taint a good machine with one little cheap part. The steering linkage was set at the factory about 1/3 to the right. Changing it was nothing difficult but was aggravating on a brand new machine. The belt tightener has never worked good and never will with its design. We have ruined two belts already," Thomas explains.

He compliments Kewanee on their model 88 15-ft. cultimulcher: "It's heavily built. The transport wheels and linkage are superb. In the field, the mulcher flexes and yet, in transport position, it is rigid and does little flapping. Can be towed at 20-30 mph. Clearance between teeth and rear wheels is great — much more than other brands. This is about the fifth or sixth cultimulcher we have used, and this is the first that really did a great job. Many fields could have been prepared with one trip over."

Workmanship at the factory is very poor on this machine," says Randy Hobbs, Princeton, Mo., of his Deere 7700 combine. "I have had several welds break loose and nuts come off, causing a lot of down time. The thing that disappoints me most about the 7700 is that capacity is not big enough to handle the 8-row head well in all conditions. I have trouble putting grain over the back on hill ground unless I creep along."

Gerald Peinig, Portsmouth Iowa, likes the work his 11 ft. Crust Buster chisel plow does but faults the manufacturer's selection of three joint pins: "They're too light and bend in a few hours. You can't get the machine off the tractor. They need to be twice as heavy." Gerald's well pleased with his new Deere 7000 8-row Max Emerge Corn planter. "It's one of the best implements I've ever owned. Has good depth control and produces an even stand of corn and beans."

His "best buy" nomination is a new 21 ft. 330 Deere wheel disc which he describes as "just great. Super penetration. Level job. Very good herbicide incorporator. Gets under deep-rooted weeds such as milkweed. It was more expensive than other brands but well worth it."

"Corn planters and planter monitors showed up on buying surveys we received from the following FARM SHOW readers:

Marvin Hengelfelt, Stromsburg, Neb.: He reports that his Deere Max-Emerge planter (6 row) "fulfilled all expectations with the exception of a need for attachments to incorporate insecticide for rootworm control which I will have to add to the planter for next year as I had some rootworm damage this year."

Ralph Weems, Jr., West Point, Miss.: He's well pleased with a 12

row folding Deere toolbar frame which he equipped with 386 IH planter units: "I purchased the toolbar knowing that it had to be extended. By cutting the center section and welding in 24 in. of toolbar, this made a unit that was perfect for 12 34-in. rows. The bar was for 12 30-in. rows. We installed a Dickey-john monitor on the planter and didn't miss a row in 1700 acres." Ralph also put in a plug for his new 12-row IH 133 Vibra-Shank cultivator: "It's an excellent cultivating tool — no down time at all in two trips on 1700 acres."

Gary Ashburn, Blue Mound, Ill.: He notes that his IH 500 Cyclo 12-row planter "has three moving sections of 4 rows each. The four middle rows won't plant the same depth as the four outside rows on each side." Gary faults his Flowtron electronic fly killer, noting that it won't last more than 3 weeks until the transformer burns itself out. "He's pleased with a new 490 IH flex wing disk ("does a real nice job for a 32 ft. disk") and a Glencoe Soil Saver chisel plow ("covers the trash, doesn't plug up and opens the ground to stop erosion").

Milton Boline, Centerville, S. Dak.: He nominates his IH 400 Cyclo planter and the monitor that came with it as his "best" buy: "The monitor relieved me of the worry that the planter wasn't planting. As soon as one of the rows would plug the buzzer would go on and indicate which row wasn't planting. And,

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when I came to the end and raised the planter, the buzzer would sound so I would know it was working."

Milton adds that "there really wasn't any product that I was dissatisfied with. My wife is unhappy with Shout — says it doesn't do the job they advertise in removing spots from clothing."

Larry Johnson, Cologne, Minn.: "This machine gave me a perfect stand of corn and beans in one trip over last year's corn stubble, saving me time and expense, and conserving moisture," says Larry of the Buffalo Till Planter he bought new last March.

Jerry Grady, of Grady Farms, Syracuse, Ind.: He had problems with Demco fertilizer placement shoes on a new 7100 Deere Max-Emerge folding toolbar planter. "Due to the fact that they had to be installed between the seed placement disks, they placed the liquid starter fertilizer too close to the seed and, as the roots began to grow, the fertilizer burned the roots off. As a result, we had 300 acres of corn to replant. We have several neighbors who had the same condition and also know of sev-

eral other farmers in this area with the same problem."

Jerry is well pleased with a Deere 5400 self-propelled forage chopper: "We have had very good performance with a minimum of repairs and down time. The company has been very good about updating all weak and problem areas. The machine has excellent capacity and handles very nice."

Various types of haying equipment were the subject of buying reports from the following FARM SHOW readers:

Turner Ranch, Moore, Mont.: New Scotch Brand ATP-200 baler twine from the 3-M Co. didn't live up to his expectations: "This plastic twine just won't work in a New Holland SP 1282 baler," Kenneth Turner reports. "It shreds as it's pulled around the bale and then breaks."

On the plus side, Kenneth lists a Speed King 8 in. by 46 ft. pto-driven grain auger as a "best buy": "This auger has worked real nice and can unload a big load of grain into a tall bin in a hurry. It is built strong and should last a long time."

Patrick Birgen, Alcester, S. Dak.: "It took one year to the day when it ran right," says Patrick of his Deere 200 Stackwagon. "The thing was supposed to be new, but the way it ran and the service we got was terrible. Everything that went wrong, almost, was blamed by the company on the person who was running it." Patrick is well pleased with products and services from the Murphy Feed Co. "I tried their product several years ago and it is astounding the way they have progressed according to other companies. The service is also out of this world," says Patrick.

Norman Trost, Ronan, Mont.: "He reports "excellent results" with his New Holland hydrostatic self-propelled model 1112 swather: "The twin sickles allow me to cut much faster than my previous single sickle machine. The cab is comfortable, dust free and quiet with the exception of the hydrostatic whine." Norman is disappointed with his Deere baler model 466: "Since I've had it, the main pitman and shaft have had to be replaced. The cluster gear popped a tooth, allowing it to go out of time which broke both needles and split one knoter in half. The needle lift frame has had to be taken off and straightened, and several sealed bearings have gone out already."

Byron Boddy, Lovington, Ill.: He's unhappy with his Dodge W-300 truck: "This is a one-ton, 4-wheel drive, dual rear wheel model. The motor overheats. It has all the extra coolers etc. but gets hot. In fact, so hot the automatic fluid boils and the truck stops pulling. Dealer pats my head and shakes his but doesn't do anything. Factory doesn't know me. It also shimmies — but same answers."