

Copeland 320C and 450C tractors "at least 25,000 hours. They're equipped with Allison power shift transmissions—no clutch. They shift smoothly on the go under extreme loads and are built to last." Michael is disappointed with Deere's 6030 tractor (We have four of them and broke 8 axles, 5 differentials, 6 clutches and 3 transmissions) and Deere's 7700 combine ("too many internal moving parts; poor separation of grain and straw.").

That very same combine, however, was Earl Youngblut's "best buy" nomination. This Laporte City, Iowa, farmer says performance of his 7700 is "very good" and he's been particularly pleased with the dealer's service. He's also well pleased with his Deere 4630 tractor, despite a minor problem with the power shift which, he says, isn't as smooth as it should be, and which has had "lots of wiring problems. Comfort is excellent and it's enjoyable to drive."

"It's one of the best tractors we have ever bought," says Merle Hatzinger, Fall River, Wis., of his new International 1566. "No problems as of yet. Lots of power. Fuel use isn't too high and maintenance is easy. Cab is a little noisy."

An Iowa farmer is well pleased with his Massey Ferguson 1155 tractor equipped with an add-on M and W turbo charger: "It handles very good, the controls are handy, and it uses less fuel than the one we traded in. The cab isn't as quiet as I was expecting it to be, and it has a poor seat. I think MF should replace the springs with hydraulic or air ride."

An Indiana farmer says his "best buy" is a White 2-150 tractor: "We like the extra power it has to pull six 18 in. plows. We especially like the quiet cab with radio and air conditioning. Handles nice too." This same farmer wishes the frame on his model 1510 Oliver front end loader had been "beefed up" more "to stand the pressure on it from the hydraulic lift. It gets sprung out of shape."

New Holland's new TR 70 twin-rotor combine has been a big hit with Carl Sloan, Atlanta, Ind.: "Doesn't damage the grain, gets all of the grain out and puts it in the grain tank."

"I'm happy to say I've been satisfied with all my purchases. I try to get as much knowledge as I can on a product before I buy," reports Clarence Wichhart, Otley, Iowa. His "homework" paid off in the purchase of a Deere 6600 sidehill combine: "I like the sidehill feature because, when you're harvesting on sloping land, the machine is always level. You don't lose grain out the back of the machine. Saving 2 or 3 bu. or more grain per acre is money in the bank. Also, you don't have to slow down on hills so you save time as well as money."

An Iowa farmer is "sold" on his new Deere 654 soybean header: "Reduces shatter, and you don't have to worry about rocks as much. It's easy to operate and you can travel so much faster."

William Gallop, Boyne Falls, Mich., is well pleased with a Ford tractor he bought three years ago, except for the starter: "I've had to re-

build the starter about once a year. This is the only complaint I have on the tractor." Other new products on his "best buy" list are a Miller welder ("It's motorized with a power pack; I'd highly recommend it to anyone") and a 440 Whip snowmobile ("We use it for both recreation and work here on the farm. I don't think there's a better snowmobile made").

Here are other "best" and "worst" buys which showed up in our buying survey of randomly selected farmers:

**G.M.C. pickup 4 x 4:** "As of yet, the pickup has given excellent service. Visibility and ride are very acceptable. It was used last fall to pull wagonloads of corn in from the field. Also is used every day in cattle feeding operation and so forth." Kenneth M. Olson, Mt. Pleasant, Iowa.

**Chevrolet Silverado pickup:** "The hubcaps are made of a plastic material and were completely deteriorated after only 500 miles. We replaced them ourselves as they weren't covered under the warranty. The same thing happened again. We were completely disappointed with the General Motors Company for putting such junky articles on their top of the line pickup." Theo Russell, Corning, Iowa.

**New Holland 890 chopper with 3-row head:** "It has electric controls for the spout, and a throw-out clutch which works perfect. The hitch is set so the chopper pulls straight all the time, even in muddy conditions. By taking three 30 in. rows, you can use a

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big tractor with no problem knocking down standing corn. We chop at 1/8 in. and get perfect chopping without using a screen," reports Francis J. Zimmerman, Waseca, Mn.

**He also owns a Deere 350 sprayer:** "It has hydraulic-fold beams which the dealer never did get to work. It also has a hydraulic-driven pump which blew up every time we shut off the hydraulic system on the tractor. The pressure gauge operates on oil inside a diaphragm which makes it inaccurate most of the time."

**Germania automatic take off units for milking machines:** "Had 16 units installed in December of 1976. They've been working without any problem and have done a great job for me. They reduced the amount of labor to milk 375 cows almost in half—and I believe that we're doing a better job." Richard Call, Batavia, N.Y.

**Deere 650 side delivery rake:** "Several years ago, I bought an older model at a farm auction. It finally wore out so last spring I bought the new 650 model. It's bigger, stronger and greaseless. I have some steep sidehills and it will stay up on them real well while raking. Turning on ends is no problem—just pick it up

and turn around. Roading is no problem as you just lift and go. Easy on, easy off. My cousin liked the way my old one worked so well that he and I both bought new ones last spring," reports John K. Weiss, Dow City, Iowa.

Last year he had his local fertilizer company mix 2,4-D with 33-0-0 fer-

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tilizer to apply on pasture, primarily to kill thistles: "After applying, the weather turned cool and I didn't get results from the 2,4-D. The product and service were okay but the weather didn't cooperate so this is why I feel I had no results," explains John. "I know some others who have done this and had as high as a 90% kill. I will try the method again."

**New Holland 770 forage chopper:** "Works very well and has great capacity. I don't know what happened, but shortly after I got it the tongue bent. The dealer gave me another. I'm also very well pleased with my Jamesway belt feeder in the barn." Lauren Lidgerding, Elmwood, Wis.

**Welding rod from Co-ordinated Industries:** "I've been welding for years and this is far and above the best welding rod I have ever used. It makes the smoothest and longest wearing hardfacing weld that any part-time welder can apply. It is a more expensive welding rod than can be purchased in welding shops but well worth the extra cost." Ernest Ellis, Hillsboro, Ind.

He's been disappointed with a set of Goodyear steel belted radial tires he bought: "These tires were supposed to be 40,000 mile tires. Today, after only 21,000 miles, all 5 have been replaced."

**200 Deere stack wagon and mover:** "My 200 stack wagon operates just like it's supposed to. The first stack I made looked just like the picture in the operator's manual. I had a couple of parts go bad but my JD dealer took care of them on the warranty. Before using my stack mover, I wondered how you can get those big stacks up on it. It amazes me each time I use it how simple and well it works. I am well pleased with both machines. During the winter of 1977, with the high winds and blizzards, none of the stack tops were blown off. I am surprised they stood the way they did." James Carlile, Boswell, Ind.

**Mueller bulk milk tank:** "Within six months, the bolt that holds the agitator broke off twice and let the agitator drop down into the tank. One of the compressors also locked-up

within this period of time." George Woody, Snow Camp, N.C.

**New Holland 890 forage harvester:** "It's much easier to pull (requires less power) than competitive models. Has a 12 knife cutterhead and chops material extra fine without a recutter screen. Built heavy-duty throughout and a real pleasure to operate," reports Roy Embry, Eatonton, Ga.

He also passes along this "message" to the manufacturer of his Bou-Matic vacuum pump: "These vacuum pumps run too fast if they are set up to produce 100 CEM vacuum. The bearings go out at least twice a year, and the vanes wear out too quick, causing them to pump less vacuum, causing related problems such as slow milking, etc."

**Guy Roots custom silo filling operation:** "When it's possible to get this kind of service in the fall, when our herd is demanding more of our attention, we can't afford to take our equipment out of the shed. However, we do find it advantageous to use our John Deere blower powered by a 60 hp electric motor at the silo," says an Ohio farmer, who pays \$35 to \$40 per hour for hiring silage custom chopper with a 2-row New Holland chopper and 3 wagons.

**Deere 1640 disc harrow:** "Summer drought slowed down corn maturity and forced a late harvest in '76. Fierce winter kept us from doing much plowing. Result: 200 acres of unplowed red clay land this spring. Our soil can turn into a brick pile when spring plowed. The 1640 harrow penetrates dry clay too hard to plow and makes 25-30 acres of beautiful seedbed per working day. Look forward to using it behind small grain harvest to get corn in quick." Frank Walker, Orange, Virg.

**Bimco pickup hitch:** "It'll pull my 6 x 16 stock trailer without twisting and raising up in front." Arlan Schomaker, Greenville, Iowa.

**New Holland grinder mixer Model 354 with Art's Way Model 400 electronic scale:** "The grinder-mixer is very solid and well built. It runs smooth and quiet, and has more capacity than my old grinder mixer. The scale is convenient and easy to operate, and takes the guesswork out of grinding," reports Robert E. Brandt, Postville, Iowa. "I think another good buy is the Black and Decker Workmate—a sort of mechanized sawhorse which can clamp and hold irregular shaped pieces."

**Gehl 910 forage boxes:** "We're very well pleased with the construction and operation of these wagons." Barrie Hawk, Williamson, Pa.

**ILIS Preg-Chek:** "It has proven to be everything it's claimed to be. Very easy to use and I'm able to get 95% or better accuracy in pregnancy testing of sows and gilts. In spite of its cost, we thought it should well pay for itself by eliminating 'freeloaders' from our herd at least 30 days sooner than by eyeballing. The unit can also be used for checking backfat for replacement gilts, or maybe selling on grade and yield. Would highly recommend this unit to any hog farmer." Rick Wittmer, Valparaiso, Ind.