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Chatsworth, Ga., who says harvesting results with his IH 75 combine "have been excellent." Several minor "bugs" he wished engineers had taken care of include: "The cab isn't dust-proof or as quiet as we would like, the seat and steering wheel are poorly positioned, the ladder is very poor and the straw chopper belt won't stay on. It seems that for this money the engineers could have improved these things immensely."

George Taft, Versailles, Ill., offers this buying tip: "Buy equipment that gives the tractor a full load to get maximum productivity." Taft figures the extra money he spent for 30.5 by 32 tires on his 4-wheel drive Massey Ferguson 1805 was well worth it: "This tractor fits into our operation very well. We farm approximately 1,500 acres and use it for most of our heavy tillage." He's disappointed in construction quality of an R and W pre-cleaner he bought for his combine, conceding that "it performs okay and I'll continue using it."

Problems with accessory equipment caused some "old reliables" to get criticized. For example, Ralph Roschen, Lake City, Minn., says his 20 by 32 Harvestore for shelled corn "can't be beat", but he's unhappy with the bottom unloader that came with it: "If corn bridges a little, you can't get any feed out. Then it has to

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be opened and poked at until the corn will come out again. If we would have known this, we would have insisted on the haylage unloader. I may try to put in a Laidig Jr. unloader."

Wendel Vaughan, Mangum, Okl., says his new Gleaner F Combine was delivered with a faulty engine: After the engine replacement, he (the dealer) practically quit all warranty work."

Wayne Oliver, Loraine, Tex., gives Massey Ferguson a pat on the back for standing repair costs on his 1135 MF tractor, but faults the dealer for not "explaining in depth. At about 1,000 hours, a faulty gear dropped a tooth which busted up gears in the drive train. It stayed in the shop almost nine weeks. Ferguson stood behind the repairs, which is great."

Here are some lessons several re-

spondents learned in trying out new services:

"I got stuck for \$365 which was supposed to be subtracted from the first purchase. When I telephoned about it, they said sorry," reports Jim Smith, Jenera, Ohio, regarding the membership he bought in a farmers' buying service. "I dropped it."

Fritz Beissel, Hampton, Minn., says he isn't satisfied with the bolt service he bought from a salesman representing C-T-Engineering. "Never received all the bolts and they made me pay in full. Cost was \$166."

"I'll probably have to file suit," says Alan Simpson, Lewis, Kan., who signed up with a lease broker for irrigation equipment. They readily ac-

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cepted my check for their fee, then misrepresented nearly all critical aspects of the lease contract. There needs to be a way for a leasing applicant to check out the reputation of leasing agents, brokers and their companies."

"There was absolutely no improvement in quality of silage or reduction of loss," says Hiram Drache, Baker, Minn., who listed a "silage preservative" as his "worst" buy: "Nothing happened, which is what I expected because of all their results I have seen which warns that such products are not really what they are reputed to be. We had faith in the dealer and believed him."

Heading Drache's "best buy" list was a 12 in. Crisafulli sludge manure pump. "It really slurries the solids and cleans out manure pits as no previous pump did. It cost more but it works so it's the cheapest in the long run."

Here's a capsule summary of other "best" and "worst" buys nominated by farmers responding to our survey:

Farmhand "Air Pac" stacking system: "It has great capacity. Also, the stacks are larger and have a tendency not to lose their top in the high winds we get here," reports Lloyd Martens, Chadron, Neb. Martens, unhappy with a radiator pre-cleaner he purchased from Eagle Air Division, says he shipped it back and the company refunded his money.

Hog confinement unit from Total Livestock Confinement: "It appears to be everything they said it was," reports Walter Siemsen, Fairbury, Neb.

DMI 450 bu. center dump grain wagon: "The four-wheel surge brakes work real well. A full load unloads in 20 to 30 seconds. It's the first one I ever bought that held more than the manufacturer rates it," says Allan Zimmerman, Compton, Ill.

Fuerst 12 ft. flexible tine harrow: It

earned a "best buy" nomination from Mike Mikel, Barry, Texas, because "it can be used with the tines up, or turned over to use with the tines down. It can also be pulled from either side to change point of tines' direction." Mikel says he's disappointed with a Wizard cartridge loading grease gun: The threads in the barrel were cut faulty, causing the head to push off when the pressure rod is released."

Krause 21 ft. Flexwing disc: "It's ruggedly built and heavy enough to cut 200 bu./acre corn stalks. Does a good job on uneven ground," reports Darrell Tucker, New London, Iowa. On the negative side, he listed a "DMI adjustable moldboard plow," faulting it because "it pulls too hard and doesn't have enough moldboard to plow at the widest setting."

New Idea wheel-type rake: "A very good, simple but efficient machine," reports Tom Beal, Three Rivers, Mich. "Ground speed can be up to 7 mph. Doesn't have a tendency to roll stones into the windrow so, for chopping, it's a real knife saver."

Reinke Mini-center pivot irrigation system: "It's trouble free. Did the job they said it would," reports Lee Phelps, Schoolcraft, Mich. "I bought the 4½ in. system instead of 6 in. — much cheaper and it did the job."

Vermeer 504C big round baler: Works real good. It's a very easy, convenient way to put up hay for me, and

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also easy to feed the way I'm set up," says Danny Turner, Orangeville, Idaho.

Dickey-john planter monitor: "In years past, we had trouble with skip rows which, in turn, lowered our production," reports Gary Weeks, Silverton, Texas. He solved the problem with the new monitor. Weeks isn't happy, however, with a Nile 35 grain moisture tester which he purchased: "We made a test and, to our surprise, had corn that tested

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18%. So, happily we commenced harvest only to find, with the first return truck, that when our tester said 18% it might be 22%. Or, if it said 22%, it might be 18%. It would never be closer than 2 points. Moisture is

given by reference to a chart rather than a direct reading."

Field Queen forage harvester: "We've had good response to service problems, parts availability is good and we've had a minimum of down time," reports Kenneth Crandall, equipment manager for E.E. Sonnenberg and Sons, Sterling, Colo. On the negative side, he faulted Fairbanks Morse solid state magnetos which come on Caterpillar G333 natural gas

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irrigation engines." Crandall says the units "will only run two to three weeks. We've replaced them with better, less expensive and less complicated magnetos."

642 Ford combine — "It's well designed and I'm very well satisfied," says Wilburn Lundlum, Jr., Moran, Kan.

Several respondents who nominated "best" buys didn't want their names used. Their nominations included:

New Holland 850 big baler: "I do custom work and everyone I baled for had me back to do more, and they said it was one of the best balers they had seen."

Century trailer type field sprayer: "We have a 400 gal. tank mounted on it with a built-in agitation system. It's also equipped with a centrifugal pump for high volume spraying. The pump is mounted right on the sprayer with a power shaft to the tractor, which makes for fast, easy hookup."

John Deere 4430 diesel tractor: "Excellent tractor. The cab is very satisfactory. Easy to steer and great hydraulic system."

Nachurs plant food: "My experience has been super. The soil testing service that goes with it is the best I've seen."