

power for size, handling, and parts availability. In my book, Deutz is number one in all categories," says Doug, pleased with his Deutz 1976 100-03 and 100-06 tractors with 130 and 100 hp. respectively. "Both have 16 forward speeds with three below 1 mph which makes them excellent tractors to power pto-driven combines. I pull a 6601 Deere combine with the 100-06, picking up a swath from a 24-ft. Massey swather on around 1 gal. fuel per hour. I even twisted off the pto shaft in the combine while doing canary seed. With the bigger tractor, I pull a 32-ft. Deere vibrashank cultivator at about 5½ mph. for between 2½ to 4 gal. per hour, depending on depth and other conditions. The only complaint I have with either tractor is that the air conditioners are too small. I believe, however, that these foreign tractors provide a reliable and economic source of power for today's agriculture. With fuel and machinery costs going up and the price of our product down, even a gallon per hour can add up to substantial savings over a season."

**Louis Plaetz, Wabasso, Minn. :** "Mechanically the International 4000 swather simply was not designed to cut hay. We replaced more bearings in one year of operation than should have been necessary in five. In addition, the power unit leaked oil like a sieve. I traded the IH for a 6450 Hesston swather that makes an excellent windrow, cuts fast and has been mechanically troublefree."

**Paul Hess, Drumore, Penn.:** He's had trouble with a New Holland 303 liquid manure spreader with 3260 gal. capacity. "The spreader had problems on its first load when the brakes failed to function, causing a jackknife and pushing the front two bearings out of their mountings. The second day was a repeat of the first except we hauled nine loads before the brakes quit. The next problem was in the driveline which is equipped with a heavy number 60 chain running at 1,000 rpm's. The chain overheated and disintegrated, and when it spread it was disgustingly slow. The dealer ignored our complaints. Over the next six months we tried a double number 60 chain but finally ended up making our own direct drive to the spreader with two universal joints. Now we could haul manure trouble-free if the brakes would work."

"Our 45 hp. Deere 2150 tractor with MFWD and a 175 loader is a best buy. The MFWD is a real plus especially when conditions are sloppy or the bucket is full. We stacked up 600 hrs. in one year doing everything from raking hay, spraying, and scraping manure to moving snow and cleaning the mud away from the spring house after a flood. It's fun to drive and easy on fuel, ordinarily using less than 1 gal. per hour."

"Another best buy is our 1984 Honda Big Red 3-wheeler. It's very useful and dependable and the reverse gear is handy when pulling a trailer."

**Harold Nelson, Lafayette, Minn.:** "I bought a natural air drying corn

bin with extra large fan and motor in 1978 and experienced less than satisfactory results the first three years until I bought a best buy Stirator built by David Manufacturing Co., in Mason City, Iowa. The machine is simple and trouble-free and has an excellent stirring pattern. Last fall, with the Stirator blending the bottom dry corn with the wet, I dried my corn down 10 points to 15½% moisture in 14 days. I would never again consider a natural air bin of any brand without a Stirator. Another best buy is my Deutz 72 hp. tractor. In six years, I've averaged less than 1½ gal. diesel fuel per hour."

**Douglas O'Leary, Queens, New Brunswick:** "This is the first time I've ever had a machine that does exactly what the manufacturer claims. Weeding my garden with my Troy-Built 8-hp. tiller is a dream instead of a chore."

**Randy Larwill, Masson, Quebec:** Heading his "best buy" list is his Massey Ferguson 81-hp. 285 tractor. "The tractor is compact and the hydraulics very good. You can transfer plow weight to your wheels to get extra good traction. The lights on the 285 are very bright, which is a big help at night."

**Jim Ifft, Fairbury, Ill.:** "We've used our 1816 B Case skid steer loader for five years and with only a couple small problems which were easily repaired. We've had mixed results, however, with our 1978 Ford F-150 4-WD pickup. I love the way it rides and drives and the 400 cu. in. motor has 110,000 miles on it without any trouble. The problem is the ½-ton transmission and rear-end which are too light to pull grain wagons and stock trailers. They've had to be repaired several times and replaced once. Also, the truck just eats up tires no matter how we adjust it."

"Our worst buys are a Deere 110 mounted field cultivator and an EZ Flow 300 bu. side unload wagon. Both are built light and poorly engineered. They've required patching, welding, and beefing up almost every season."

**Gerald Kerr, Dakota, Ill.:** He's pleased with his Deutz 90 tractor. "It's durable, economical, and a pleasure to drive. American engineers should study these tractors to learn how to build a good one."

**Terry Whitney, Delavan, Minn.:** "One of my best buys is a spring-loaded transmission brake rod manufactured by Hy-Capacity Engineering, Inc., located in Humboldt Iowa. It was installed in our International 1466 and it now shifts easier than the day it was new. This method is a lot simpler and a lot cheaper than add-on solenoid valves and hydraulic cylinders and works as well."

"Another good buy is Yetter row-crop planter units mounted on older International Cyclo 400 and 500 planters. At first we had trouble with these units in hard ground but the problem was eliminated by using double pressure springs. Now they plant as well as Deere Max-Emerge units at 1/3 the price."

## Reader Letters

We enjoy FARM SHOW very much. When we've read them, we give issues to other people, or leave them at waiting rooms for others to enjoy. We especially like the "best and worst buy" report in each issue. Some of the people's experiences are just like what we've also experienced with certain products.

Jack Baird  
Red Oak, Iowa

I saw the FARM SHOW report (Vol. 8, No. 4), on Galen Ackerman's low profile pickup flatbed for hauling big round bales. I've also designed a low profile bale-carrying flatbed called the Stowaway for ¾ and 1-ton trucks.

The Stowaway differs from Ackerman's Hydra-Bed in that the arms that pick up the bales fold hydraulically over the other, across the back of the bed, which allows the spikes to remain on the arms at all times.



The arms are hinged on a diagonal so they're close to the ground when opened to unroll a bale. Because the arms operate separately, the spikes can be put into the center of the bale, even if it's lopsided.

With the arms folded into the rear of the bed, there are no slots in the top of the bed into which hay, grain or dirt can fall. You can also haul small bales, post, etc., while hauling hay. The bed has a recessed gooseneck bail.

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In your "Owner's Report on Best, Worst Tractors" in the last issue of FARM SHOW, a farmer said he wished tractor manufacturers would get together to standardize hydraulic couplers. I agree and would like to also suggest that, in standardizing hydraulic connectors, they also standardize thread size. Ford uses some metric thread which won't fit that used by many other companies. Allis Chalmers uses some other type. This certainly needs attention. Category sizes used — such as 3 pt. hitches — might be considered in standardizing hydraulic connectors and lines for various size tractors.

Bill Short  
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Do any FARM SHOW readers collect windmills? I haven't started a collection but I'd like to hear from those who have collections or similar interests in old windmills, and for parts for old windmills.

Ronald Hill  
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Sweetwater, Tex. 79556

We are writing in regard to the item on page five of your last issue of FARM SHOW.

We doubt very much the animals in question could have died from eating taxus (Japanese Yew) trimmings as such, unless the trimmings had been previously treated with some insecticide.

We have had to stop growing taxus on some of our fields due to the fact that deer will eat them faster than we can grow them and there has been no reduction in the size of the deer population.

M. L. Gardner  
Gardner's Nurseries  
Rocky Hill, Conn.

I've received many calls and letters from the FARM SHOW report (Vol. 8, No. 2), on my no-till coupler brackets for Deere and Kinze planters that let you leave the furrow openers on.

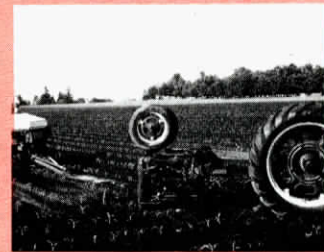
At the time of FARM SHOW's report, I only had brackets for the 7000 series of Deere planters. Many of your readers will be happy to know that I now also have the brackets for 7100 Deere mounted planters.

Gary Miles  
Heck Implement  
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(ph 816 442-3113)

I read with great interest the story in FARM SHOW about the world's first combine demolition derby. The promoter noted that "most combines become outdated because they don't have enough capacity — not because they're worn out. The engines are usually still good," he pointed out.

In my opinion, it's very wasteful to discard these combines for that reason. The capacity of older machines could be increased 30 to 100% if they were set and adjusted according to Ray Stueckle's recommendations in his book "Combine Settings for Better Harvesting."

Renken Leners  
Deatrice, Neb.



The accompanying photo teaches a lesson how not to anchor a traveling gun sprinkler. We parked our Farmall "C" broadside to the field and used it to anchor a traveling gun pulling a 4-in., 600-ft. hose. The set-up worked fine at first but as the gun neared the end of its run, the hose began to drag harder, pulling the tractor onto its side and then over on top so that the cable crushed the gas tank. It was quite a surprise to find the tractor lying like this one morning.

Wayne A. Steffen,  
Silverton, Oregon