

ASK THE MAN WHO OWNS ONE

"Owner's Report" On Tillage Equipment

Are you satisfied with your primary tillage equipment - chisel plow, moldboard plow, subsoiler, disk, etc.? How could it be improved? Have you modified your equipment in any way? Have you tried any no-till or minimum-till methods on your farm?

These are some of the questions we asked randomly-selected equipment owners in an effort to highlight tillage equipment that performs with flying colors and to pinpoint "lemons" that fail because of poor performance or failure of the dealer or company to provide service.

Here's how our survey shaped up:

"My 1987 Remlinger 21-ft. drag is a worst buy because of the poor workmanship and design. It's pulled behind a Deere 1010 field cultivator and tends to submarine into the soil. It has chain hookups to the cultivator but no matter how they're adjusted, it digs in. I talked to a representative of the company at a farm show last fall and he told me he would send someone out to look it over, but no one ever came," says Duane L. Lohr, Elmore, Ohio.

Allan L. Knause, Selinsgrove, Penn., owns a 1988 Unverferth 12 1/2-ft. S-tine cultivator. "I'm happy with it because it does a nice job of working the ground without clogging in chiseled corn stalks. And the rolling harrow attachment does a nice job. It really breaks up the lumps. In the forward position it has an aggressive action and in the rear position it has a passive action."

"It's a treat to use my 1988 Case 500 plow. It's heavy and does a great job of staying in the ground on clay hills. That means it also makes straight furrows," says Pete Frey, Franklin, Wis. "We also like our Brady 18 1/2-ft. field cultivator. We have yet to replace any spring tines in the 4 years we've used it."

Kenneth Pieper, Donnellson, Iowa, is happy with his 1987 Case 496 disk. "It really does the job for me. I pull it at 6 mph with no ridging or pitching. The outside wings ride along smooth with no bouncing."

"I'm pleased with both my 1982 Deere 2800 spring reset 5-bottom plow and my 1983 Deere 2800 spring reset 7-bottom plow. Both pull easy and hold well at the depth you set. The only problem was with the rear tail wheel, which is mounted the same on both plows. We broke the mounting on the 7-bottom because it's so much heavier than the 5-bottom. The 7-bottom mounting should be heavier," says Jerry Wiford, Bellefontaine, Ohio.

Douglas L. Feten, Clear Lake, S. Dak., owns a Wilrich 2900 6-bottom on-land plow and a Deere 1610 16-ft. mounted chisel plow. "I'm happy with both pieces of equipment since they have good trash clearance and are ruggedly built. The automatic reset standards work well on the Wilrich plow and only rarely break plow lays in rocky ground. In fact, both plows hold up well in rocky ground. The Wilrich plow wears out landsides much faster than the Deere, however. My worst tillage problem is that I wish a manufacturer would make sweeps for chisel plows that would stand up to rocks on chisel plows and field cultivators. We break or bend several sweeps a season on both our Deere chisel plow and Wilrich field cultivator. We've tried several different makes and all do it."

"A year ago we bought a used Lilliston 4000 rolling harrow, which is primarily a dry soil tool. We used it last summer to work oats stubble ground to get ready for

planting wheat. We went lengthways and crossways and the soil was really loose and mellow. It was too wet to use it this spring but we hope to use it in bean stubble this year. The only problem we have had is that it has a tendency to not pull straight behind the tractor. If it hits a hard spot, it will shift over to that side. In loose soil, it tends to go to the right. I'm considering fabricating some type of stabilizer for it such as a rolling fin," says William Staib, Walbridge, Ohio.

"The bolts are metric on our 1987 Deere 2700 4-18-in. moldboard plow requiring the purchase of a metric wrench set. Also, the plow is designed to leave trash on the surface which plugs up the drag when preparing a seedbed," says Ralph Volkman, Black Creek, Wis.

David Batker, Brooklyn, Wis., is happy with his 1987 Deutz-Allis 1500 minimum till chisel plow. "We have done fields filled with large rocks with no breakage. We've also done fields in low land with heavy residue and manure cover from two years of set-aside, chiseling 18 to 20 in. deep with no plugging."

"Our best buy Deere 722 mulch finisher performs very well under almost all field conditions and makes an ideal seedbed. It's also excellent as a one-pass chemical incorporation tool," says Theo Thaden, Twin Brooks, S. Dak.

"Our International 4800 field cultivator has excellent trash clearance. It has performed very well for several years. I'm also happy with our IH 55 chisel plow, 496 rock flex disk, and 3735 vari-width plow," says Kenneth J. Hunter, Hayti, S. Dak.

"I make cultivator shank savers out of 2 by 12-in. plastic strips 3/8-in. thick. I bolt them between the shovel and shank. Works great," says Lowell Miller, Gildford, Mont.

"I rearranged the way the shanks were mounted on the frame to stop it from plugging by the gauge wheels," says Randy Briggs, Zanesville, Ohio, about his 1985

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Ford 131 chisel plow. "We're satisfied with it now. It works alright in some soil types."

"I've always been happy with Oliver moldboard plows in our heavy clay loam soil. They pull straighter, cover trash better, hold an even depth and leave a better surface than the Case, Deere or IH equipment used by my neighbors," says Gilbert Chadbourne, Fond Du Lac, Wis.

George Bridenbaugh, Martinsburg, Penn., owns a 1989 Krause 2242 disk. "It's rugged, does an excellent job of loosening soil and leveling. We get good service from our dealer even though he's 150 miles away."



Deep-Tilling One-Pass Ridge Planter

"My goal in developing this machine was to obtain the speed and ease of no-till and yet still loosen the soil down deep for optimum root growth while forming ridges," says Andy Reynolds, Six Lakes, Mich., about his one-pass corn planter built around a Glencoe Soil Saver.

"This rig evolved over a 4-year period. Originally I used a 3-pt. IH 5500 chisel plow with high clearance legs. However, rows were not straight with the 3-pt. chisel so I acquired a Glencoe Soil Saver and removed the front row of shanks, replacing them with four legs from the 5500 chisel plow. They give me deep penetration in the row and I can inject 28% nitrogen on the four shanks.

"The five original Soil Saver shanks were left on the rear row of shanks for shallower penetration. I put 10-in. hilling shovels on these to form the ridges and

built my own floating bridge hitch and tool bar to carry the 4 ground-driven Allis Chalmers planter units. The front row of couler discs was left in place on the Soil Saver.

"I put saddle tanks on the tractor to apply 28% nitrogen and also herbicides using flood-jet nozzles which mount on each planter row unit. The bulk of my fertilizer is broadcast prior to planting and incorporated with this unit. We disk only once in the fall to chop and mix stalks and flatten ridges for the next spring planting.

"Because of the deep tilling action of this rig I think my corn showed greater stress later than other fields in this area. The Soil Saver can be switched back to its original configuration in 3 to 4 hrs."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Andrew Reynolds, 2501 N. County Line Road, Six Lakes, Mich. 48886.

"I've only replaced one bearing in 8 years on my 1980 Glencoe disk chisel. The only trouble I've had is that I have to tie the transport locks down or dirt will knock them up so that when I raise the disk up later, it locks up. I use 16-in. sweeps on 15-in. centers instead of twisted shovels. They do a good job of loosening the ground down 10 in. deep. I also added a leveling bar made by Hart in Lee, Ill., which I read about in FARM SHOW. It pretty well levels the ridges so I don't have to work the ground before I put on herbicides," says Martin E. Schroeder, Orion, Ill., who notes that he buys most of his replacement parts from Shoup Mfg. Co., Kankakee, Ill., a company that sells low-cost replacement parts for tillage equipment as well as tractors, combines, planters and other farm equipment.

"I'm very happy with my 1989 Case/IH 496 disk with 7 1/2-in. spacing which I wanted for better chemical incorporation. It makes a much better seedbed than the 496 I had with 9-in. spacing, leaving the ground nice and level with the 3-bar Case/IH harrow that is attached to the back gang," says Merrill Chase, Mila, Iowa.

Lewis Long, Marion, Ohio, likes his 1986 White 598 variable width plow but has had a problem. "It's hard to get grease into the fittings on the auto resets. We have to lubricate at least three times a day."

Victor G. Barrick, Carlisle, Penn., has had good luck with his 1988 Deere 235 centerfold disk. "I like the way it folds up for easy transport. It cuts well, takes rocks without breaking and does a nice level job. One problem is that when you're turning sharp, it has a tendency to dig in on one side and raise up the back gang."

"I put my Deere 1000 field cultivator in so deep that the harrow in the rear disappears in the ground. It really pulverizes the soil," says Frank J. Kuderik, Carleton, Mich.

"My 1988 12-ft. Fuerst tine harrow doesn't work as advertised. The trailing tines bounce up and end up all tangled so

only two-thirds of the harrow is on the ground. The six pieces that make up the 12-ft. harrow don't stay together. It needs more and better connectors and should have a trailing pipe the same as the front pulling pipe. Also, there should be some instructions for assembly and use. Not one dealer I talked to knew anything about this harrow other than that they sold them. I finally modified it myself by installing a 12-ft., 2 in. dia. pipe on the rear tines. Now all the tines stay in the ground and I can pull the harrow either way for light or heavy tilling," says John R. Morse, Hampton, N.J.

Allan Frerichs, Grundy Center, Iowa, owns a 1988 Hiniker 1120 19 1/2 ft. field cultivator. "I like the hydraulic wings that fold flat for transport but the tines on the drag wings could be fixed so that they would flop back into operating position when the cultivator is unfolded. We always have to get off the tractor to reposition some of the tines after unfolding the wings."

"It really loosens hard-packed soil," says William Bierman, Riga, Mich., pleased with his no-till row "aerator" from Mike Strohm (Rt. 1, Box 48, West Union, Ill. 62477) that he first read about in FARM SHOW.

Robert Harris, Greensfork, Ind., owns a 1987 Hiniker 1530 field cultivator and a Glencoe 9-shank disk chisel plow. "Both do an outstanding job. I especially like the Hiniker field cultivator because it folds flat for storage in a low-ceilinged building. It could be built a little better and stronger, however, and dealers are few and far between so parts are hard to find. Parts are also hard to find for the Glencoe."

"My Brillion deep-till auto-reset subsoiler has done an excellent job of loosening the soil and improving water infiltration. I also appreciate the way the spring resets work in rocky ground. I added coverboards to the shanks that do a very good job of incorporating manure," says Melvin M. Martin, Thompsontown, Penn.