

ence. The salesman told us we could do the same job by buying the company's next smaller model, the 7220. We didn't follow his advice, but I think he was right.

"Our worst buys are **Ford** tractors - we've had two that were nightmares. The big one, a TW-30 model, required regular 4,000-hour engine replacements. It was poorly built in terms of maintenance and repairs and always seemed to be breaking down. The smaller model, a 5610 that we bought new, had problems from day one. One cylinder wall on the engine turned to Swiss cheese at 900 hours. The rear end made a noise which turned out to be caused by a missing part that was left out during manufacture. A fuel problem was worked on by two different dealers without success until after the tractor's warranty had expired. At that point the company rep refused to pay for it even though the problem started long before the warranty expired. I had to sue the company in order to get compensation. When the company lawyers heard the story they ordered the rep to pay up.

"We also have a 1958 **Ford** 950 tractor. I can vaguely remember my dad taking delivery of it when I was a small child. It's still going strong today. The only real repair ever done to it was a new paint job."

Rod Van Overscheld, Letcher, S. Dak.: Rod's pleased with **Roundup Ready** soybeans. "Weed control was very good. After spraying Roundup I had almost perfect grass and broadleaf control except for late nightshade. The Roundup Ready beans yielded about the same as our non-Roundup beans. However, I don't like the \$5 per bag surcharge. How long will the surcharge last? Forever?

"My 1973 **Deere** 6600 combine had trouble with the drive belts on the auger that delivers grain into the hopper. I solved the problem by using a hydraulic motor to operate the auger. I control auger speed from the cab. I use the same hydraulic system to operate the reel on both the straight head and bean head. The oil goes first to an orbit motor on the hopper. The return line goes to the orbit motor on the straight head, then back to the oil reservoir. It works perfect this way. I didn't have enough hydraulic capacity to put a 'T' in the hydraulic hose line and send it to both motors at the same time."

James Sprunk, Columbus, Neb.: "I'm well pleased with my 1997 **Dodge** Ram pickup equipped with a diesel engine. It's very easy on fuel and has a lot of lugging power. I can use it to pull an anhydrous ammonia tank with no problems. I can't say enough good things about this pickup."

Walter Rude, Langdon, N. Dak.: "We bought some new harrow teeth from **Gates Mfg.** that weren't any good. As soon as we started to use them they broke. The old small teeth worked a lot better."

Fred Hesse, Lincoln, Mo.: "I bought my 1989 **Case-IH** 7110 tractor used and have had no problems with it. It handles great and has great hydraulics and a good cab. The engine is unstoppable."

Blake L. Tyson, Wayne, Ohio: "My best buy is my 1997 **Huskee** 42-in. riding mower made by MTD. It's equipped with a 2-cyl., 18 1/2 hp Briggs & Stratton gas engine and has seven forward speeds. The 18 1/2 hp engine allows it to cut heavy grass that's 4 to 6 in. high with no problems, even at low speeds. Also, it's a mulching mower so it leaves our lawn looking nice."

Larry Wardenburg, Williamsburg, Iowa: Larry likes his 1992 **Case-IH** 7120 tractor which he bought used. "It's a pleasure to drive, handles well, and has a lot of

power. The 18-speed powershift transmission shifts smooth even under a load."

Richard H. Crane, Colo, Iowa: Richard likes his **Case-IH** 12-row 950 air planter. "It plants at the proper depth and with great accuracy. Also, the hoppers are easy to fill."

Wilson Gatewood, Noblesville, Ind.: Wilson says his two **Case-IH** 9280 4-WD tractors equipped with 12-speed powershift transmissions are both "best buys". "They have enough power to handle big implements such as our 42-ft. field cultivator, 10-bottom plow with 18-in. moldboards, and 7-shank V-ripper. We pull them all at 5.8 to 6.0 mph. We can cover more than 20 acres per hour with the field cultivator, and we can cover a lot of acres fast with the plow and V-ripper without using a lot of fuel."

He's somewhat disappointed with a 60-ft. wide, 80-ft. long, 14 1/2-ft. high post frame building put up by **Cleary Building Co.** It's equipped with two sets of 20-ft. wide sliding doors. "It's a good building except that the sliding doors could be built heavier. Also, company support could be better."

Kevin Larson, Baldwin, Wis.: "It's a pleasure to drive - I like it more every day I use it," says Kevin about his 1996 **Deere** 7400 MFWD tractor equipped with a power quad transmission. "It has unbelievable power and fuel economy for a 100 hp tractor. It's easy to see why other companies always compare their tractors to Deere's."

Richard T. Wieberg, Freeburg, Mo.: Richard likes his **Ford** pickups. "Several

"It has unbelievable power and fuel economy for a 100 hp tractor."

years ago I had three Fords with a combined total of more than 400,000 miles. Today I also have three Fords - a 1980 F-150 with 125,000 miles, a 1992 Escort with 110,000 miles, and a 1993 Explorer with 93,000 miles. The combined total for them is more than 325,000 miles, and none of their engines have been worked on. The F-150's head gasket, water pump, and exhaust gasket had to be replaced. I drove it outstate several times last year. My son Kevin has two used Fords - an Escort and a Ranger - with a combined total of more than 200,000 miles. We're shopping for a new car this year and will look only at Fords. Why change a good thing?"

Edmund Dritter, Lamar, Ark.: "One of my best buys is my **Polaris** 425 Magnum 4-wheeler ATV. It has instant response and handles well. I really like the automatic transmission because I never have to guess which gear I'm in. I drove other ATV models equipped with automatic transmissions, but they didn't compare with Polaris."

Scott Shaw, Lyman, Wyo.: "I used a **Lincoln** AC 225 Buzz Box welder for more than 20 years and burned hundreds of pounds of rod with it with no problems. I recently purchased a used **Ideal Arc** 250 that has the versatility of AC/DC and higher amperage. If it holds up as well as the 225 it was money well spent. It could use a better amperage indicator - it sticks toward the upper and lower limits. This problem may have been corrected on newer models."

Don Williams, Clarinda, Iowa: "I needed parts for a discontinued brand of space heater but didn't have any luck finding them. Finally I wrote to **Dessa International**, the company that makes Reddy Heat-

ers, and received an immediate reply listing an 'obsolete parts' supplier that I could contact. I was quite pleased with their prompt, informative reply and was able to fix the heater."

"My worst buy is my **Cover-It** storage shelter which I purchased from the factory in Connecticut last year. The ends of the shelter move back and forth a lot in the wind, and I've had trouble keeping the top tight even though I followed the instructions exactly in erecting the shelter. I wouldn't recommend this company's product to anyone. Since my purchase I've observed that the **Cover-All** shelter appears to be superior, both in frame and cover."

Chuck W. Will, New Waterford, Ohio: "I like my 1988 **Lincoln** 225 welder. It's a great value for the money."

Jerry Mahler, Hastings, Mich.: "I like my 1996 **Ford** F-150 4-WD pickup. It has more than 40,000 miles with only regular oil changes."

Rodney B.D. Ferguson, Berryville, Va.: Rodney's disappointed with his 1997 **Woods** RB990 heavyduty rear blade mower. "The first time I used it I pulled it behind an International 1486 tractor in a wet area, and both ends of the blade bent backward. The salesman came out and agreed it should never have happened. After many months went by the dealer said they had contacted the company, which said the blade was welded to the box frame in the correct way and that they would do nothing."

Sage Keppinger, Corvallis, Ore.: Sage likes his 1997 **Lincoln** SP 170T 220-volt, single phase MIG welder. "We operate a combine repair business and are constantly welding sheet metal and thin steel plating. This welder does an excellent job on such repairs. It's light enough that one person can carry it up into the machine to make inside repairs, yet it has enough amperage to weld 1/4-in. thick steel plate."

"We operate this small MIG welder off a 13 kilowatt, 3-cyl. diesel GENSET that's built into our service truck. For field applications like this I recommend using a large shielding device to block the wind, as the inert gas can be easily blown away from the weld."

"Because we use this welder on our service truck we've had problems with vibration and dust. To solve the vibration problem we constructed two foam wedges to contain the wire on the wire spool and keep it from 'rat nesting' while traveling in the field. To solve the dust problem we replaced the wire feed conduit/gas hose with an aftermarket Teflon-lined unit, which feeds the wire more easily. The manufacturer could have offered these items as optional equipment. We've also had problems with the amperage control. If this control was a full range rheostat instead of a 5-position switch we could use the full range of amperage, which would allow for finer tuning and higher quality welds."

Gordon C. Kien, Glenella, Manitoba: "One of my best buys is my 1967 **Allis-Chalmers** D17 series 3 tractor equipped with an Allis-Chalmers 417 front-end loader that we bought in 1977 at an auction sale. We use it mostly to haul bales for 100 head of cattle and also to haul bales off the field in the fall. The engine has been overhauled only once."

Gordon Vallier, Valli-Vu Dairy, Peetz, Colo.: Gordon owns a **Deere** 4450 MFWD tractor equipped with a powershift transmission and a 1996 **Deere** 6200 MFWD tractor equipped with a shuttle shift transmission and 640 front-end loader. "Both tractors are quiet and easy to operate and have a lot of power. I like the shuttle shift transmission on the 6200

- it saves time and energy when packing silage and hauling manure."

Russ Coufal, Scotia, Neb.: "My **Case-IH** 1660 Axial-Flow rotary combine does a great job and is easy to adjust and operate. We've used it for about 1,500 hours without having to replace any major parts. It's easy to maintain and to work on, and switching from one crop to another is a simple job. I'd never go back to a conventional combine."

Joe Taylor, Philomath, Ore.: "My 1995 **Lincoln** Weld Pac 100 110-volt welder is convenient to use because I can plug it in anywhere I go. It does light work very well. Higher heat ranges would be nice but may not be practical for a 110-volt welder."

Robert L. Kuhlmeier, Salina, Kan.: "My **Land Pride** 72-in. rotary mower does an excellent job on short or tall weeds and on grass. However, it could be built a little heavier."

On the negative side, he lists a 1988 **Ford** 5900 tractor purchased by his father. "At 1,100 hours the radiator cracked on top. Poor wiring caused the lights to go on and off intermittently. At 1,265 hours the fuel injector pump developed an internal leak which cost \$400 to repair. Fifty hours later it's leaking again. The tractor is well designed and it runs and handles well. However, it has had too many small problems."

James A. Smith, Yale, Mich.: "My best buy is my 1996 **Deere** 930 disc mower conditioner. It does a great job at high speed and has excellent flotation. It's also easy to adjust."

"My worst buy is my 1997 **Orkel** GP 1202 silage baler. I was told that it could be used to bale both dry and wet hay but it has failed to do so. The company has refused warranty and technical support. This baler is very limited in its use at best. Like other owners have said to me, 'Use it one day and work on it for two'."

Robert C. Huff, Edmonton, Alberta: He likes his 1997 **Deines** KT 2000 Magnum 72-in. hydrostatic finishing mower that's

"Like other owners have said to me, 'Use it one day and work on it for two.'"

powered by a 20 hp Kohler 2-cyl. gas engine. "It's easy to use and built well. It has a zero turning radius and the deck can be raised 90 degrees for cleaning or storage. This is the second one I've owned. I don't know why anyone would want anything else."

Luther Roecks, Worley, Idaho: Luther likes his **Linde** welder which has a heavy duty wire pusher. "We've used it for hundreds of hours with few problems. It's dependable and stable."

"My **Migmaster** 250 welder has the welding wire enclosed in the welder and out of the shop dust, but it's more difficult to put the wire inside. Enclosing the wire is a good idea. I also like the controls because they're easy to set."

Allan Brooks, Markesan, Wis.: Last June Allan mounted **Schaffert** Rebounders on his new Great Plains 2410 drill (Schaffert Mfg. Co., Rt. 1, Box 157, Indianola, Neb. 69034 ph 800 382-2607). The devices fasten to the seed tube and acts as a cover over the seed trench to eliminate seed bounce, while

(Continued on next page)