

been all bad - it has impressive capacity - but we've been disappointed at the number of breakdowns. Most repairs were covered by the 2-year warranty but repairs are hard to find. I've had to go 100 miles from home several times to get service. The update kits provided by Allis Chalmers are for weak points on the machine that should be corrected at the company's expense and not the customer's. The corn head on this machine is nothing to brag about. It has lots of chains and is difficult to work on. I added curved metal extensions to the front of the corn snouts so they would ride up over center pivot tracks rather than dig into them and bend."

Frank's "best buy" is a 1987 Miller MIG 200 welder. "It works just like they said it would although it was awfully expensive. Very handy and makes a beautiful weld."

**Jerald A. Pickle, Moorhead, Iowa:** Jerald had trouble with his 1987 Deutz-Allis R-50 Gleaner combine. "The purchase of this \$120,000 machine has been a frustrating experience. To start with, the combine was delivered during the last part of harvest even though we were promised delivery by the end of September, 1987. When it was finally delivered it came without heads. The corn head was delivered to us in February, 1988 with dents and other damage from being dropped. The bean head was still on back order. To get us in the field last fall, the dealer went to South Dakota to get us a used cornhead which he converted to fit our new machine. When we finally got in the field, we had lots of problems. The turning brakes didn't work, the warning lights came on intermittently for no reason, two chains came off before we had two hours on the machine, two belts turned over and ran sideways (and still do), an oil line broke on the engine and we lost three gallons of engine oil (oil not covered by warranty), the main drive shaft broke, the power steering howls so bad you can hardly stand it (especially on hillsides), the feeder-house chain runs crooked, and we've had a host of other smaller problems. The dealer has tried to do what he could but the company doesn't help him much. His word to us can't be any better than their word to him. We want to get a local dealership in our community so we help where we can. However, it doesn't appear that German workmanship and quality control is very good, even though they spend a lot of money telling Americans it is. The company did give us one year free interest on the heads."

**Tim Crawford, Garden Prairie, Ill.:** "My 1986 Deutz DX6:30 tractor has a tremendous horsepower range and fuel economy is about 4.5 gal. per hour. I've had no trouble with it but I have had trouble with my Deutz DX140. It had major problems in the final drives due to an inferior bearing which the company knew about. Replacement parts they supplied were much heavier-built. Then recently a nut came loose on the pinion shaft of the transmission causing an additional \$3,000 in damage. Again this was a known problem. Both times I felt Deutz should have covered the problems because they were not caused by operator use or abuse but they said it was out of warranty and I'd have to fix it myself. I was disappointed because I've been so pleased with the tractors."

**Allan Moffat, Piedmont, Okla.:** "I was interested in the article in your last issue of FARM SHOW (Vol. 12, No. 1) about an add-on depth-control kit for Deere and IH grain drills from MS Industries (P.O. Box

544, Okarche, Okla. 73762). We have installed the equipment on our drills and we're very happy with it. All components are well-made and do an excellent job, in effect turning press wheels into precise gauge wheels."

**William P. Moretz, Bessemer City, N.C.:** "Our best buy 1986 Vicor KM-241 mower-conditioner cuts anything at any speed. It's particularly good on turns."

**Calvin Bowman, Union City, Ohio:** Calvin's "best buy" is a 3-jaw 15-in. spread 20-ton Posi-Lock gear and bearing puller from Octagon Tool Company (65 N. 5th Street, Fargo, N. Dak. 58102 ph 800 437-8665). "It's the best puller I've ever seen because of the posi-lock feature that locks it on just the gear or the bearing. It won't slip off. I liked it so well I bought a 2-jaw model for those jobs when a 3-jaw model won't work."

On the minus side, "We like the capacity and excellent performance of our 1979 New Holland TR70 combine but we feel maintenance costs have been too high. Rotor shafts have broken loose from rotors, a beater shaft broke, the shaker pan broke up, the extension sieve broke up, the left brake gave trouble, and the rotors got so far out of balance we had to take them to a precision balancing company to rebalance. We've also had problems with air conditioner and there's too much dust in the cab."

**George F. Meyer, Russellville, Kent.:** "My worst buy is a Harvestore silo I bought on a lease from Agristor. The problem is that the fair market value buy-out provision in the lease simply means you have to take the price Agristor wants to pay for the structure with no appraisal or auction value determination. It's like the mafia giving you a buy-out contract you can't refuse, either forcing you or scaring you into it. I believe Harvestore dealers and salesmen were deliberately encouraged to promise farmers anything to sell Agristor's lease program."

As "best buy", George lists Poly Dome calf nurseries, silo chute liners, and wheelbarrow beds (Poly Tank Co., Rt. 1, Litchfield, Minn. 55355, ph 612 693-8370). "The plastic is of excellent quality. Designs are good and the price is fair."

**Eugene Frodl, Whitewater, Wis.:** "Our 1985 Ford 7710 is a best buy. Our only trouble has been a clutch which the company and dealer took care of right away. I'm real pleased with it."

"We also like our 1986 Ford Crown Victoria auto. We haven't had any trouble. My wife likes to drive it because with fuel injection you don't have any cold weather stalls. We get good mileage."

**D.C. Perryman, Moody, Tex.:** A Miller Series II offset disc heads his "best

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buy" list. "It's the best once-over disk I've ever pulled. Well-engineered, strongly-built and does a quality job every time."

**Fay Ellwanger, Garden Prairie, Ill.:** "We're happy with our 1987 Case-IH 2096. The cab is quiet, it has lots of power for its size, it handles well, controls are handy, the engine is easy to service with the pop-up hood, and the new-style cab provides great visibility."

Fay also nominates a 1986 Ford F-350 1-ton 4-WD. "It handles well, starts well, and gets good fuel economy. We pull a trailer with it every day and put on about 65,000 miles a year. Benefits have far outnumbered problems."

**Dave Winegar, Moorhead, Iowa:** "I thought my 6620 Deere was a good combine till I got my 1987 Case-IH 1660 Axial Flow. It has a cleaner grain sample, less cracked grain, a quieter cab, better vision, more power, fewer moving parts and it uses less fuel."

**Bob Shipp, Radcliff, Kent.:** "My 1979 Dodge W-150 4-WD with a 360 cu. in. engine has 270,000 miles on it with no major repairs."

**Robert H. Wanta, Hatley, Wis.:** "We use our 1986 Chevrolet K-20 4-WD with 350 engine like a tractor. We pull feeder wagons, gravity boxes, and plow driveways and yards on seven farms. It hasn't given any trouble so far."

On the minus side, "About 5 years ago we installed a Patz RD 790 ring drive unloader in a 24-ft. dia. silo. It didn't empty the silo once before the chain wore out. A short time later the blower bearings went out. Then the second chain broke and got caught in the blower, causing the belts to burn off. This went on for over 2 years before the company replaced the machine. It still breaks down more often than it should. I would never buy one again."

**Walter K. Wills, Sr., Preston, Ga.:** "I bought a Quick Silver front-mounted 48-in. wide mower from Cycle Country Accessories Corp. for my 4-WD ATV after reading about it in FARM SHOW's Vol. 10, No. 5, 1986 issue. I have never been more disappointed with any piece of machinery than I am with this so-called mower. It leaves streaks of uncut grass between the three blades when cutting 5 to 6-in. tall grass. I contacted the company and they treated me as though they thought someone from Georgia didn't have sense enough to follow set-up instructions that came with the mower. I assured them I could read and that the mower had been set up correctly. I could not get my money back, or even part of it. My mistake was buying without first seeing one in operation. I really enjoy your magazine but I wish I had never seen the article on this mower."

**Lowell Crabb, Kingsley, Iowa:** A 1987 OMC 332 Mustang skid steer loader leads his "best buy" list. "It starts easily in 20° below zero weather, is very easy to handle, and has plenty of weight for traction in tough manure."

**Gregg Kresha, Osceola, Neb.:** He's had trouble with a Hesston 2600 big round bale mover. "It's not built tough enough for 1,500 to 1,600 lb. bales and would not always pull the 4th bale on board. Also, the machine works from the left side of the tractor which makes it tough to operate hydraulic controls on the right side of the tractor."

On the "best buy" side, Gregg's happy with his 1986 Deere 1525 twin knife swing tongue mower-conditioner. "It lets us cut about 20% faster than our old mower under all types of conditions with no problem. We use it to cut tough native hay crops that we could never cut before. Low maintenance, too."

**Louis Mundt, Belt, Mont.:** "I bought a Fish carburetor (Box 298, Groton, S. Dak. 57445) for my 1967 3/4-ton 4-WD Ford pickup with a 390 engine. The best mileage I'd ever gotten with the pickup was 6 mpg after trying three different Ford carburetors.

After installing the Fish carburetor, the pickup's performance increased dramatically. I got more power, much smoother operation, and increased mileage to 15 mpg. When feeding cows, my wife drives for me while I throw bales off the back. When trying to go slow, the engine would kill. When she started up again and gave it plenty of gas, it would start with a jerk almost throwing me off. Now, with the Fish installed, the pickup goes very slow without killing. We can also shut it off on the sides of steep hills and not worry about starting up again, as with the Ford carburetors."

**Doug De'Atthe, Carberry, Manitoba:** "Our 1985 Versatile 256 tractor is nice to operate and I have had no trouble to speak of. It's good on fuel and works great with either a loader or tractor-mount swather."

**Richard Cleveland, Frederickton, British Columbia:** He's had good luck with his 4950 Kubota 4-WD tractor. "It's a good mid-sized tractor. Quiet, adequate power, and excellent traction in 2 or 4-WD. The traction lock for 2 or all 4 wheels works great. The diesel engine starts in sub-zero weather without boosts or a block heater."

**Alfred Ezekiel, Wilburton, Okla.:** "My best buy is a Lever Lacer from Morrison Belt Co. (Rt. 1, Box 564, Anthony, Kan. 6700, ph 800 835-2024). It's made strong and simple and it's light enough so one man can carry it to the field. To splice

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a baler belt, you just push down on the lever and you make the splice 5 times faster and 5 times easier than with a vise. I'd recommend it to anyone with a belt-type round baler.

"One of my all-time worst buys was a 1980 Deere 410 round baler. It plugged up 10 to 20 times a day. Once it took 2 hrs. to get it unplugged with an ax. I sold it after 2 years."

**Ted Jarecsni, Merlin, Ontario:** "My best buy is an International 800 plate type corn planter. It puts seed exactly where I want it with even germination, accurate application of fertilizer in the row, and accurate plant population. It has improved my corn yields."

"My worst buy is a Briggs & Stratton motor. My brother bought one about the same time. After two weeks the carburetor on my motor broke off. I replaced it. About two weeks later, we were loading tomatoes when the carburetors on both motors broke off within minutes of each other. We went out and bought two Hondas and haven't had a minute's trouble since. The dealer says Briggs & Stratton may not stand behind the motors because they say we're the only customers who have ever had this problem."

**Michael Deneen, Holiday, Fla.:** He's pleased with his 1988 GMC 1500 extended cab pickup with a 305 V-8. "I like the luxury ride and comfort. Handles great on long trips. We've put on 11,000 miles in 6 months. One problem is that there's no rain gutter over the doors. We put on our own."