

Best & Worst Buys

(Continued from next page)

at one time. General Electric is very slow about sending repair parts to the dealer. The radios do have good range when and if they work. Our dealer is as disgusted as we are about the slow parts service."

Mrs. Jim Geerdes, George, Iowa: "Our worst buy has been Na-churs fertilizer. In across-the-fence comparisons of the same seed corn but with regular fertilizer on one side and Na-churs on the other, we got 20 to 30 bu. less with Na-churs."

Edwin Alt, Ottawa, Ohio: "Our 1985 Deere 4450 MFWD tractor with power shift transmission is a best buy. It's smooth-riding with good traction. Starts easy and shifts smoothly. The cab is quiet. I had a couple minor problems which the dealer quickly remedied. This tractor has performed beyond my expectations."

Duane Sibley, Nashua, Mont.: "My 1986 Ford Ranger XLT 4-WD is a best buy. It handles well, gets good mileage. It's easy to change from 2-WD to 4-WD."

Connie Sauls, Anthony, Fla.: "We had to special order the all-vinyl interior in our 1986 Dodge Ramcharger 2-WD but it sure paid off. You can just about wash it out with a hose yet it's still comfortable for traveling. This truck works great as an all-around family farm vehicle since we don't own a car."

Kendall Vickers, Nevada, Mo.: "This is the only small-engine product I've ever bought that starts easily every time with no tinkering," says Kendall, pleased with his 1987 Deere 250G string trimmer.

Joseph Fara, Schoolcraft, Mich.: "My 1983 Chevrolet S-10 is the best pickup I've ever owned and over the years I've owned a GMC, two Dodges, two Fords, two Datsuns, and three Chevrolets. The Chevrolets have consistently been the best trucks. The S-10 has 90,000 miles on it and is still going strong. It doesn't use any oil, has no rust, gets 20 mpg on short trips and 25 mpg over the road. I also pull a 16-ft. travel trailer with the truck with no problems. One thing it needs is a heavier clutch."

R.C. Vonarx, Courtenay, British Columbia: "Our Vicon KM281 disc mower/conditioner does a good job and has high capacity. Daily maintenance is low and we know from neighbors, that it'll last a long time."

"We're also pleased with our Deere 2550 tractor. Works great with a loader on it."

Edwin C. Lounsberry, Jacksonville, Ill.: "We've used our 1987 Deere 318 lawn and garden tractor most every day for over a year with no problems. The dealer was willing to take our old garden tractor in trade."

Howard R. Johnson, Vermillion, S. Dak.: "My 1968 International 856 tractor is one of my all-time best buys. It has all the power I need and I've had no major problems with it in nearly 6,000 hrs. It just keeps rolling along."

Richard L. Caswell, Narvon, Penn.: "I'm completely satisfied with my 1988 Ford F-250 4-WD pickup. High-quality workmanship is why Ford remains the best vehicle manufacturer in the world. This truck handles well on or off the road and is much more truck for the money than comparable GMC, Chevy, or Dodge models."

Ralph Adams, Jr., Navarre, Ohio: "Our Deere 2950 tractor shifts and handles nicely

and you can use all the horsepower you buy because the horsepower is rated at the recommended operating speed.

"My worst buy ever was a Case 1494 tractor with synchromesh transmission. The tractor's horsepower was rated at 2,300 rpm's but recommended operating speed was 2,000 rpm's. At about 100 hrs. the tractor ground gears and leaped whenever you put it into gear. After struggling with the company for a year and a half through attorneys, they still refused to correct the problem. I also had trouble with plastic fuel and hydraulic lines. The first year this tractor was at the dealer's for at least three months for repairs."

Daniel Farrand, Long Valley, N.J.: "Our New Holland 326 baler handles the biggest of windrows with ease - it's almost impossible to break a shear pin. We can bale a gear higher than with our old baler in almost all conditions. The only problem is that the kicker needs a bit more power."

"My worst buy over the past few years is an International 986 tractor. It rides very rough and is clumsy to drive. Everything is out of place for servicing. The starter went bad twice within a year as well as the pto. You even have to look in a mirror to see the drawbar to hook up."

Richard Atkins, Valier, Mont.: "In 197,000 miles with my 1975 Ford F-150 pickup, I've had no major problems and I get 14 to 16 mpg with the 300 cu. in. engine. Uses one quart of oil every 1,200 miles

"In 197,000 miles I've had no major problems."

although I had to grind the valves at 105,000 miles. I have had excessive front tire wear due to the twin I-beam front end. The seat upholstery wore out in 60,000 miles and the tailgate is way too light. It won't take any weight at all."

Charles Huegel, Venus, Penn.: He likes his Russian Belarus 400 tractor. "It has good power with an excellent range of transmission speeds. The diesel engine starts quickly. I like the easy maintenance, especially the recleanable centrifugal oil filter. But there are some problems, too. It doesn't steer sharp enough, the brakes are poor, the hydraulics are slow, and it wasn't designed for operator comfort."

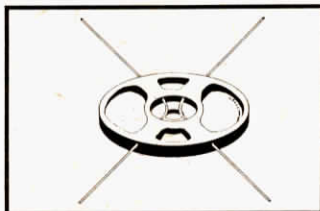
Audrey L. Hensiek, Carrollton, Mo.: "I'm happy with our General Electric combination microwave/convection oven. The convection oven cooks evenly with less heating area so it doesn't heat up the whole kitchen like a conventional oven. The microwave is fast and works great."

James B. Barbour, Hallstead, Penn.: "Our Harvester high moisture corn silo is a worst buy. The structure itself works well but the unloader has never worked right even though we have emptied it twice so the dealer could work on it. The pawls on the ratchet are too soft and wore out in two years. I ground them off and, after two more years, thought I would replace them. They wanted \$100 for what should be \$5 parts so I built the old ones up myself with a welder."

Reader Letters



I'd like to thank FARM SHOW for featuring the "Grasshopper" in your last issue. We've received great response, much more than from newspapers and television shows that have featured our product. The Grasshopper was originally designed to replace the blade on powered hand mowers but so many FARM SHOW readers have inquired about using the unit on riding mowers that we've now developed the



Grasshopper II. It's the same unit but uses heavier nylon filaments. Like our original Grasshopper, it simply takes the place of the original blade with no modification, using the same mounting bolt. The new model is designed for mowers with one, two or three blades that use a 3/8-in. bolt or a 5/8-in. stud/nut. Each Grasshopper II unit sells for \$12.45, including shipping and handling.

Dave McGrew
McGrew Products, Inc.
2509 College Ave.,
Terre Haute, Ind. 47803
(ph 812 235-3328)

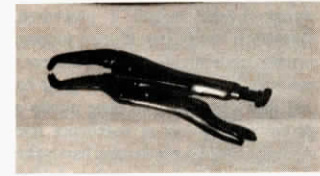
I have an Orthman front 3-pt. hitch on my 4450 tractor. When front weight is needed, this home-built weight "basket" lets me install or remove all the weights in seconds with no lifting. I simply set the entire quick-tach assembly on a



stand and drive away. One advantage of the front 3-pt. mount is that with the weights so far forward, not as many are required to balance a heavy rear implement.

Alan Pegram
Lincoln, Ill.

Several years ago when I was having trouble connecting up a length of roller chain, I came up with this modification for vice grips needle nose pliers. You just heat the tips of the pliers - about

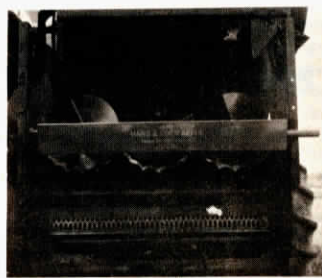


3/8-in. - and bend them both toward the center. Then place the hooks in the ends of the chain and clamp together to insert connecting link.

Vincent Ahlholm
Warren, Maine

FARM SHOW readers who operate New Idea Uni-System husking beds may be interested in our new "Corn Saver" attachment which replaces the rubber paddles at the rear of the husking bed. It consists of short pieces of 12-in. auger flighting and rotates parallel to the husking roll. It prevents vertical ears from plugging, reducing wear and lessening strain on the drive train. It also helps eliminate shelling and cap-

ping of ears because the attachment creates an even flow over the bed. The secret of the design is that the leading edge of the flighting can enter the flow of corn without causing damage to the



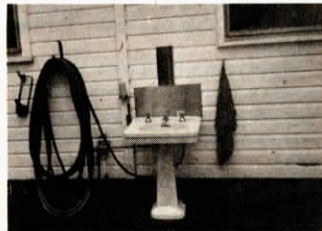
ears. I've used the attachment in the field for three years. Last year I sold 50 units and owners reported no plugging, greatly reduced shelling and non-stop harvesting.

Larry Recker
Recker Manufacturing, Ltd.
Rt. 2, Box 198
Arlington, Iowa 50606
(ph 319 637-2341)

We'd like FARM SHOW readers to know that we are now the exclusive manufacturers of the "hands off" Accu-Strike welding helmet that opens and closes simply by moving your jaw. We have upgraded the headgear inside the helmet to a strong double detent system that keeps the helmet in position. Also, all our manufactured parts are formed of Lexan, a very strong lightweight plastic material.

Roland Shafer, President
Cherokee Industries, Inc.
P.O. Box 352
Ord, Neb. 68862
(ph 308 728-3113)

Here's a simple idea for an outside sink with "solar heated" hot water that helps keep dirt out of the house, especially when there are lots of kids around. We installed a sink next to an outside wall so everyone can clean up before coming inside. The sink is plumbed to an outside cold water faucet. I fitted the



faucet with a "T" and plumbed one line to the cold water faucet and the other to a long length of garden hose hanging near the sink. The other end of the garden hose plumbs to the hot water faucet. The sun warms the hose, heating up the water it holds. A short length of plastic hose carries drain water several feet away from the sink.

Andrew Szurek
2809 Silver Lane N.E.
Minneapolis, Minn. 55421

Thank you for your article in Vol. 12, No. 3 about our new E-Z Eye grain bin level indicator. As explained in your article, our indicator installs easily in the side of any grain bin to tell you what the level of grain is in a bin while standing on the ground. The indicator is dark green in color when empty but turns bright orange as grain reaches its level. We'd like to point out that since your article