"The dealer tried very hard to make this combine work but now he's advised me to get rid of it," says Harold about his "worst buy" **Massey** combine bought new in 1979. "Anything that can go wrong with a combine has gone wrong on this machine. It's one of the hardest-to-work-on combines that was ever made. The separator clutch has gone out five times. It has about 700 hrs. on it.

"My best buy is a 1460 **International** combine bought new in 1978. It's very reliable and dependable. It's worked almost 2,000 hrs. with just minor repairs."

Margaret Larsen, Heron Lake, Minn.: She says **Dataline** information service is a "best buy". "Since we bought the equipment in 1985, it's been the marketing tool we use most since it's up-to-date with only a 10 min. delay. The price is lower than using a phone modem and it's available 24 hrs. a day."

F.G. Spillman, Kyle, Tex.: "The Power Shift transmission on my new **Deere** 4450 is the best thing since sliced bread. I'll never buy another tractor without it."

Brad Hollerich, Good Thunder, Minn.: "My worst buys are 30 **Pride Of The Farm** 12-hole, 60 bu. round hog feeders. They have stainless steel bottoms but they were put together with regular steel bolts and rivets. After about a year, the bolts and rivets rusted off and the hogs started to destroy them. In all I own about 70 Pride Of The Farm feeders. When these wear out I won't buy anymore."

"After about a year, the bolts and rivets rusted off."

On the plus side, Brad's happy with his **Summers Mfg. Co.** 33-ft. "Superweeder" with 500 gal. incorporation kit. "It pulls easy and does an excellent job of spraying. Makes a perfect seedbed."

William Kill, Venedocia, Ohio: "I like the performance and durability of our 1986 **Husqvarna** 266 chainsaw. I've never had a saw this lightweight and easy to handle."

Rene Lalonde, Moose Creek, Ontario: "I'm pleased with my entire line of **New Holland** machinery which includes a 479 haybine, a 311 baler, a 518 manure spreader, and a 352 grinder-mixer. All are very dependable.

"My 1987 **Chevrolet** 1/2-ton pickup with a fuel-injected engine is also a best buy. It starts well and never stalls. Has lots of pep and rides like a car. I get 27 mpg and it's never been back to the dealer."

Sam Lambert, Pontiac, Ill.: "We had to replace all four **Firestone** radial tires on our 310 Steiger (size 30.5 by 32) at a cost of about $4,000. A Firestone engineer verified that two of these tires were out of round. We have been trying for about 6 mos. to get something done, but so far the engineer who came out to the farm and verified the problem is our only contact with the company."

Sam's pleased with a "best buy" 1983 **Mack** R-Model semi tractor with an Econodyne 1,900 rpm engine that he bought used. "It's done the job considerably better than many new trucks we've bought in the past.

"We also like our **Mayrath** swing-away 10-in. by 62-ft. auger, our **Kinze** planter, and our **Deere** combine."

Doran Zumbach, Coggon, Iowa: His 1986 **Case/IH 1660** combine with a 1063 cornhead heads his "best buy" list. "It's got a big roomy cab and lots of capacity. We can combine in excess of 1,300 bu. per hour with an almost perfectly clean grain sample. It's trouble-free, easy to work on, and easy to start in cold weather. This is the first IH machine I've ever bought.

"My other best buy is my **Dataline** information service. We receive a tremendous amount of information daily for less than 65 cents. That's a real bargain."

Harvey Kistler, Colby, Kan.: "Our best buy 1986 **Steiger** Puma 4-WD tractor performs two field operations at once. We mounted an 8-row Orthman pusher cultivator on the front and a Blue Jet in-row ripper on the rear 3-pt. The engine is very responsive, economical, and starts instantly even in cold weather. On the negative side, the Power Shift transmission shifts rough in some gears and parts are not as readily or quickly available as Deere equipment."

Albert Reynolds, Booker, Texas: He's pleased with a 1982 **International** 1460 combine he bought used with 225 hrs. on it. "It's got a 24-ft. header. It cuts well and puts a clean sample in the tank. Like the speed in the field."

A. J. Stuber, Southey, Sask.: He nominates his **Dodge** D-150 with a 318 propane-fueled engine as "best buy". "Good economy with the propane and it runs well. It's quiet running, easy to handle, well-made, starts well and is easy to maintain."

Milburn Harms, Cole Camp, Mo.: "Our **Royal** outside forced air 150,000 btu furnace is a worst buy. It doesn't have a big enough fan and the firebox is not big enough. We burned too much wood and froze all winter."

Milburn says the **Hav-Roc** tree saw, which he read about in FARM SHOW, is a "best buy". "It mounts on a tractor front-end loader and works great on small trees and underbrush. Leaves no stumps above ground (Hav-Roc, Inc., Rt. 2, Box 43, Green Ridge, Mo. 65332)."

Robert E. Larson, Story City, Iowa: "I'm very happy with the grain storage facility that we recently set up with a bin, leg and dryer from **Behlen**. Quality materials, everything fits together efficiently, and it's easy to set up and use."

Chester Lindblom, Outlook, Mont.: "I'm disappointed with my 1986 **Buick** Park Avenue. There's much more road noise, motor noise and transmission noise than my older 1983 Buick Park Avenue diesel. However, gas mileage and power are good on the 1986 model."

Chester's pleased with his **Skil** 2000 cordless screwdriver. "It's compact and has enough driving power to drive a 2 1/2-in. drywall screw into the side of a 2 by 4 all the way up to the head. Recharges in less than 3 hrs."

Lowell Gehrls, Dixon, Iowa: "Our **Deere** 780 Hydra-Push manure spreader is one terrific machine. We've used it now for 2 years with no problems whatever. Works great in cold weather with no apron chains to fix. One of the best pieces of equipment Deere & Co. ever made."

Mark Sande, Belgrade, Mont.: "My Zap 10 electric fence charger from **IAAB U.S.A. Inc.**, Bellevue, Wash., is compact, easy to install, and has a longer range than most chargers. Holds cows better than others we've used."

Meril Ebbers, Nampa, Idaho: "This is the ideal vehicle for checking irrigated fields," says Meril about his "best buy" **Kawasaki** 4-wheel ATV 300 "Bayou". "I like the differential lock and the suspension is better than most. One thing it needs is more fuel capacity."

On the negative side, he says he's been disappointed with Sonalan by **Elanco**. "It's an excellent product in some situations but we had crop damage in some beans and seed peas at the recommended rates. We've also had some carryover problems. I believe this is a hotter chemical than Elanco realizes."

Calvin Wasserstraass, Monroe, Wis.: "It's strong yet simple. Makes solid, uniform bales even at high speed. Doesn't require much power to operate," says Calvin about his **Hesston** in-line 4550 baler.

Clarence Slaathaug, Grand Forks, N. Dak.: "My best buy is FARM SHOW Magazine.

"Also, I recently bought a new 6-ft. Woods 306 3-pt. mower which I'm sure will turn out to be a best buy over the years because of the success I've had with a 7 1/2-ft. Woods mower I bought in 1973. In 1,100 hrs. of mowing, I've replaced the belt and blades only once and replaced just one idler bearing.

"Another best buy is my 1973 **Deere** 44-hp. 3-cyl. 1530 diesel fitted with a 145 loader. This tractor has 1,450 hrs. on it without a dime's worth of trouble. In fact it still has the original Deere batteries that were installed in 1974 when it was delivered to the farm.

"I've also had good luck with my 1982 **Datsun** King Cab diesel pickup. I average 33 mpg year around. In winter, on a mixture of fuel, I get 27 mpg. In summer, using number 2 fuel, I get 38 mpg. I have almost 70,000 miles on it and just replaced the battery this summer and the glow plugs a year ago. I change oil every 3,000 miles, air filter every 7,000 miles, and the fuel filter each 30,000 miles. Looks like this diesel engine will run forever."

John Hogan, Sherburn, Minn.: John is happy with his 1987 **Schweiss Manufacturing** 1850 Magnum I zero turn lawn mower. "It will not plug up in tall or wet grass. Has plenty of power on hills and maneuvers easily around buildings. It's also great for pulling wagons and augers around the yard. The single joy stick makes handling great."

John E. Taylor, Canton, Ill.: "It's a great farm hand," says John, happy with his "best buy" 1977 **Ford** F250 4-WD pickup. "It's been the most dependable vehicle I've ever owned with 90,000 trouble-free miles. The 460 engine handles any load, hauling or pulling, and it's always ready to go."

Gary Staggs, Milan, Mo.: He's happy with a **New Holland** 232 grinder-mixer he bought used. "It does everything it's supposed to do."

Loren Tschetter, Dolton, S. Dak.: "At $110 per gallon, **PP & G's** Cobra is the worst buy I've ever made. I followed the directions to kill cockleburs in beans. It burned the beans real bad and killed some of the cockleburs but 75 to 80% of them came back. I had about a 15 bu. per acre loss."

On the positive side, Loren's happy with his 1981 **White** 2-155 tractor. "I bought the tractor so I'd be warm when pushing snow and feeding hay. It's powerful in the field and fuel efficient for its size. The cab is quiet and visibility is good. A pleasure to drive. I put 480 trouble-free hours on it over the past year."

Harold McCutcheon, Harrison Valley, Penn.: "Four years ago we purchased a 65-hp. **Long** 4-WD tractor. All the dealers in our area went out of business so it was very hard to get parts. In addition, it took an acre to turn the thing around. Also the gear shift would jump out of gear and the hydraulic system was very slow and old fashion."

Harold's had good luck with his 1987 **Deere** 2555 65-hp. tractor. "I like the 4-WD and it has an amazingly tight turning radius. The shifting is greatly improved over earlier models by locating the gear shift next to the steering column, leaving the platform open."

Douglas F. Richards, Parish, N.Y.: "One of our best buys is our Dorset and Dorset-Finn cross ewes and rams. Using Cornell University's Star System, the ewes lamb every 7 months. We've been able to sell as many as 6 lambs from one ewe in a year.

"Another best buy is our **Gallagher** Spring Tight Fence and charger. The fence system allows us to graze up to 300 ewes on less than 50 acres. Our grazing season lasts from late April into November and we even get two cuttings of hay from some fields. Even though we live in the snow belt with a high coyote population, my maintenance time on the fence is less than two days per year. I've never lost an animal to a dog or coyote even though I lamb on pasture in June, August, and sometimes October.

"My worst buy is a 1983 **Deere** 2550 tractor with a 245 loader. With less than 2,000 hrs. on this tractor I've had numerous hydraulic leaks, broken three front-drive shafts, and one CV assembly. The last straw was when the engine sleeves went out at 1,885 hrs. last spring. It takes Deere & Co. a week to deliver front-end parts on 'overnight flash service'. The company refused to replace the entire front-end or the entire tractor, as I requested. As for the sleeves, they say it was caused by bad water or bad antifreeze but there's no evidence of wear or damage anywhere in the cooling system. It was just bad casting and poor machining. Since the dealer rebuilt the engine, which I paid for, the tractor has over 200 hrs. on it and is using 4 qts. of oil per 100 hrs. This is my last piece of green equipment."

Marlyn Bordson, Wanamingo, Minn.: "I've been very happy with the quality workmanship and service of my 1988 **Chevrolet** Scottsdale pickup," says Marlyn about his "best buy".

Calvin M. Schuk, Tatla, Lake, British Columbia: "Our best buy is our 1986 **Versatile** 256 bi-directional 4-WD tractor.

"It's got good traction, good flotation, and a comfortable seat."

It's got good traction, good flotation, and a comfortable seat with excellent placement of hand and foot controls. You can swivel smoothly to switch the direction of travel, and I like the hydrostatic drive which gives us instant forward or reverse. We were also pleased when the engine warranty was upheld. A Cummins mechanic drove over 200 miles one-way to replace a faulty turbo charger."

Also on the "best buy" side, Calvin's happy with his 1987 **Husqvarna** chainsaw. "It's light, cuts fast and we have a good dealer.

Kent Krause, Adams, Neb.: "My 1983 4-WD **Chevrolet** S-10 pickup with a V-6 and 4-speed manual transmission should

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