

only have been driven on pavement. It wasn't made for off-road work," says Kent about his "worst buy". "It's geared too fast in first and reverse. First was too fast for travel over a rough pasture and it takes a lot of skill to back it up a hill or in loose ground without killing the engine. A stick or cornstalk can easily knock off the plastic hub caps. The box is lightweight and easily dented. The front fenders are too narrow so that mud flies up and lands in your lap if the window is open and there is a cross wind. In mud, when you notice a loss of power, you have to get out and dig the mud out of the end of the exhaust pipe. At 29,000 miles I had to replace the expensive front drivehafts C.V. joints."

On the positive side, "Our 1987 Case/IH 1660 combine threshes well and cleans grain with little damage. A very nice, clean quiet cab."

Paul Dudley, Meridian, N.Y.: He's pleased with his Gehl 760 forage blower. "We especially like having the blower directly behind the cutterhead. This eliminates a cross auger and provides a lot of access to the cutterhead and knife sharpener. The hydraulic knife sharpener bevels each knife individually and the shear bar is easy to adjust. Also the machine is vibration-free. It would be hard to improve this product."

Paul's disappointed with his Duracraft electric band saw. "We use it for cutting steel but it will not cut straight and destroys band blades as fast as you can put them in. The dealer tried to fix it but it's hard when you're working with junk."

Dennis Smith, Smithton, Penn.: "At about 1/2 the price of a new bar rake, this rake outperforms them all. Being a pull-type rake it doesn't require a 3-pt. hitch tractor. It's easily adjustable and easy to hook up. It leaves hay fluffed up so that drying time is shorter, and it also does well on short third and fourth cuttings."

Loren Steiner, Orrville, Ohio: "It would only take a couple more pounds of steel in the high stress areas to improve New Holland equipment. Why don't they do it?" asks Loren, unhappy with his 346 manure spreader, 275 baler and 489 haybine. "The equipment works well when it's together but is built so fragile that frequent 'welder stops' must be made to put it back together again."

Loren's happy with his 1983 Deere 2750 and 1986 Deere 4840 bought used in 1986. "The 2750 with a cab is a pleasure to use, especially for winter manure hauling. It replaced a Deere 2640 that was so noisy, fuel thirsty and troubled in the hydraulic system that we traded it in after just three years."

"We've also been pleased with our 1980 Deere 90 skid steer loader. It has been more trouble-free in 1420 hrs. than we expected. The only parts we've replaced are the tires and the bucket."

Margaret L. Stahr, Waco, Neb.: "We've had a great deal of difficulty with the Ag/Pac farm software company. Last spring a salesman from Ag/Pac called my husband Verle and convinced him to try \$2,000 worth of ag software for \$500. He said it could be billed to our Visa and not paid if we didn't like the software. We returned the materials still sealed in their original mailing box but the company refused to accept the package because we didn't use the company's return mailing labels. The \$500 was not credited to our account. I called the company four or five times. Each time they would say they'd

check and call me back, but they never did. Finally I reached them and they refused to send us the return labels we needed. One night a representative of the company called and said we were bullheaded and hadn't read the company's return policy. He tried to tell me the software was 4 months overdue, ignoring the extension they had granted us. He refused to send us the mailing labels so we could return the materials. We have since contacted Visa. After they heard our story, they contacted Ag/Pac's bank and credited our account for the \$500."

Myron Dyrda, Teulon, Manitoba: "I'm pleased with my 1985 New Idea 484 round baler. I've had no problems starting bales in any type of forage. The two twin arms cut tying time in half. Makes a nice bale without much operator effort."

Robert Kindt, Assiniboia, Sask.: "Our 1986 self-propelled 7720, Deere Titan II combine with 12-ft. pickup and a 30-ft. straight cut header is our best buy. We feel

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this machine is the Cadillac of combines. It has great capacity, is trouble-free, and it's easy to adjust, service and operate. Warranty work by our dealer has been top-notch."

Eugene Stufflebeam, Lewiston, Ill.: "The tractor starts hard and uses too much fuel," says Eugene about his "worst buy" Deutz-Allis 8070 MFD tractor. "At less than 1,000 hrs. the head gasket has been replaced, the injection pump sent in for repairs, and the entire engine was replaced due to a cracked block. In order to ease the rough ride, we lengthened the wheelbase 14 in. which helped considerably."

He's pleased with his 1987 Deere 4450. "The tractor starts easier, is better on fuel, and has more power than the 4440 it replaced. The 15-speed Power Shift transmission is also a plus factor. You can easily change gears to suit any condition."

Tim E. Clifford, Lucky Lake, Sask.: "The most satisfying product I've bought in a long time is my 1985 Degelman RP6700 rock picker. It's big and well-built with a 6-ft. reel and a 2 1/2 cu. yd. bucket. This "super picker" model has four bat reels, instead of the usual three bats, which means the operator can run the reel slower, making it safer to use. The machine is pto-driven which gives it lots of power without the problems of hydrostatic flow loss experienced with orbital motor driven rock pickers. It transports quickly with a hydraulic ram which moves the hitch in and out of picking position. The only drawback is that being twice as big as normal rock pickers, the price is nearly twice as much as well."

"The worst product I've purchased lately is a 1986 Victory oscillating hydraulic harrow. It works well in heavy trash conditions when it's not broken down. The first problem is that the transport arms are too light. Also, the arms that hold the harrow crankshafts all cracked after one season of use. It was no big deal because I was able to weld them up, but I felt the company should have compensated me or provided some type of changeover kit to correct the problem."

Robert Shaw, Stauffer, Alberta: He's had trouble with his 1986 Ford Escort. "We installed two new fuel pumps, a new head,

new pistons, a timing belt, and had trouble with the rear suspension. We've also had to buy miscellaneous expensive replacement parts available only through Ford, such as fuel filters, batteries, and so on."

Douglas Eaves, Woodsboro, Md.: "Our New Holland 2100 forage harvester with a 939 6-row cornhead is one of our best buys. The harvester has had only a few problems in the first 400 hrs. The cornheads have been improved over earlier models with self-adjusting cut-off discs, sealed lower gathering chains, and grouped grease fittings. However, the head does seem heavy even for this chopper. Has plenty of capacity. We cut 80 10-ton loads in 11 1/2 hrs. Our Papec 24-ft. forage wagons are also a best buy, as is our New Holland model 40 silage blower."

"Our worst buys are two 4,000 gal. liquid manure spreaders made by WIC Co. of Quebec, Canada and distributed in the U.S. by U.S. Agri-Systems, Oxford, Penn. The Italian pto shafts didn't last three months and the sub-frame on one tank collapsed. The company would only replace the tank if we shipped it to Canada at our cost. Our dealer finally repaired the tank as well as the cracks on the main frames of both spreaders. A factory rep who looked at the tanks said we were using them too much. I'm sure our problems with these spreaders won't quit when the warranty does."

C.C. Schramm, Payson, Utah: "We like our 1987 Kelly Ryan 9 to 10-ft. silage big bagger. "There's no tunnel to clean and it bags silage faster, tighter and smoother than any bagger I have ever used. I like the bagger I bought so much I now sell them."

Also on the positive side, "My 1982 Chrysler Lebaron is as good a car today as when we bought it after over 150,000 miles of travel. It just refuses to wear out."

Schramm's "worst buy" is the grass catcher on his Deere riding lawn mower. "If grass is short and bone dry, it might work but if the grass is 3 to 4 in. long and growing, forget it. It'll plug in the tube. All I ever got from the dealer was a laugh and a smile. It's a worthless piece of junk."

Robert Patten, Lawrenceville, N.Y.: "It's the most comfortable-riding vehicle I've ever been in," says Robert about his 1987 Ford Aerostar mini-van. "It's easy to get in and out of, which is important for elderly people. Driver visibility is excellent. The two rear seats snap in and out in a second so you can haul 2, 5 or 7 people or the cargo load of a pickup truck."

Elmer E. Willenbring, Richmond, Minn.: "Our 1984 Deutz tractor has performed consistently without any problems. Very fuel efficient and reliable every season of the year."

He's disappointed with his 1985 Echo weed whip. "The unit has been a problem from the very beginning. Every time we want to use the unit, we have to dismantle the carburetor before the engine runs. The dealer serviced the unit but it didn't help."

Robert Beymer, Lore City, Ohio: "This is the best tiller on the market. It does exactly what the company says it will do," says Robert about his "best buy" Troy-Bilt 8-hp. roto-tiller.

He's also pleased with his 916 Owatonna 9-ft. haying machine. "We had a month of rain in the middle of haying last year and didn't get some of the first cutting off till late July. This machine easily cuts hay that other makes can't handle. Some hay was so thick that a 3-pt. mounted 7-ft. sickle bar would go just 2 ft. before it kicked back. We did custom work with this

Owatonna for neighbors who were in the same fix."

Gerald Thaden, Marvin, S. Dak.: "I've used my New Holland TR86 combine for one season. It's a truly modern combine that performs well in all crops. I especially liked its performance when equipped with a new 973 20-ft. flexhead. It's definitely a best buy," says Gerald.

He's also pleased with his 1987 Chevrolet Scottsdale 1-ton 4-WD pickup. "It handles well under loaded conditions and yet is as comfortable riding as the lighter duty models. The 350 fuel injected gasoline engine along with the 4-speed transmission and 3.75 gear ratio makes it a real workhorse on or off the road."

Leonard Fehr, Gladstone, Manitoba: "My best buy is my 1981 Versatile 875 4-WD tractor. It has over 3,000 hrs. on it and we have not spent \$100 in repairs on it yet. It handles very well and has lots of power. Another best buy is our New Holland TR95 combine. It's easy to set and has lots of capacity. The Cadillac of combines today."

"My 1985 Case/IH 44-ft. vibra tiller cultivator is my worst buy. Axle bushings on the tandem wheels wore out the first season. They were replaced. The same thing happened all over again the next year. The wings on this machine always go deeper than the rest of the cultivator, which we fixed by putting spacers on the cylinders. It takes about 1/2 hour to set the cultivator right. The harrows are junk. They don't have enough adjustment on them. If we didn't have a good dealer, I would have traded it off the first year."

Garry Hill, Langruth, Manitoba: "In 1982 we bought a 1690 Case tractor with 500 hrs. on it. It's been our worst buy ever. We've had endless trouble. The first spring the motor went out. All summer main hydraulic lines would break. We've replaced two hydraulic pumps on it. A frost plug went in behind the flywheel at 1,200 hrs. so the tractor had to be split. The air

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conditioning compressor was mounted poorly so that the torque of the compressor broke the thermostat housing off. This tractor consumes more fuel than any other machine I own. We've gotten no satisfaction from the dealer."

Fred Dunlop, Stayner, Ontario: "My Deere 2130 tractor and 716H garden tractor have both been good buys. Both have been relatively trouble-free over the years. The 716 is used to cut lawn, roto-till the garden and run a 7-in. auger. The 2130 is used for planting, spraying, and running a GT 570 grain dryer on the 1,000 rpm pto shaft with the engine running at 1,500 rpm."

Tim Erger, Brighton, Col.: He's happy with his 1984 Deere 347 baler with hydraulic tension. "It makes a very square and uniform bale and it's easy to adjust bale weight as needed. Capacity is excellent."

Tim's also pleased with his 1980 Deere 4040 tractor. "I bought it used three years ago and have had no down time except for regular maintenance. Runs great."