

Best And Worst Buys

(Continued from preceding page)

tion on the ground," reports George, happy with his 1984 **International** 2+2.

William Fricke, Petersburg, Ill.: William's pleased with his 1985 **Vicon** double wide hay rake. "Does twice the work of one rake with just one tractor and one operator. Has few moving parts, gently turns hay and I get less leaf loss."

Jake Van Eps, Hancock, Minn.: "It always seems to be falling apart and nobody seems to want it in trade," reports Jake, upset with his **Bolens** lawnmower.

As "best buy" he cites his 1971 4020 **Deere** tractor. "We've not had any expense on it outside of a new clutch. It has over 5000 hrs. on it and doesn't use any oil."

Burton W. Bartz, Princeton, Minn.: "My **New Idea** 363 manure spreader is a best buy. The worm gear drive is very smooth and pulls extremely easy for such a large spreader."

Mark Stiegman, Thawville, Ill.: "If this was the only bait on the market, the world would be engulfed with rats. I think it's a complete waste of money," says Mark, disappointed with **Rampage** Rat Bait. "Placed it side by side with five other brands. Rodents never touched it although other brands were readily consumed."

Brian Klapak, Warren, Ohio: "My best buys are all **Ford** products. I own 7710 and 4610 tractors. They start easily and operate smoothly. The canopies are like a shade tree and the dealer is one of the best in the business. A 1985 **Ford** XLT Lariat pickup is also a best buy. Rides excellent and gets good mileage."

On the negative side, Brian's unhappy with his 1978 **Case** 1410 tractor. "It leaked oil everywhere and the 3-pt. hitch took a genius to operate. Injector pump went out at 1,000 hrs."

Daryl Semerad, Dickinson, N. Dak.: "Stress points are well-reinforced and it has heavier axles and bigger tires than comparable brands," reports Daryl, happy with his 1983 **Kiefer** 6 by 16-ft. **Stockmaster** stock trailer.

He nominates his 1985 **Sears** Craftsman variable speed, reversible 1/2-in. drill as "worst buy". "I only drilled four holes with it in a year's time and the motor burned out just one month after the warranty ran out. I thought Craftsman had better quality tools than this."

Lester Evers, Windom, Minn.: "My 1981 **Buick** diesel car only had 45,000 miles on it and blew the engine. Buick said 'too bad'. I wound up trading for a new car. Once you have a diesel, you're stuck or you'll lose a lot of money."

On the positive side, Lester says, "My 295-250 **AC-DC Century** welder is easy to operate and will run a 7018 rod smoothly and will do a beautiful job that will hold. My 8070 **Allis Chalmers** tractor with mfw has a cab that is tops. The tractor will pull at reduced throttle and come right back

in rpm's under load. With the front wheels pulling, you can go through mud or up hills with little or no slip-page. Tractor starts good even in cold weather. It's far better than my old 7060.

"I also like my 1981 **Gleaner** M2 combine. It's always done a good job and gives me very little trouble."

Steven Kolbet, Marble Rock, Iowa: He nominates his **Bainbridge** farrowing crates and **ADA** one-piece, pvc-coated farrowing decks as "best buy". "The Bainbridge's European design with its narrower 18-in. sow space width and higher bottom side bar — with longer and wider spaced finger bars — forces the sow to lay down udder-first, before flopping to her side. This allows more room for the sow to lay down and gives baby pigs easier nursing access and an increased creep area. The **ADA** farrowing deck is made with the floor support and floor in one piece so it's easy to clean. Makes the sow area an inch higher than the creep area."

Virgil Leach, Ogallala, Neb.: "They really do work. I have a 1978 **Ford** van that averaged 10-12 mpg. I now get an average of 20 mpg and have more power than before," reports Virgil, pleased with an engine equipped with **Mike Brown's** re-manufactured cam and pistons.

Kent Hodgson, Hudson, P.Q.: "I'd like to nominate the **Bodman** Nupulse milkers as our best buy. They're so simple in design that they're virtually maintenance free. For the past 5 yrs. we've been using 4 units on our herd. With an initial investment of less than \$2,000, one man is able to milk 40 cows in less than 1 hr. with no mastitis problems and no drop-offs."

Del Shaw, Toddville, Iowa: "My **Cedarberg** Rotary Phase Converter model 50 is a best buy. Easy to install and doesn't require any maintenance."

Larry Dahl, Cogswell, N. Dak.: "In 3 seasons of use, my 1981 **Case** 2290 has never had a breakdown. It's needed only service and fuel. My 4-WD 1978 **Case** 2470 has over 1500 hrs. on it with only minor repairs."

His "worst buy" is a **Crown** rotary rock picker. "We leased it with the option to buy. We sent it back at the end of the one year lease. It would only pick up small rocks and put more dirt than rocks into the box. It also had drive chain problems."

Delbert Ecklund, Minnetonka, Minn. He nominates a **Fish** carburetor installed on his 440 **Dodge** motor home as "worst buy". "It cost \$212 for the carburetor and \$102 for the adaptor. I had to rework all the throttle linkage, and automatic transmission shift-down linkage. I couldn't get a choke because I didn't buy from a dealer so I put an ether start on it for \$80. It wouldn't start when cold and vapor locked when over 70°. If you set it for economy, it had no power and, when you adjusted it for power, it was a gas hog."

"Another best buy is our 1975 775 **New Holland** skid steer loader with Perkins 57 hp. diesel engine. No problems at all and it's more stable than other skid steers," says Delbert.

Wilbur Damman, Melbourne, Iowa: "Our best buys are two **White** tractors, a 2-70 and 2-85 with a cab. They're very fuel efficient and smooth running. They each have logged nearly 4,000 hrs. and have never had any work done on them. We also like our **White** Field Boss planter."

Anderson Hammond, Nichols, S. C.: His 55 **Homelite** chain saw and 1982 **Ford** pickup top his "best buy" list. "My chain saw is always ready and has never given any trouble. My 1982 **Ford** pickup has given good service, thanks to a good local dealer."

Dale Moughler, Waterloo, Ind.: "**Dekalb** seed corn was my worst buy of 1985. I bought 5 bags of DK505. The bags were marked MF, but they had small rounds in them. I got about a 30,000 plant population and lost about 20 bu. per acre yield. The only thing **Dekalb** would do is replace part of the seed."

Joseph Shearer, Genoa, Ill.: "My **Deere** 318 lawn and garden tractor with a 3-pt. hitch, rear-mounted 50-in. mower, and 48-in. rear-mounted roto-tiller is my best buy."

Ted Mortimer, Centralia, Mo.: "This pickup has driven 190,000 miles with few repairs," says Ted,

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pleased with his 1972 **Chevy** 1/2-ton pickup. He also likes his two **Allis Chalmers** 7000 tractors and his **Allis Chalmers** **Gleaner** M2 combine. "The tractors have close to 6,000 hrs. each with hardly any repairs and the combine's cut 6,000 acres with little downtime. I've owned **Gleaners** for 26 years. There's nothing better."

Allen W. Reilly, Spangle, Wash.: He's pleased with his 1984 **Ford** Econoline 150 van and his 1985 **Campbell** 16-ft. "stock combo" trailer. "We bought the van with a towing package, 351 high performance engine, and automatic transmission. The ride's great. Runs quiet and gets about 18 mpg whether loaded with 2 people or 7. Has no problems pulling a trailer and is stable in wind. The stock trailer hauls up to 9 heavy heifers easily. Three doors make it easy to load and unload anywhere. High sides provide excellent protection against bad weather."

Jim Gracey, Dexter, N.Y.: "Moves silage fast with no plugging. There are only four bearings to wear out and one drive chain," reports Jim, who likes his "best buy" 35-ft. **Butler** belt elevator.

Willie Fichtenberg, Mesa, Wash.:

He's had bad luck with his **Motorola** Maxar private band FM radios. "The radio's private line didn't work from day one. Since we were in wheat harvest, I used them anyway. When I finished I took them back to the service center. They couldn't fix them so I finally called the factory. They're going to check the radios on the machines. The radios work fine if they can get the private line to work. That's why I bought them. Before, I had to listen to everyone else talk."

Willie rates his **Echo** CS-280 chain saw as "best buy". "It's small and lightweight. You can hold it in one hand to trim trees but it has a long enough bar to cut any size trunk."

Neil Shaffer, Udall, Kan.: "I bought one of the first 5580 **Hesston** balers because several dealers convinced me that this was the ultimate machine. It was a dud. Factory personnel refuse to return my calls. It runs pretty fair now, no thanks to **Hesston**."

Charles Hoenke, Grafton, N. Dak.: He likes his **Ford** F150 pickup. "I purchased it in mid-1983 for use as a field service vehicle. It's equipped with a fuel tank, air compressor, gas welder and complete set of tools. I've put on 61,000 miles with no trouble."

"Another best buy is my 1460 **International** combine. We've combined small grains, sunflowers, soybeans and corn with it for 3100 hrs. with hardly any downtime. Good dealer service."

Ralph Paarlberg, Grant Park, Ill.: "In 1976 I bought a new **White** 598 plow and had nothing but grief. It never plowed straight or smooth. The dealer tried but couldn't fix it, and wouldn't take it back. The company refused to help. In 1982 I sold it and bought a used **Deere** 2800 plow with all the same features. It does an excellent job and pulls far easier."

He's also had bad luck with **Modown** herbicide. "I used it on some of my soybeans in 1983 and 1984. Both years it failed, after being properly applied according to their directions. In 1984, it cut my bean yields at least 5-bu. per acre."

Bill Schlagel, DeGraff, Minn.: Bill's pleased with a tile plow he bought from **Farm Drainage Plows**, (909 4th St. N.W., Waverly, Iowa 50677) which he first read about in **FARM SHOW**. "It's reasonably priced at \$3,300. We bought it late last fall and, although we put in only 3,000 ft. before the ground froze, we were very pleased with how well it worked. There's no limit to the good this machine can do for us."

On the negative side, he's had trouble with his 1984 **Chevrolet** 6.2 diesel pickup. "I replaced two flywheels and had a problem with the fuel system that wasn't fixed even after 7 or 8 trips back to the dealer. The problem was that the fuel system would lose its prime overnight and be hard to start in the morning. I traded it off for a 1985 **Chevrolet** with a 305 gas engine. It's under-powered but at least it starts. I had to replace the fuel tank switches on both pickups and body parts on both are very poorly aligned."