

own five — an 8000, two 7000's a 5000 with a loader and a 4600. They're trouble-free, economical to run and the best-built tractors in the industry. Once you own a Ford tractor, you'll never want anything else. I know we never will. We're very happy about the Ford buy-out of **New Holland** because our New Holland equipment also ranks high on our best buy list.

"On the negative side is our **Badger** silo unloader. We've had nothing but trouble with it since the day we bought it. It's now four years old and

"We've had nothing but trouble with it since the day we bought it."

completely worn out. We'll never buy another."

Roger Morin, Arlee, Mont.: He's happy with his **Deere** 1209 9-ft., 3-in. swather. "Works 100% perfect every time."

Ward Friederich, Savanna, Ill.: "It has the power to handle heavy work but isn't so big you can't use it for small jobs. Starts well in cold weather and there's no need for chains in snow because of the front wheel assist," says Ward about his "best buy" 2750 **Deere** tractor.

Dave Martin, Delavan, Ill.: "The only big breakdown in 1,200 hrs. was the feeder chain and the warranty took care of that. The Ford diesel engine has plenty of power. The twin rotor has plenty of capacity and causes less damage to grain," says Dave, happy with his TR 70 **New Holland** combine.

On the "worst buy" side, he nominates his 1982 **Chevy** pickup with auto-overdrive. "It has a transmission that doesn't know when to shift. It's always going from second to third to fourth and back. The dealer says that's the nature of the model and won't do anything to help."

Tim Huddleston, Snyder, Tex.: "My 4850 **Deere** with a 15-speed power shift transmission is a best buy. It's very productive and puts our 4840 with an 8-speed power shift to shame as far as fuel usage and pulling power. The engine runs cool even on 100° days and uses 1/3 less fuel than our 4840 doing the same work. **Deere & Company** has outdone itself this time."

Also on his "best buy" list is a **Deere** 7440 5-row cotton stripper and a 283 tractor-mounted stripper. "Both of these strippers were bought new. The 744 has 350 hrs. on it now and is the best stripper that has ever been built. It has excellent row sensing ability and runs great on the side of large contour terraces."

Bradley A. Mills, Haviland, Ohio: Bradley names his 1981 **Buick** Regal as "worst buy". "The only good thing about the car is that it gets 22-25 mpg. highway and rides nice. I've had it at 3 different garages in our area for spark knock, but they can't seem to eliminate it. The transmission has a humming sound when in drive, but not in neutral. Freeze plugs went bad,

and the heater pipes that go over the turbo rusted through from the heat but weren't listed in the parts book.

"My best buy is a 1983 **McCulloch** Pro Mac 610 chain saw with a 16-in. bar. It seems well-balanced and has plenty of power. I like the automatic oiling."

Nelson E. Brown, Athabasca, Alta.: "It starts and bales with no fusing in any kind of hay. It only quit once in very dry straw. It has an open throat so the leaves aren't mashed off as with balers that have feed rolls in front," says Nelson, pleased with his **New Holland** 851 round baler.

He's disappointed with his **White** 2-85. "This tractor is nice to handle and has good power but at 628 hrs. the spider gears went out and the chips broke the pump shaft so it didn't oil the transmission, causing it to seize up. It cost \$4,300 to fix. The company paid \$1,500. At 812 hrs., the power steering cylinder broke off for another \$650."

Harvey N. Horn, Pennant, Sask.: "I've had real good luck and been happy with **Deere** tractors over the past 30 yrs. From a 2-cyl. 720 to a 4640 I use now, I have no complaints. However, they could make a little larger cab. Some of my 6-ft. plus neighbors say the cabs are too small."

George Campbell, Maroa, Ill.: "This tractor has a water-cooled diesel engine which is built to last. It's cheap to operate and the mower deck removes easily to service the tractor. Mower has a large capacity," says George, happy with his "best buy" **Deere** 430 lawn and garden tractor.

Timothy Beeler, Seaman, Ohio: He nominates his **Sure Flame** (245 Erie St., Huntington, Ind. 46750) outside wood stove as "best buy". "We remodeled an old farmhouse that had no heat source, a bad chimney, and no basement. We wanted to use wood and this works excellent to heat the house. The insurance company likes the fact that it sits outside. It's worked great — and we figure it'll pay for itself in two years with fuel savings."

He names **Bladex** herbicide as "worst buy". "We used it no-till after we chopped the wheat for forage. It didn't control weeds and grass at all in one 7-acre field where we had not had weed and grass problems last year using conventional tillage."

Clare Duffield, Browns Valley, Minn.: "There's nothing particularly wrong with the building, but dealer service was zilch. It was ordered in August, promised by Nov. 1st, and erected by Jan. 15 in bitter cold. Cement was damaged during construction, a roof panel was also damaged, and a service door put in the wrong place. Automatic door controls were improperly installed. The dealer verbally promised to correct everything but only fixed the service door. Now he will not even return my phone calls," says Clare upset with his "worst buy" 40 by 50 by 16-ft. **Butler** insulated farm shop.

He cites his **HayBuster** tub grinder and **New Holland** auto tie baler as "best buys". "Both stood up extremely well under custom work. Dealer service and company back-up were very good."

Allan Burns, Otto, Wyo.: A 1984 **Eversman** Corrugator and a 1983 **Suzuki** 125 4-wheeler top his "best buy" list. "The 3-pt. mounted corrugator makes good clean water marks for irrigation and leaves a clod-free seedbed. We also use it to mark established alfalfa fields. It's more trouble-free than tool-bar rigs and does a better job."

"Our **Suzuki** 4-wheeler is used for irrigating, fixing fence, herding stock and more. A handier, more useful machine for the farm or ranch would be hard to come by. This model has been fairly dependable but our next one will not be chain-driven. The addition of puncture-proof tires would also be a definite plus."

John W. Gourley, Leechburg, Penn.: "Although this machine is 10-yr. old, it's the best mower with the least maintenance you can buy. Just grease 7 fittings, hook up, and you can mow anything wet or dry," says John, pleased with his model 272 **New Idea** Cut/Ditioner.

His "worst buy" is a **King Kutter** 3-pt. hitch mounted disk. "Although the price wasn't too bad, this piece of equipment is definitely not for farm use. Small garden would be better. One stabilizer bar for the 3-pt. bent and the disk gangs are flimsy. It's a cheaply-made machine that doesn't work up the ground enough to make it worth the trip across the field."

Thomas N. Miller, Cedartown, Ga.: "I will never own another **Ford** baler. The dealer wasn't familiar with wire tie balers and wouldn't service it. The poorly-designed, over-riding clutch in the flywheel had to be replaced with a solid hub. The yoke pin broke, breaking both needles. The twister mechanism is made of poor

"The poorly designed flywheel clutch had to be replaced with a solid hub."

materials and shears pins every 500 bales. When working right, baler is slow due to a feed fork design that'll only bale 3 bales per minute in light, fescue hay," reports Thomas upset with his **Ford** 542 wire tire square baler.

He likes his best buy **PZ** 210 drum mower and **Lely** Gemini rake/teeder. "Both of these implements are Dutch-made and perform better than their American counterparts. They've caused no maintenance problems in 2 years of service."

"I'm also well-pleased with the performance, fuel economy and dealer service on my four used **Deutz** tractors."

Jerry Klasing, Slater, Mo.: "Our best buy is our **Deere** 8640 tractor we purchased in 1982. We replaced two tractors with it and have been well pleased. It stays in the field, not in the shop. It's been very dependable and a pleasure to drive."

Joe Young, Rushville, Ohio: "I'm satisfied with the dependability of

my 1976 **Chevrolet** K-20. It has 82,000 miles on it and all I've done is replace ball joints and U-joints. I added lockout hubs to it at 50,000 miles. They save wear and tear to the drive train and tires and increase fuel economy and performance."

Clair Villard, Craig, Colo.: "We're generally satisfied with our 1984 **Carl Heald** hauler. However, it shears bolts in the rear axle too often. They should put a woodruff key in the axle assembly and have higher ground clearance."

Glenn Mavity, Lambert, Mont.: "I'm satisfied with it but I'd like to see the company use a drive shaft instead of belts for the longest run up to the top pulley," says Glenn about his 1975 **Mayrath** 34-ft. auger.

He's also generally satisfied with his **Butler** grain bin. "The only change I'd like to see would be the installation of better door and hatch latches."

Dennis Dempsey, Quincy, Ill.: Dennis cites his 1985 1440 **International** Axial Flow combine as "best buy". "It's an easy to work on, trouble-free machine. Does an excellent job cleaning grain and has plenty of capacity."

He's not as happy with his **Liquid Brush** pressure washer. "Doesn't have nearly as much power as our old washer. The soap attachment has never worked properly."

Rick Vetter, Westside, Iowa: "The manual chain hoist for my 14-by-12 ft. overhead door from **Fort Dodge Door Co.**, Ft. Dodge, Iowa, is my best buy. It takes very little effort to open the door now that I added the chain hoist opener. You can lock it all the way open or just half open and not worry about the door coming down on you."

Michael Shields, Hillsboro, Wis.: "I've never been a believer in foreign products. Half the time this machine doesn't start, it smokes all the time, and it's too light in the front-end to haul 1200-lb. big bales. It also cramps the operator. Now the rear wheel has come loose," reports Michael, disappointed with his 560 **Long** tractor.

He likes his **Northern Hydraulics** 15½ ton gas engine log splitter. "It'll split white elm that a maul and wedge wouldn't even begin to handle. We added a pressure gauge to keep from blowing hoses."

Freddie Link, Maxwell, Iowa: "When I went to the field this fall to work up cornstalk ground with my soilsaver, I thought the implement wasn't going in the ground because the tractor was going faster than usual. After checking several times, I discovered the extra power was due to the lack of wheel slippage. I'm sure I can cover 10 to 15% more ground with these new tires," says Freddie, happy with **Armstrong** Radial 18.4 by 38 dual tractor tires.

Leslie Cooper, Kalispell, Mont.: "I've seeded over 1,200 acres of no-till wheat, barley and lentils with my **Haybuster** 8000 drills with only one minor breakdown and virtually no plugging problems, even in heavy stubble."

(Continued on next page)