

# Best And Worst Buys

(Continued from preceding page)

an advertised 320 hp. engine, you're doing real well! Ours was checked and it didn't even meet minimum specifications. Now that it's set to maximum specifications, it works better. But it still smokes blue when idling and loses rpms very easily when under load."

On a positive note, Melvin's happy with his **Massey Ferguson 860** combine. "It works great. The cab is quiet, the wide space concave makes for less grain loss, and the hydrostatic pickup makes for less parts to fall apart."

**Gilbert Lussier, Morris, Man.:** He lists his **Claas 106 Dominator** combine equipped with a V-6 Mercedes engine as "best buy". "It consumes 4.3 gal. of fuel an hour under heavy straw conditions and just 3.3 gal./hr. in flax, rapeseed and clover. I like the completely enclosed and watertight grain tank hopper, the quick-adjust concave filler bars and the ease of changing the straw cutter from cutting straw to leaving it in rows for baling. One man can do the changeover without tools in one minute."

**Gary Harrison, Albion, Mich.:** In 1980 I purchased a new **International 886** tractor. It had hydraulic troubles from day one. The dealer was very good and took it back about 6 times. The last time they brought it back the hydraulics failed to lower the plow when I was putting it away. I had to use the loader tractor to unhook it. I finally told them I wanted a different 886. My dad and I decided to pay the difference and buy a 986. It hasn't had any problems in 800 hrs. of use.

"A 'best buy' is our **Deere 2950** tractor. It's low for orchard use but has 85 hp for lots of jobs on the farm, even plowing with a 5-bottom plow. I just love the hi-lo shift."

**Ronald Schultz, Truman, Minn.:** "Last spring when our 4440 Deere broke down during planting, my dealer let me pick a new tractor to use. I chose a **Deere 4450** with MFWD, and equipped with 18.4 by 42 in. radials on the rear and 14.9 by 28 in. tires on the front. After putting 150 hrs. on it, I liked it so well I bought it. With the larger wheels, the tractor seems to have a lot more pulling power."

**Mick Watson, High Level, Alb.:** "I'd like to nominate my Free Flow Circulator wood stove manufactured by **Mont Saint Hilaire Stove Works Ltd.**, P.O. Box 300, Beloeil, Que. as my 'best buy'. I only regret it wasn't developed sooner. It's a simple and well-built stove. It burns less wood than other stoves and keeps buildings at a much more uniform temperature. And, since there isn't any electric fan to blow air, there isn't noise to bother my poor hearing."

**T. Person, Lloydminster, Alb.:** "My **Oliver 550** with 3-pt. hitch, bought new in 1960, is my 'best buy'. It's still running good."

**Fred Dunlop, Stayner, Ont.:** "My 1984 **Hardi 500** gal., tandem axle

sprayer with a 42-ft. self-leveling boom did an excellent job spraying and providing uniform pressure. The tandem axle and boom made the sprayer float smoothly over bumps.

"I purchased an 1984 **Allis Chalmers 8030 4-WD** tractor equipped with Goodyear Ultra radials that is also a best buy. The radials have superior traction, compared to bias tires. The tractor handles and performs well and turns as short as most 2-WD tractors."

**Lamar Faught, Jonesboro, Ark.:** "Within the first year of use, the power steering pump went bad, the carburetor had to be worked on several times and it wouldn't run very well with all of the pollution control equipment on it. The heater core had to be replaced, along with the rear



**"With only 45,000 miles, it has me wondering what's going to go wrong next."**



shocks and transmission valve body. This prompted the purchase of an extended warranty before the truck reached one year of age," says Lamar, upset with his 1979 **Ford F-250** pickup with a 400 engine.

"Since then, the warranty has paid for the removal of the left head because it was warped, the replacement of two water pumps, the first of which was faulty. There was also a hole in the body that allowed rain water to run into the heater system. This caused the defroster to fog the windows over instead of clearing them off. All of these problems happened before 25,000 miles.

"Since then the radiator has had to be cleaned out 3 times, the fuel pump replaced, and the front springs replaced because they allowed the front end to sag and the wheels to ride on the spring brackets. Dealer service has been very good but only about half the problems have been covered by the extended warranty. With only 45,000 miles on it, it has me wondering what's going to go wrong next."

Lamar's had better luck with his **Bush Hog 256 3-pt. hitch** attaching rotary cutter. "For the price, it's the heaviest-built mower we could find. It does a very good job on grass and brush, leaving a clean path behind it."

**Roy Schlabach, Shreve, Ohio:** "I'm well pleased with my **Kuhn GRS 25** hay rake. It's a well-built machine that does a good job of both raking and tedding."

**Gordon Roeder, Bow Island, Alb.:** Gordon's "best buy" is his **Versatile 835 4-WD** tractor. "Since I bought it in 1978, it's been virtually trouble-free. I've only had to replace a seal on

the injector pump auxiliary drive and a gasket on the left front planetary hub."

He's had troubles, though, with his **Lilliston 284 8-ft. drill**. "Before I could put it to use I had to realign most of the hoe shanks with the packer wheels. Secondly, I noticed either the pitch on the drive sprocket or the chain pitch wasn't right on the fertilizer attachment as the chain would climb the sprocket.

"After I'd seeded only 120 acres, the main drive chain from the packers started jumping off. I find this very disgusting, as it makes a mess in the field with unseeded strips. After checking that no pins had been sheared, I put the chain back on and checked to see that it fit the sprockets. It seemed alright, so I decided a small stone may have made the chain come off. This happened two more times in short order, and it seemed to have something to do with the speed I travelled. As long as I stayed at half throttle the chain stayed on, but not at full throttle. This only lasted about half a round before the chain came off at the slower speed.

"After half an hour of careful checking, I noticed that the clutch sprocket didn't line up with the chain. I moved the secondary shaft to line it up and figured I had the problem solved. It worked for a while but then the chain started coming off again and this time I noticed the chain was climbing the sprocket. I finally called the dealer. He replaced all the defective parts at no cost, but I feel the manufacturer is pretty sloppy with the parts and materials it supplies as well as the way they set the machine up."

**J.A. Williamson, Brandon, Man.:** "My **Deere 4230** tractor with a 148 loader was one of my better buys this past year. It handles big round bales with ease. With 100 plus hp, it's also a good second tractor for the seed drill and harrows."

He's not as happy, however, with his "worst buy" **Deere 31T** lawn sweep. "It's ground driven. And, when you put it down to sweep, the wheels skid. They're too small and there's not enough weight to drive it."

**Randall Hubers, Belhaven, N.C.:** He's unhappy with the **Farmers Grain and Livestock Marketing Advisory Service**. "We purchased the FGL's modified commercial advisory service for \$100 per month. The weekly letter they provide is good, but the 'personalized' marketing advice that FGL advertises, and that I want, has been non-existent."

On the "best buy" side, he's pleased with his **White 2-180** front-wheel assist tractor. "We purchased this tractor in January of 1984 and have put 800 hours on it since then. We've had a few minor repairs but no downtime at all. This tractor has plenty of power, good visibility and is very comfortable to operate."

**Wilfrid Reinert, Hoxie, Kan.:** "I haven't bought any new equipment in the last two years. My last large purchase was a used 1979 model **1460 International** combine. I've had very little trouble with it. I like its simplicity of operation and few mov-

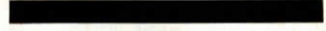
ing parts, compared to conventional machines."

**Steve Flaot, Fisher, Minn.:** "Our **Massey Ferguson 860** combine and loader tractor are our best buys. The combine went through small grain, soybean and corn harvest with only one master link breaking. Our local dealer has stood behind his sales and service 110% and couldn't be better."

**James Johnson, Shannon, Ill.:** "In April of 1984 I purchased an **International 5288** tractor. It's been the biggest headache I've ever had. Everytime I needed to use it, it was broke down or on the road to or from the dealer.

"The dealer has tried to fix it but with no luck. Everything is wrong with this tractor. It is a lemon.

"I've asked the dealer to give me a different tractor, but the dealer says all he'll do is what the warranty says he 'must' do. We've had the following problems: Anti-freeze forced out the overflow on the radiator which is a continuing problem; the 3-pt. hitch quit working; the hydraulics squealed so bad you couldn't hear the radio in the cab; the rear wheel seal leaked; the rear hydraulic valve quit working; the hydraulic seat cylinder



**"Everything is wrong with this tractor. It is a lemon."**



leaked oil in the cab; in cold weather (32°) it will not move for about 15 minutes; occasionally the 6-speed transmission only has 3-speeds that work; and corn chaff comes in the top air grill and plugs the front grill and there's no way to clean it."

**Howard Koehn, Copeland, Kan.:** "I love **FARM SHOW** magazine," says Howard who also lists his **Comput-N-Acre** from **Agri-Tech** as his "best buy". "I've been absolutely amazed with all the functions I've found for this unit. It's a tractor-mounted acreage computer that I put on my 2590 Case. I use it to calculate total field acres, acres by the round and also mph. It has proven to be accurate and I'd hate to be without it."

**Stephen Olson, Fairmont, Minn.:** "My **Deere 4850** is an all-around good tractor. It has lots of power and traction with the MFWD. It handles and maneuvers well and has good fuel economy. It's the best and only tractor I own."

**David Woller, Montague, Mich.:** "The apron chains on my **Deere 680** manure spreader aren't strong enough. Also, the wheel bearings need double dust seals and zerker fittings to grease. The cylinders on the tailgate get full of slop and go to pieces. The tailgate leaks and the U-bolts that hold the frame to the box aren't strong enough. I never had this kind of trouble with New Idea spreaders.

"My **Deere 4450** with mechanical front-wheel drive is my best buy. I like it much better than hydraulic front-wheel drive. It's smooth shifting and quiet in the cab. I also like the