

especially like the hydraulic lift. Its only weak spot is where the pole attaches to the rake frame. Older models had a solid block of steel with a 1½-in. hole in it and a bolt and piece of hollow tubing for a bushing. But on new models, they decided to substitute the steel block with a ½-in. thick piece of 1¼-in. pipe welded between two pieces of flat iron. This, of course, broke shortly after we bought the rake. The company claims it was caused by abuse so we had to pay to

“We had to pay to fix it ourselves.”

fix it ourselves. Otherwise it's a good rake.”

Michael Winscher, Royalton, Minn.: He owns a **Ford F150 4-WD**. “I use the pickup to pull loads of corn. We go 12 miles one-way to the field, pulling 300 bu. loads. I've got 123,000 miles on the pickup and have never had to do anything to it other than regular maintenance.”

Dale L. Petersohn, Claremont, Minn.: “My best buy is a 1974 **International ½-ton 4-WD** pickup. It's running good at 184,000 miles and the only maintenance it's ever needed is one new set of valve cover gaskets. My worst buy is a **Deere** grain cart. It gets stuck in any soft place.”

Roman N. Gebhart, Faulkton, S. Dak.: “The Lee Way sunflower head from **Lee Way Co.**, Forman, N. Dak., is my best buy. It enables you to just clip off the heads on a standing crop or it can be used to pick up downed sunflowers. It's easy to mount with just three load binders to tighten and two hydraulic hoses to hook up. There's positively no seed loss at the header. Operates relatively trouble-free.

“Another best buy is my model 1051 **Vac-U-Vator** grain vacuum made by **Dunbar-Kaple**. Simplicity is its best feature. The only adjustment on it is an air valve. Its capacity is about 2,000 bu. of wheat per hour and it runs quiet, powered with just a 50 hp. tractor. You use about the same amount of fuel as you would to run an 8-in. auger.”

Kenneth Kucera, Clarkson, Neb.: He's happy with a used 1973 **Ford F-600** truck with 24,000 miles that he bought at a farm auction. “It looks and runs like a new one at one-third the cost. I generally purchase equipment at auctions or private sale. It's more economical and saves on state sales tax, which can add up to a lot of money. When my old equipment is used up I either cut it up for scrap or sell it at the Cornley, Neb. farm equipment auction.

He also names **FARM SHOW** as a “best buy”. “I enjoy reading about farmers' best and worst buys. It's a good guide to purchasing used equipment.”

On the minus side, Kenneth's disappointed with **Ray Stueckle's** book “Combine Settings For Better Harvesting”. “This book is over-hyped

by farm magazines. I didn't find one piece of useful information for my **Gleaner** combine that I didn't already know and I'm not about to take a cutting torch to my combine to adjust the separator fan. I feel like I threw away the \$16.50 I paid for the book.”

Daryl Bechtelheimer, Sabetha, Kan.: “My **Hesston Field Queen 7600** forage harvester does a better and faster job of chopping than any other chopper I've ever owned. It's the fourth self-propelled chopper I've owned.”

Daryl's had trouble with an air chisel from “**Central Pneumatic Tool**. I can cut rivets from sickles in about ¼ less time with a cold chisel and a hammer.”

Gene S. Peters, Little Rock, Iowa: “Our 1981 **Case 2290** tractor has been as trouble-free as you could expect and is priced in a range that we can easily justify. Dealer support is great. We own two other **Case** tractors and have had similar good experience.”

Albert Patterson, Sussex, New Brunswick: He's pleased with his **Miller** electric welder bought in 1978. “Works great and it's the best money-maker on the farm because we make much of our own equipment.”

Levon Schlenz, Brockton, Mont.: Levon's pleased with his **Chrysler 5th Avenue**. “It handles well, gets good gas mileage and has excellent workmanship.”

Gerald Kerr, Dakota, Ill.: “It does a good job in hay or corn. Maintenance is easy and you can sharpen knives and set the cutterbar in the field in just 10 min. Electro hydraulic controls are excellent,” says Gerald, pleased with his **Deere 3940** forage harvester.

Dr. Mark Johnson, Middleburg, Va.: He's pleased with his **Hesston 5540** hay baler. “I like the ease of operation, low horsepower requirements, dense uniform bales, and the flawless pickup.”

Gary Morris, Dixon, Ill.: Gary's disappointed with his 1984 **Chevrolet K-20** Silverado with a 6.2 liter diesel. “It's not really a worst buy but I'm disappointed with the cheap craftsmanship. Also the diesel doesn't have the power or get the mileage I was expecting.”

On the plus side he's pleased with his 1984 **Yamaha** tri-moto 225 **DXL**. “We use it daily to check cattle on pastures and to run errands between farms. Electric start and shaft drive keep the machine nearly maintenance-free. It's built to work and play hard.”

Bruce W. Johnson, Raleigh, N.C.: He's happy with his model “L” **Gravely** tractor with a rotary cultivator and a 30-in. mower bought used in 1965. “The mower is terrific in that it blows grass out the front and keeps re-grinding the clippings so you never have to bag them up. The rotary cultivator works real well, too. On the other hand, I've had lots of trouble with the air-cooled engine. It should be equipped with a diesel, liquid-cooled engine.”

Peter Hanewall, Beloit, Wis.: “My worst buy is an **Ag-Vance** fire alarm. When we needed repairs it took the dealer a month to come out and he

lives in our town. Then it took the company over a month to do a repair back at the factory.”

John Polson, Vliets, Kan.: “I'd like to nominate my 1982 **Deere 1209** mower conditioner as best buy. It does an excellent job in both tall and short hay. Another best buy is our **Deere** row crop head. Does a good job in down milo and also soybeans.”

Michael Yascolt, Pinconning, Mich.: “I've had trouble with the flux on **Rexarc 48** hardfacing rods. The flux peels off, making the rod difficult to apply. I keep all welding materials in dry storage so moisture isn't the problem,” says Michael.

Norman Siems, Melvin, Ill.: “Two of my best buys are **M & W Gear's** Little Red Wagon and **M & W Gear's** rotary hoe. I have gone through two sets of tires on the wagon without any troubles. The hoe never plugs and when I ran it side by side with another make, it was far superior. It can be hooked up with a dolly behind a disk and used instead of a harrow. It never leaves bunched-up stalks or other trash when you lift to turn like most harrows.”

Ewald Silzer, Lake Lenore, Sask.: “We haven't bought anything in the last two years that we can really complain about but we bought three **New Holland TR 70** combines several years ago that were certainly lemons. In 1976, I made a mistake by trading off my old combine in March for a **TR 70**, which was supposed to arrive in June. The old combine was gone and the new one didn't arrive until mid-September so I had to hire combines to get the crop off. When the new one did arrive, it wasn't field ready. The dealer wouldn't help so we had an awful lot of trouble with it. Then, in 1978, we traded for two new **TR 70's** but they didn't work any better. The main bearings went out on both machines at just 50 hrs.

“Now we own a **New Holland TR 95**. It's been a real treat to go to the field at harvest with this combine and it's worked well for two seasons. Does an excellent job threshing and we have had very little down time.

“Another best buy is our **Flexi-Coil 60-ft.** harrow packer. It does a good job and we've had no breakdowns. It's easy to put into field or transport position without getting off the tractor.”

B.H. Parkey, Gilman City, Mo.: “Our 519 **New Holland** manure spreader is fantastic and does a good job with no down time. It's a quality-built machine, as are all **New Holland** products I have used.”

Fred Hoffman, Hoagland, Ind.: Fred's disappointed with his 710 **In-**

“Virtually no trash clearance and constantly plugs.”

ternational 4-16-in. semi-mounted plow. “It has virtually no trash clearance and constantly plugs in corn stalks.”

Robert Bruss, Hartford, Wis.: “My wife's **Load Hog** hi-wheel yard cart kit sold by **Fleet Farm** is a best buy. The kit, along with a 4-ft. by 4-ft. piece of wafer board and one hour of my time, has made my wife's chores much easier. The cart hauls about 300 lbs. and is only 29 in. wide so it fits through all our stall and barn doors. It's easy for my 5-ft. tall wife to use. The solid rubber 20-in. tires never go flat.

“Robert's horse insecticide spray is our worst buy. We used this insecticide on one of our horses and his hair fell out in patches, leaving bare skin. Later, another horse also lost blotches of hair. We'll never use this product again except to control flies on the manure pile.”

Jim Lichtenberg, Cedar Bluffs, Neb.: “My **Gnuse 3-pt.** rear scoop has been a labor-saving best buy. You can handle just about anything with it. Snow removal is particularly easy because if the tractor loses traction, I simply raise the scoop to put more weight on the rear tires.

“I'm also well-pleased with my **Astro** pole building. There's no place for birds to make nests and no water or snow leaks even during windy rain storms. The erection crew was fast and kept it going without delay.”

On the “worst buy” side, Jim had trouble with a plumbing kit from **American Livestock Equipment**. “When I installed the plumbing kits in a new hog farrowing house, the tubing expanded and came off the fittings. Four of the 10 valves leak at the shutoffs and they've only been in operation for 6½ months. I'm looking for replacements that'll last.”

Gerald Whetter, Hartney, Man.: Gerald's had good luck with his 1980 **Melroe 115** Spray Coupe. “It's handy, easy to put booms into field position and has good controls. I like the selection of pressure to booms and the excellent suspension for operation in rough fields. I don't like the nozzle tip check valves or the fact that hoses run so close to the exhaust system they burst. It's also inconvenient to change the boom height.”

Dallas Steward, Raymond, Ill.: Dallas names his **Deere 220** tractor-mounted sprayer as “best buy”. “We're satisfied with it although the controls should be moved from the back of the cab to the front and the tanks should mount lower to the ground. I mounted sprayer nozzles on a field cultivator and pull a planter behind that, using a bridge hitch I built which attaches to the cultivator. Works great for corn and beans.”

Charles Beers, Dundee, Ore.: “For a 30 hp. tractor, it can't be beat. It's very maneuverable with a field rake, in the barn with a loader and blade, and does a good job with a 1010 stack liner. The shuttle shift works great,” says Charles, pleased with his **Yanmar 336D** tractor.

He's disappointed with his **Ford 2610** tractor. “It's limited in gear speeds. For mowing, rotovating, and so on, it needs a speed above and below the low range. The high range is okay for road travel but the low

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