

BUYING TIPS YOU CAN USE

Randomly selected farmers "tell it like it is" in nominating their "best" and "worst" buys.

by Harold Johnson
Editorial Director

Mark Newhall
Editor

Mark Jacobs
Associate Editor

Farmers Nominate Best, Worst Buys

OPINION

Don Humphrey, Clarinda, Iowa: "The sickle drive never held together for 100 acres in all the time we had it. The dealer was very cooperative but the company didn't show the slightest interest in the problem. We got rid of it," says Don about his "worst buy" **Hesston 1010** mower conditioner.

Charles Woiczehowski, Bath, N.Y.: "I attached a hay bale counter to the front wheel and measured the distance covered in one revolution. It's very handy to measure fields, where needed. Also, it works great for driving cattle," says Charles, pleased with his **Honda ATC** three-wheeler.

Randy Beichley, Gladbrook, Iowa: Randy's **LB White** hanging heater heads his "best buy" list. "We're very satisfied. It provides very even heat, and is dependable. Puts out 80,000 btu's."

Norman Kleinschmidt, Greene, Iowa: "Is anyone else having this problem?" asks Norman, upset with **Mobil 423** hydraulic oil. "We have saved oil samples from eight pieces of equipment that are ruined. In one in-

Lyle Godenir, Fertile, Sask.: "Everything works and nothing has fallen off or worked loose. The ride is very good, especially considering that it's a 4-WD. The truck is well-finished inside and out, and it's solid," says Lyle, pleased with his 1982 **Dodge Ram 150**.

Kenneth Alleman, Sardis, Ohio: "We're very satisfied with our 1980 **Ford F250 4-WD** truck. It has a 300 cu. in. 6-cyl. motor. The only thing it needs is a stronger step bumper. I had to reinforce it with a stronger hitch to pull a trailer."

Mark Mlodzik, Princeton, Wis.: Mark had trouble with a **PT10 Hesston** hay conditioner bought in 1977. "The counter-balance weight on the pitman is engineered very poorly and keeps coming loose, knocking the corners off the shaft that holds it. To repair it requires the purchase of a new counterweight and new multiple pulley with shaft. To change it requires 4 to 5 hrs. and it costs about \$200, in addition to vital field time lost. If the manufacturer would put a tapered spline on the shaft, with a washer and bolt on the end to draw it tight, it would last indefinitely." Mark estimates that 95% of Hesston hay conditioners on used equipment lots have this same problem. With an engineering problem that big, the company should stand behind their product and share some of the costs. The rest of the machine works well."

Barton MacLean, Hapanic, Ont.: "My silo was one of the first erected by the Canadian manufacturer of sealed steel silos. It has performed without problems for three years and we're on our fourth season now. I've had only one service call," says Barton, pleased with his **Crophandler 20** by 77-ft. sealed silo.

Tom Luebke, Mayer, Minn.: "We're happy with our 1983 **Agromatic** cow hoof trimming chute. I can easily trim hooves without being kicked but I wish they'd build some kind of restraint to hold up the rear and udder of the cows."

David Heiens, Abilene, Kan.: "Our **Stoltz** Monster Maul is a 20-lb. log splitter that'll split most anything. And you don't have to worry about the handle breaking. It's steel."

On the minus side, David's had some trouble with his **Star** posthole digger. "The gearbox was built alright but it broke down due to the power required. Then we ripped a gear out of the tractor. Finally, I bought an auger used by telephone companies to erect telephone poles and mounted it on the digger. Now it works great. The bit has carbon-tipped teeth and flighting all the way to the top."

Randy Krupke, Paynesville, Minn.: "Except for a motor that went out the first week no repairs have been needed in 5 years. We can feed 100 cows in 15 min. It's been a best buy because of the time it has saved us," says Randy, about his 1979 **Badger** overhead automatic feed conveyor.

Neil Korhonen, Annandale, Minn.: "We're very satisfied. We've used it twice a day for over 10 years with

stance, a tractor hydraulic transmission system was completely drained, the filter replaced, and a new sealed drum of Mobil 423 oil was used to refill it. On the way to the field, with no load, the tractor Powershift system froze up, killing the engine. In another instance, we completely drained our hydra-swing hydraulic driven mower-conditioner and replaced the filter. We refilled the system with another new sealed drum of Mobil 423 oil. After about 20 minutes use in the field, oil vapor steamed from the vent plug and the hydraulic system failed to operate the mower. We drained the oil and it was a creamy-white color that bubbled like a soda drink and felt dry when rubbed between the fingers. It had no lubricant value at all. The hydraulic pump and hydraulic motor are ruined beyond repair and the mechanic took pieces of steel shavings from inside. Roller bearings that ran in the oil are frozen up with a heated reddish-purple color. We drained the powershift tractor and found the same quality of oil. When tested, the oil showed a high water content. Our Mobil representatives tell us that no one else is having problems. We'd like to hear from anyone else who has had trouble."