

placed. I was informed by a Massey representative that the company would not foot any part of the bill, which will come to several thousand dollars.

"On the positive side, I have never had any major problems with my Massey Ferguson 65, 135, 1100, and 1150 tractors. I also have a Ferguson 20 built in England in the 1940's which has been a good tractor over the years."

**Val Roggenbuck, Odessa, Minn.:** He names his 1977 8006 Deutz tractor as "best buy". "Fuel economy is just great and it has lots of power for a tractor its size. It has 90-plus horsepower and uses just 3 gal. per hour on a full load. At 3,500 hrs., it's only been out of service for a couple days to replace the clutch and one brake. I doubt if it's anymore than just broken in."

**Doug Scott, Hurlock, Maryland:** "It's a powerful computer for the price, although there isn't much agricultural software for it," says Doug, pleased with his Commodore 64 personal computer.

**Darwin Vangness, Ryder, N.D.:** "I like the capacity. It does a very good job of threshing grain and it's an excellent sunflower combine," says Darwin about his International 1460 Axial Flow combine. Another "best buy" for Darwin is his Deere 7000 Max Emerge planter. "Planting rate and depth control are great and it works good for both corn and sunflowers."

**John Nixon, Norval, Ont.:** "Having a dryer on our farm saves time wasted at elevators and cuts down on labor and extra handling machinery. The dryer has almost no moving parts, is quiet and needs only a minimum of maintenance. There are no screens so there's no plugging and it's easy to clean out," says John about his "best buy" 6600 Vertec grain dryer.

He's had trouble with a 42-ft. Little Giant hay and grain elevator. "The elevator chain cut every other bale of hay. The pto drive chain was poorly designed with a weak final gear drive. I couldn't sell it privately so I traded it for a 7-in. by 51-ft. Westfield auger that performs well but doesn't handle hay bales."

**Craig Wagner, Sycamore, Ohio:** He's well-pleased with his 200 Honda ATC. "It's never let me down although dealer service is slow. Takes him forever to get anything done."

**Ron Jackson, Easton, Mo.:** "It's nothing but a bucket of rust," says Ron, disappointed with his Datsun pickup. "This is my second one because the first one rusted out within two years. I complained to the dealer and then let him talk me into buying a new one because he said that the problem had been remedied on the new ones. As an added precaution, I had it rust-proofed before driving off the lot but within six months it started doing the same thing. I had it repaired and within 30 days it started doing it again. It can handle a load well and has plenty of power but I'm driving my last one."

On the plus side, Ron likes his International 5-ft. belly mower. "I raise mainly hogs and try to keep the land

that they're not on mowed and trimmed. I bought this mower a year or so ago and have had no problems. It's a little more expensive than a lot of mowers on the market but well worth it because it's built extremely heavy and can take a lot of rough treatment. I've mowed a lot of grass with it. It'll mow just about anything if you keep the blades sharp."

**Jon Peters, Emmett, Mich.:** "We bought it nine years ago and the only problem we ever had was with a failed shifting fork. After 10,000 hrs. of use, it's never had a wrench on the engine," says Jon, pleased with the

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performance of his Ford 8600 tractor. "We also have a 1978 Ford 9700 that has provided 7,000 hrs. of similar good performance."

On the negative side, Jon had trouble with a Massey Ferguson 285 tractor bought in 1976. "We owned it for 2,200 hrs. and had to replace the water pump, hydraulic pump, fuel pump, head gasket, battery, starter, four spindles on the front end, and a cracked oil pan. We also rebuilt the engine. Dealer service was fair but the tractor was poorly put together."

**P.J. Heidlage, Sarcos, Mo.:** He's upset with his 1984 Poulan Micro chainsaw. "It won't start, won't idle and won't oil the chain. They should redesign the air intake system, the chain oiling system and put a short fuel line between the carb and tank. I didn't run 1 gal. of gas through it before I junked it and put the bar and chain on a Homelite and called it a Poll-Lite."

**Arsene Ballegeer, Dugald, Manitoba:** "My worst buy is a 640 1982 model Universal tractor. You can't get it into 4th gear without a lot of trying. The front wheel rims are bent, the starter had to be repaired, the transmission oil filter was full of dirt and the worst thing is that they have an unqualified mechanic from Rumania stationed here to work on warranty tractors. One other problem is that the injectors keep getting dirty, which causes the tractor to smoke."

**Emil Wurmnest, Deere Creek, Ill.:** "Our 1983 Oldsmobile Regency 98 has a 5.7 diesel engine with over 20,000 miles on it. It gets 30 to 31 mpg on the road and 29 mpg driving locally. I have had no problems with this car. It's a real pleasure to drive."

"Our 1982 Grasshopper lawn mower with a 48-in. deck and an 18-hp., 2-cyl. engine and hydrostatic drive is our second best buy. It has a steering lever for each drive wheel. The mowing deck is in front of the tractor and this makes it extremely easy to mow around trees and bushes."

**Steve Pluhar, Cohagen, Mont.:** "As a worst buy I nominate my 2090 Case tractor," says Steve. "There was no

way to keep from grinding gears and the power shift transmission was hard to shift. It would sometimes stick in reverse so I'd have to sit and wiggle it for 5 to 10 minutes to get it out. The fuel cap always causes dirt to fall in the tank. The door would not hold itself open, and the tractor was too rough riding."

On the positive side, he's been pleased with his Deere 4440 and 4840 tractors. "They've been almost trouble-free and have good power. They both have a power shift transmission that works real well."

**Jim Biery, Delphos, Ohio:** Jim names his Deere 4430 tractor and his Lentz subsoiler as his "best buys". "The tractor handles all jobs with ease and I get good dealer support. The subsoiler does a good job in breaking up hardpan and also works well with chisel points attached."

On the minus side, he's not happy with his Massey Ferguson 1135 tractor and his Melroe press wheel drill. "The rear end went out three times, twice under the company's warranty and once under my war-

**"The drill doesn't plant according to settings. Poor depth control."**

ranty. I finally got a Deere to replace it. The Melroe drill doesn't plant according to the settings and has poor depth control."

**Claude Thorp, Crawfordsville, Ind.:** He had trouble with a Bonanza 60 by 100-ft. farm building. "The crew wouldn't follow directions. Poles started to sink, throwing the roof line out of whack. After several months, the company agreed to let us get the problem corrected and deduct it from the bill. Leaks along the roof line were finally corrected after three years of begging. Gutters solved the problem but my wood framework is now stained and weakened."

**Curt Bauer, Hildreth, Neb.:** "This moisture tester is very accurate and easy to read. It has a handy conversion chart for nearly any grain you can raise. Also, it has a sturdy carrying handle so you can bring it right to the field," says Curt about his "best buy" Dickey-John moisture tester.

**Bruce Dodds, Green, Kan.:** "Because of the design, you're positioned within 2 ft. of the digger," says Bruce, pleased with his International 1600 skid steer loader with a hydraulic operated post hole digger. "The hydraulic motor allows the auger to stop if you hit something solid or be reversed if it sticks. There's also a rock bit for setting steel posts."

**Joseph Brassal, Lockport, Ill.:** "I wish I had never seen this machine," says Joe about his Deere 2-cyl., 20 hp. tractor with a mower, tiller and blade. "The mower is very hard to remove to sharpen blades and the gauge wheel tires come off the rims on sharp turns. The wheels dig into the ground, throwing the tires off and leaving the

lawn torn up. The rear-mount tiller is awful hard to operate because there are no gauge wheels. If the front of the tractor comes up, the ends of the tiller go to China before you can get the hydraulics to raise. It leaves a terrible looking job. The 3-pt. hitch lets the tiller swing from side to side during operation with no way of stopping it. The oil filter on the Onan engine is terribly hard to get to. It's mounted too close to the engine shroud on the tractor. The power steering has a constant whine. The seat cannot be moved back for a tall man of 6-ft. or more and the exhaust fumes from the engine come out of the hood's right side and blow right in your face. It's very miserable on a hot day."

**Rick Webb, Custer, Okla.:** "We bought this baler last April to bale PIK acres and baled 900 bales of our own and 1,500 bales for neighbors. The season went by with almost no problems," reports Rick, pleased with his Deere 530 round baler.

**Tom Konechne, Kimball, S. Dak.:** He lists his 1850 Gehl baler as "best buy". "It's my third Gehl baler and they keep getting better and better. I don't think I've spent \$25 on repairs on the 1600 or 1850 models. The 1850 tailor-makes perfect bales regardless of crop or moisture. Pulls easy with low horsepower and is easy to operate."

Tom also names his Kawasaki KLT 200 3-wheeler as a "best buy". "It has many uses, such as herding cattle. It's outstanding at calving time, lambing time, and is an economical replacement for a pickup on many other jobs. With an add-on hitch, it can be pulled to and from the field behind equipment. Very good in mud, snow and so on. Dealer service is outstanding."

**Edward B. Edelen, Bryantown, Md.:** "Echo 50V and 60V chainsaws sold through Deere dealers start easily whether hot or cold, are quiet, have very little vibration, don't overheat, and are easy to fill with oil and gas. I especially like the variable oil meter adjustment. Using a 20-in. bar, I have cut oaks over 3 ft. in dia. with the small 50V."

**Don Wogen, Marshalltown, Iowa:** "I bought a 1982 Ford F250 4-WD pickup this summer. It has a 351 engine with a variable venturi carburetor. The pickup is fine but that carburetor is a joke. The pickup has no power with it so I'm in the process of changing to a Holley carburetor."

On the plus side, Don's pleased with his "best buy" Deere 17-ft. cutter chisel. "It stays in the ground and the walking axles keep it from jumping. The only problem we have had with it is the hitch, which is not built strong enough."

**Bill Wendlandt, Garden City, Minn.:** "My best buy has to be the one cent per bushel I invest with the Minnesota Soybean Research and Promotion Council and the American Soybean Association. A Chase Econometric study shows a \$57 return on each farmer dollar spent. My other farming enterprises don't give me near the return. If farmers grow it, farmers had better promote it. No one else will."

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