

ter, fuel pump, rectifier and battery in two years. Some parts take up to 11 months for delivery."

On the "best buy" side, Fred's pleased with his 1981 **Chevrolet** ½ ton truck. "I like its good performance, attractive design, reasonable mileage, comfort and excellent GM financing."

Bill Ward, Castile, N.Y.: "My **Ford** 5600 is able to do much more than I ever expected from a small tractor. The loader works excellent, too," says Bill. "We bought a **Kasten** 325 manure spreader last spring that is also one of our 'best buys'. It works well and service from the company is exceptional."

Donald L. Miller, Bangor, Penn.: "I've been no-tilling for 10 years and this was my most trouble-free year on our stoney ground," says Donald, pleased with "best buy" **Lippi** coulters mounted on his **John Deere** 7000 Max-Emerge planter. He bought the coulters through his **John Deere** dealer, Chapman Equipment, in Allentown, Penn. "They take half the strain away from the planter unit and cut breakage of springs, while greatly reducing down time on my 700 acres of no-till corn. We had such a beautiful corn crop I would recommend these units to anyone. I bought them for \$325 apiece and they're worth every cent. I understand Deere is coming out with a similar unit soon."

"We are also very happy with our 1981 **Sierra Grande** 1500 GMC 4-wheel drive pickup. We've had no problems at all after one year of use."

Stuart Beckman, Menlo, Kan.: Stuart's pleased with his 8-row, 30-in. spaced **International** 800 Early Riser planter. "We bought this planter in the spring of 1982 and planted over 1,500 acres of corn, soybeans, grain sorghum, and sunflowers. Plants with better accuracy and is more stable than the IH 500 planter we traded in. I especially like the large, centrally located seed hopper, ease of depth adjustment and consistent depth control. It provides good seed-to-soil contact. We had excellent stands in conditions from too wet to too dry. Possibly the best thing about this or any of **International's** air planters is the ease of changing the planter over for different crops. I went from planting soybeans to sunflowers in less than 10 min. Anyone buying a planter ought to look these new **Internationals** over twice."

Also on Stuart's "best buy" list is his **International** 2 plus 2 3588 tractor bought in 1981. "Good power and traction and I like not having to fight duals all the time. A good row crop and dry land tractor."

"Our **John Deere** 4440 is the nicest tractor on the farm but it's also the biggest fuel hog. Good comfort, visibility and power."

"My most memorable 'worst buys' were two 1976 **LM 630 Allis Chalmers** cornheads. With about one hour of service each morning they worked fairly well the first year. After that, neither one would run for 12 hours at a time due to constant roller bearing and roller drive problems. I traded them for **John Deere** 830 cornheads, which work excellent on our 1980 **Allis Chalmers** L2's."

Gene J. Stout, Elizabethtown, Ind.: "This chain saw does a good job of cutting but has always been hard to start and backfires so hard it jerks the starter rope out of your hand. Caution is necessary to prevent arm injury," says Gene about his **Homelite** XL-12.

On the plus side, "My **Ford** TW-10 tractor has been trouble free. It has plenty of power, is easy to handle, not too hard on fuel and is a very reliable piece of equipment. Our **Dodge** Rampage pickup has front-wheel drive, is a pleasure to drive, economical to operate and overall performance is excellent. Unfortunately, dealer service is not too good."

Alex & David MacKellar, Alvin, Ont.: "This plow was very disappointing," says the MacKellars, unhappy with their 5-bottom, 16-in. semi-mounted, **John Deere** 1350-1450 plow. "It was hard to pull and subject to continual breakage. It was bent, busted and broke with no warranty. We had a scrap pile of broken

"We also bent and broke frogs and spent more time fixing it than plowing in the field."

and bent points with hardly any wear on them. We also bent and broke frogs and spent more time fixing it than plowing in the field. We have since traded it in on a **Kongskilde** plow and plowed 3,000 acres before replacing the original points or any other part."

The MacKellars had good luck with their **Wil Rich** 28-ft. field cultivator. "It's been maintenance free. We covered approximately 6,000 acres in three years and have had absolutely no breakage or down time. It shows no wear in the springs or shanks."

Leslie Johnson, Shell Rock, Iowa: "My **John Deere** 4640 tractor is comfortable to drive, quiet and has lots of power. Mechanically, it has been no problem whatsoever. Deere found out the water pump bearing wasn't heavy enough and fixed it at no charge to me."

On the "worst buy" side, Leslie had trouble with a "**Stan Hoist** 8-in. bottom drive grain auger. The sealed bearings have gone out at least once every year since I've had it. Shear pins break in the enclosed gear box instead of by the pto gear box where they're supposed to break."

John E. DeMoss, Jr., Moro, Or.: "The Positraction feature is great. My tractor should last twice as long as comparable competing models," says John, happy with his 1981 **Versatile** 895 tractor. "I like to be able to lock up the front and rear differentials for hard pulls and hillside operation and then unlock them for road moving. I also like the quietness of it, the ability to vary rpm's for field speed, and to shift up and slow the rpm's for fuel economy."

Charles Duehmig, Avilla, Ind.: "All it's good for is highway travel or for some city guy to camp in," says Charles, disappointed with his 1981

Ford F250 pickup. "The body is so thin that every time you load something it dents. The plastic underneath tears out in the corn fields. The motor and transmission are alright but gas mileage is not too great."

David Elliott, Kittanning, Penn.: His "best buy" is a **Kuhn** 452 hay tedder. "You can cut heavy first crop alfalfa in the late afternoon and evening with this machine, ted the following morning and bale in the afternoon. It's also good for use on hay that gets wet in the windrow. Easy to adjust and maintain."

Walter Kropf, Woodstock, Ont.: "It didn't roll the grain as well or as fast as it was supposed to," he reports about his "worst buy" **Farmatic** 6 compartment roller mill. "They changed the rolls to try and improve the rolling. It helped but it's still not the way it could be. Also, the cows didn't eat the feed as well as the company claimed they would."

Walter's pleased with his 7010 **Allis Chalmers** tractor. "A real smooth running engine and nice quiet cab. We like its maneuverability and handling."

John Harris, LaGrande, Or.: "We're very satisfied with our **Century** Acucarb dual fuel propane and gasoline system. We haven't sacrificed any fuel economy and the difference in fuel price will pay for the system in about 20,000 miles. It's also nice to have the flexibility of running on gasoline when propane may not be readily available."

Hollis Cummings, Pulaski, Tenn.: "What happened to quality control in the U.S.A.?" asks Hollis, upset by a bad experience looking for a replacement throw-out bearing for his **International** tractor. "When we got a new one and put it in, it was as rough as the old one. We took it back and then had to go 50 miles to get one from another dealer. Out of six new

"What happened to quality control in the U.S.A.?"

bearings at this new dealer, we found just one good one."

He's happy, though, with his 1981 **Datsun** 510 hatchback with a 5-speed stick. "After 18 months and 18,000 miles we haven't had a bit of trouble. It gets 35 to 42 miles per gallon and one third of our travel is on county gravel roads."

Tom Zeng, Pittstown, N.J.: "When I get done plowing, I'm ready to start planting corn, even in heavy sod and rocky ground," says Tom, pleased with his "best buy" **Buster Bar** mounted on his moldboard plow and manufactured by **Midwest Industries**, Ida Grove, Iowa. "The soil is so loose afterwards that no water sits on the surface to rot the seed, even if we get a 4-in. downpour the day after planting. Soil tilth on my heavier soils was noticeably improved last spring after one season."

His "worst buy" was a **Goodyear** truck tarp. "This is one of the outfits

which advertises low cost truck tarps in national magazines. The cost is low but the quality is lower. It's very lightweight and not at all what the ads lead you to believe. Besides the quality, I ordered a 16 by 8-ft. and they sent a 20 by 8-ft. When I called long distance to California to complain, they told me they were out of my size. I could have sent the other one back but harvest was upon us and I had already waited 3 months for it to come."

Steve Drobot, St. Paul, Alberta: His **New Holland** 1037 automatic bale wagon has worked out well for him. "I bale all my cereal grain straw for feed. The dealer from Elk Point let me try the machine before I bought it. I'm well-pleased with its performance."

On the minus side, Steve's had trouble with his "**Tox** Micrometer adjustable torque wrench. I do my own tractor engine overhauls and the ratchet on this wrench stripped the first day of use. I can't obtain replacement parts from the dealer."

Norman Heatherington, Tallapoosa, Ga.: "After rebuilding the weight racks to lower the center of gravity and weighting it heavily to secure more even penetration of coulters on sloping land, this machine is doing a good job in rather tough conditions," says Norman, pleased with his **Marliss** 7-ft. no-till 12-row drill.

His "worst buy" is "**Impro** dairy whey. This product is supposed to be added to drinking water at the rate of 1 cc. per head per day by means of a proportioner to greatly reduce the occurrence of mastitis and uterine infections, improve breeding, health, and provide other beneficial effects. After 7 months of use in my herd it has failed to produce any positive results that I can detect."

Harry C. Martin, Paw Paw, Mich.: As director of his local Soil Conservation District, Harry bought a **Lil-liston** No-Till grain drill. "We bought it to introduce no-till planting of small grains and hay seed to our area. The first use in alfalfa seeding was a 100% success. It was also very successful in wheat and rye. This drill is especially good in very rough and hilly ground."

Bryan Kirkpatrick, Greentown, Ind.: "We're well satisfied with the threshing capacities of our **International** 1460 and 1480 Axial Flow combines. They produce an excellent quality of grain both for storage or market. We did find it necessary to set the rotor cage veins in the slow position for exceptionally heavy corn. The Axial Flow has few moving parts and is virtually maintenance free. My father and I are well pleased with them."

Larry Allbeck, Millville, Penn.: "We've had a **John Deere** 8200 grain drill for two seasons and it's been maintenance free. Very easy to set and we are especially pleased with its **Tru-Vee** openers for their accurate seed depth, particularly in soybeans."

Mac Ragan, Bethany, Mo.: "After 3½ years and over 3,000 hours, this tractor has only been in the shop once

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