

er I didn't double the rate with Sutan for shatter cane. The fields were very grassy."

**Jerome H. Zeimet, Bode, Iowa:** "I bought it new and it's been a reliable machine with almost no trouble and little expense. Excellent service from the dealer," says Jerome, pleased with his "best buy" 1816 Case skid loader.

**Harold Landon, Greenwood, Neb.:** "This combine runs smoothly, does an excellent job separating the chaff from the grain with very little grain loss. We've used it in wheat, oats, milo and soybeans with good results all around. It's a great improvement over the 915 we owned previously," says Harold, happy with his **International Axial Flow 1460** combine.

**Richard Schlipf, Gridley, Ill.:** "We've had this disc for a few years and still can't get it adjusted right," says Richard about his "worst buy" **Bush Hog** disk. "We have problems with the wings plugging and the whole disk fish tails when disking cornstalks. We had a factory rep out to help, but he did very little good and gave us little encouragement. I also had to rebuild the hydraulic cylinder bracket frame, which broke after very little use."

Richard likes his **John Deere 4400** combine outfitted with a 213 soybean head. "We bought this combine used and, even though it is an early model, it runs very smooth and the bean platform works great."

"Also, our new 111 **John Deere** lawn mower is a pleasure to drive with its hydrostatic drive and very short turning radius. It takes the chore out of mowing the lawn."

**J. Clifford Good, Whitesville, N.Y.:** He's pleased with his **Hesston 1091** mower conditioner equipped with stub guards. "We've cut a couple hundred acres of hay with no plugging on the guards, even in wet, down hay."

He's also pleased with **American Breeders Service**. "Their genetic mating service may be the best we ever paid for. The first calves as a result of recommended matings look better than any calves we've had for the past 6 years."

**Michael B. Roach, Coatesville, Ind.:** He's disappointed with his **Last-Perch** sparrow trap "which I read about in FARM SHOW. I followed the mounting instructions supplied with the unit but sparrows ignore it. It's been installed over a year and has only trapped a dozen birds. That's over \$3 a bird! Good thing I still have a few cats and a BB gun."

Michael's happy with his **International 496**, 22 ft. 2-in., hydraulic wing fold disc. "The screw jack on the tongue makes hookup easy. It's simple to adjust. Does an excellent job of leveling. One hydraulic cylinder went bad but the dealer replaced it."

**Fred Krebsbach, Rochester, Minn.:** "We cut fuel consumption by almost 2/3 and got better weed control with less herbicide," says Fred, pleased with his "best buy" **Buffalo** no-till planter and cultivator. "Yield in corn was comparable to conventional planting. Soybean yields seemed

higher in no-till. We'll never go back to conventional tillage."

**Dean L. Clouse, Murdock, Kan.:** His 1981 **Audi 5000** auto is his best buy. "The front-wheel drive handles real well in mud or on ice and for highway driving. The five cyl. engine is economical on gas, getting around 25 mpg. A real sturdy auto backed by a good dealer."

"Another best buy is **Deere's 111** lawn mower. My wife does the lawn mowing and says it handles well, does nice work and is no trouble to start and operate. Another good buy is our 1380 **John Deere** hay conditioner. It does a real clean job cutting hay, laying it in a nice windrow for round baling. We had a small problem at first but the company took care of it."

**Merrill E. Woerner, Oxford, Ind.:** "I bought a Ride & Beautify self-pumping lawn sprayer manufactured by **Western Manufacturing Corp.**, Marshalltown, Iowa, and it has worked as well as the salesman and the company said it would. We have had a nice looking lawn all summer at much less than the cost of a custom service. Very happy with this purchase."

**Adrien Bouffard, Kincaid, Sask.:** He's happy with his **Steiger ST 325** tractor. "Very good handling and easy on fuel. The Caterpillar motor has a lot of power, yet the noise level in the cab is very low. Service is excellent. We also have a 4-year-old 270 **ST Steiger** that we're happy with."

**Daniel Huschka, Brodhead, Wis.:** Heading his "best buy" list is his **Koehn** tractor cab made by **Koehn Manufacturing** of Watertown, S. Dak. "Everything the company says about the cab is true," he says. "It's warm in the winter, cool in the summer. It's the only cab I know of that will fit older model tractors from the 1940's and 50's with rear mount. A good cab at an affordable price."

**Gordon Obenour, Dunkirk, Ohio:** "I didn't know tilling the garden could be so easy. It's easy starting, usually with one pull. Well built and takes just one hand to operate. Well worth the money," says Gordon, about his "best buy" 7 hp. **Troy-Bilt** garden tiller.

**Paul R. Bodensteiner, West Union, Iowa:** "I would like to nominate our **White 2-135** tractor as our best buy," says Paul. "It has excellent power and traction and uses less fuel per acre of work done than any other tractor we've owned. It handles very well, the cab is comfortable, the ride is smooth and all controls are within easy reach."

"Another good buy is our **New Holland TR70** combine. Our corn has very few cracked kernels, split beans are almost impossible to find in the grain tank and there are almost no pods or broken cobs in the grain."

**Timothy E. Beeler, Hamilton, Ohio:** His "best buy" is "Delvo test P, a test for antibiotics in milk, made by **GB Fermentation Industries**. It prevents you from putting adulterated milk in your bulk tank," explains Timothy. "We use it for every cow before her milk enters the tank. It's available through our local milk coop."

## Reader Letters

We've been getting FARM SHOW magazine for some time now and find it very interesting and informative.

Some twenty odd years ago, I bought a Power-Wash, IHC cream separator, No. 4-F. It has been extra reliable and has saved untold hours of work in that it is self-washing by merely flushing it out with hot water in the cleaning cycle. It needs to be taken apart only once a week or two for what few little spots may be missed.

The only bad part about them is that IHC has quit making them and the rubber bowl rings are very hard to find — thus making them obsolete. I am wondering if any of FARM SHOW's readers might know where the rings can be gotten? I would surely appreciate knowing if I could get in touch with any of them. The rings are about 3/8 of an inch in diameter and have a steel spring in the center.

Walter H. Martin  
Brookville, Kan. 67425

I've just finished reading Charles Bellman's letter in the last issue of FARM SHOW. Filing for bankruptcy is not a cure-all for serious financial trouble, as he suggests. Any lawyer will tell you that Chapter 11 or 13 only buys you a little time; it doesn't relieve you of the responsibility of paying your debts.

Chapters 11 and 13 are for businesses which have a reasonable chance of resolving temporary financial difficulties while operating under current economic conditions if the business can receive temporary relief from making principal and/or interest payments for present debts. The Chapters were not intended for businesses which are so hopelessly in debt that they have little chance of recovering under present economic conditions.

One must also consider if future economic conditions will provide the income needed to pay off past debts. If you're in financial trouble and if you expect prices to remain at current levels or to fall even further, you will probably be ahead to liquidate now while your assets still have some value. Land and used machinery prices are falling and probably will continue falling for awhile. If you expect prices to rapidly increase within a few years, then it may be worth taking measures to hang on for a few more years. One point is certain though. If you are in financial trouble, you had better make some decisions now about what is the best option for you. It will be harder to do a few months from now, and the costs of delaying could be pretty high.

John G. Ruff  
Rt. 2, Box 25  
Logan, Kansas

Like most of your readers, I turn to your feature "Farmers Nominate Best, Worst Buys" before reading the rest of your fine magazine.

In the last issue, I was particularly interested in the comments about

combines. Many of the problems reported by the farmers could very easily be corrected, thereby turning what appears to be a "lemon" into a good combine, generally by making only a few adjustments with very little cost for parts.

Each year, I receive a great number of phone calls from farmers in all parts of the country concerning problems in harvesting a variety of crops with many different models of combines.

In talking to farmers who harvest corn and beans this summer, I discovered that I had omitted an important point from my book on combine settings. For the benefit of those who ordered the book and did not call me, I would like to cover the point here.

This point applies to all pull type combines, especially when they are pulled by a tractor that has plenty of power. On conventional self-propelled combines, the governor of the machine is generally set at full throttle, no load. It happens that all combine companies are correct about the exact speed of their combines. This speed governs the speed of the shoe shake and the walkers and thus is very important. I have always stressed that the operator make certain that the speed is correct plus or minus 1%.

If you have too fast a speed on the shoe shake, it has a tendency to bounce the kernels out, particularly in heavy kernels like corn and beans. If the shoe is shaking too slow, the sieve has a tendency to "go dead" and load up. On self-propels, when the machine is running full throttle no load, it is already running too fast. As soon as the combine is loaded and the governor opens up, the rpms of the machine drop from 3% to 5%. This is where the combine works best.

On the pull machines, where you have a tractor that has reserve power, the combine under load does not slow down that 3% to 5%, so the operator should slow the speed of the machine by that amount for best results.

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I was introduced to your outstanding FARM SHOW magazine while visiting a friend's house. It captured my attention to the point of being impolite to my hosts.

Walter Grisham  
Pasco, Wash.

I discovered that I gave FARM SHOW the wrong company in nominating my "worst buy" in your last issue. In my reply, I said that the chemical degreaser was sold by Allied Chemical Company, which should have been Alpine Chemical Company. If this has caused anybody any harm, I apologize for it.

Max E. Baker  
Powell, Wyo.