

Harry's had good luck with his 580-B Case backhoe tractor. "Have had no engine, converter, transmission, or rear end problems whatsoever in 3,000 hours," says Harry. "Undoubtedly this is the best hoe in its class. Also, the dealership is tops in providing parts, service and leased equipment rentals."

**Marvin Lackman, Denison, Iowa:** He likes his model F Vermeer big round baler. "It makes a much better bale and operates much easier than a baler I had of another brand."

**Gene Hofbauer, Rankin, Ill.:** "Positively the best piece of engineering I've seen," says Gene, pleased with his John Deere 12-row front folding 7000 planter. "It places the seed where it is supposed to be, even over sandhills, and has no down time."

"Also on the plus side is my International 490 28-ft. disk. Performed beautifully, even in muddy conditions."

Gene's disappointed, though, with his International 500 12-row planter with end transport. "Seed placement was poor and it had no depth control, even after purchasing gauge wheels. The person who designed the transport wheel must have been 7 feet tall with 300 lbs. of muscle."

**Mark Troyer, Fredericksburg, Ohio:** "One of my worst purchases was my Calan feeding system for dairy cows. The circuit boards blew frequently. The system just isn't a sensible approach to the feeding of high-producing dairy cows."

"One of my 'best buys' was a Posi Lock gear and bearing puller. It grips the part to be pulled and won't let go until you want it to. Well designed. I'm also real pleased with a Massey Ferguson 285 tractor. It's a smaller tractor with real good power and handles well. The fuel tank is a little on the small side, however."

**Brian Duyck, Banks, Oregon:** "There's a lot of good design in this pickup," says Brian, pleased with his 1982 GMC ¾ ton 4-wheel drive pickup with 6.2 liter diesel motor. "It gets super mileage — 18 on the farm and 25 on the highway. The motor has a lot more power than I expected and it's similar to a gas motor accelerating."

**Raymond Makovicka, York, Neb.:** He's pleased with his Midland 70-335 VHF business band radios. "They're outfitted with a slide-on mount so they can be changed from truck to tractor very easily. Additional mounting brackets cost only about \$10. We can get by with fewer radios and at over \$400 each; it saves a lot of money."

**Burt Loitz, Colona, Ill.:** "I have never had a major breakdown with my four John Deere tractors," says Burt about his "best buy" Deere 4020, 2940 and two 4640's. "They handle easily, ride well and have ample power. The two 4640's are hard on fuel but make up for it with comfort, handling and a 'Cadillac' ride."

On the other hand, Burt lists his Ford F-250 4-wheel drive pickup as "worst buy". "Although it drives and rides well, the 302 V-8 engine performs terribly. It has no power and is always at the gas barrel. I've had the carburetor worked on three times, but

to no avail. It still gets only 6 to 8 mpg. Would appreciate any advice on how to get better gas mileage."

**Ben Byler, Mill Creek, Penn.:** "We're very pleased with our two Harvestores. They can't be beat when you use them as they are intended to be used and make haymaking a breeze. Nothing magic about them. Just good common sense. Service is excellent."

**Marvin Parmer, Wyoming, Iowa:** "The paint was so thick on this tool that it wouldn't work. It seemed like the whole unit must have been painted by dipping rather than spraying. Now that I got the excess paint off, the unit works satisfactorily," says Marvin about his Golden Rod fence stretcher."

He's also pleased with his Chevrolet LUV diesel 2-wheel drive pickup. "It has exceeded my expectations in every way. In over 9,000 miles of driving, it's averaged more

**"It has exceeded my expectations in every way."**

than 35 mpg. Fun to drive and starts without being plugged in when temperatures are below zero."

Also on the "best buy" side is his Montgomery Ward 3-pt. hitch adapter kit for a John Deere 60 tractor made by Worksaver, Inc. "The kit is well-built and has given me 3-pt. hitch convenience on my Deere 60 at a cost of \$75 less than I could find anywhere else."

**Robert Strnad, Jr., Moosomin, Sask.:** "I'm on my second 350 diesel motor for my 1979 GMC pickup. The first went out at 36,300 miles, or 300 miles over the extended warranty. After two weeks of fighting, GM paid for the parts but I was still out \$700 for labor, \$200 for the tow, \$100 airfare to get home, plus the cost of another vehicle to get to my appointment. I should mention that the number one main bearing was laying in the oil pan along with the part of the block it bolts to. The crankshaft also broke."

"My Dad had a 1981 GMC diesel and three weeks ago the number three main bearing was laying in the pan of his pickup. How many motors like this are out there? I'd like to hear from others with similar problems."

**Dr. John Waters, Boydton, Va.:** "I would not recommend the Sargom Fire extinguisher, which I read about in FARM SHOW, to anyone. I bought the small model and used it all on a one-foot square paper box fire, which I purposely set, to try it out. In spite of advertisements, it did not extinguish the fire."

**Jack Sills, Warren Ind.:** Jack's "best buy" is his Auscherman combine cylinder bars. "I put them in my Gleaner M combine and they increased the efficiency of the machine considerably. A friend purchased them for a Massey and picked up a rock, breaking four bars. The com-

pany replaced them promptly."

Jack's had trouble, though, with his International 1066 diesel tractor. "In a matter of 18 months the tractor has had torque, transmission, and rear-end problems on six different occasions. It should have been painted lemon yellow from the factory."

**Melvin Aderman, Malinta, Ohio:** Melvin's "best buys" are his International 1086 tractor and his "used" John Deere 6600 combine. "The 1086 has been very dependable, with good lugging ability, and is economical and comfortable to drive. The 6600 is also very dependable and give us little downtime."

**James Creighton, Cannington, Ontario:** James lists his Massey Ferguson 510 combine as "worst buy". "We had nothing but trouble with this machine. It worked fine in small grains but seemed to fall apart when we got into corn. Cost us a fortune in parts and repairs the four years we ran it," he says.

On the positive side, he's pleased with his Case 1370 tractor and his New Holland 892 forage harvester. "We've driven this tractor 1400 hours and it's never been in the shop. A pleasure to operate and it's easy on fuel. The harvester is a dream to work with. Has loads of capacity. Like the flip-up feed rolls and the newstyle corn head is a great improvement over our old machine."

**Kendall Probst, Northport, Mich.:** He names his Stihl 031AV chain saw as a "best buy". "We've used it to cut about 80 cords of wood and it's done a dependable job. Repair costs so far total just \$2.80."

**Daniel Schroeder, Leipsic, Ohio:** "One of our 'best buys' ever has to be our subscription to FARM SHOW. We have discovered several products in it that make money for us on every acre we farm. One is reworked cylinder bars from Clarence Trimpe, (Junction U.S. 31 and 50, Seymour, Ind. 47274). They help our two combines perform at least 20% better. Better in terms of quality, whether in wheat, soybeans, corn or sunflowers."

On the minus side, Daniel is dissatisfied with his Demco spray marker. "We put it on our John Deere 335 sprayer. The marker has plastic nozzles that fit on the end of the booms and are supposed to spray a silver solution every so often. You can dial the length of mark and time between each mark, but when you are spraying at 10 mph, the mark isn't dark enough or spaced close enough for the driver to see."

**Glen Moretz, Joice, Iowa:** "After shopping around and comparing several different brands of grain carts, we bought Kinze," says Glen, pleased with his "best buy" 400 bu. wagon from Kinze Manufacturing, Williamsburg, Iowa. "The Kinze cart was built with much heavier material, designed better, and the price was much less than competitive models. We had no problems with it last fall."

**John Horton, Dairy, Oregon:** Both his best and worst buys are chemicals. "Hoelon herbicide did an excellent job of killing wild oats for us. We applied it by air at the three leaf stage and got an excellent kill in barley," he says. "As for Avenge herbicide,

not only did it not kill the wild oats, it set the barley back. Due to this lack of results, we had a bumper crop of wild oats for Hoelon to work on and it did a good job."

**Thomas Gariety, Versailles, Ohio:** Thomas likes his International 5100 grain drill. "This is the best tool we ever bought," he says. "It has the best press wheel attachment on the market. The drill holds 33 bu., which lets you do a lot of acres without stopping. We had the worst wet weather that we've ever had last year, yet the drilled beans came up better than 30-in. row beans. That tells you what kind of drill it is."

Thomas adds that, "Thanks to FARM SHOW magazine and others, we have never bought anything that gave us problems or resulted in failure. I know that's a big statement, but it's the truth. We keep a tight maintenance schedule and try to be very knowledgeable in buying."

**Albert Smith, Overbrook, Kan.:** Heading his "worst buy" list is his International 1086 tractor. "I had trouble with this tractor jumping out of low range and had nothing but trouble with the hydraulic system. It had broken lines, a blown cylinder, blown hydraulic hoses, and then a sheared bolt in the pump shut it down completely. One hundred hours later there were problems with the T.A. and 10 hours after that with the rear end. This tractor has been in the shop 75% of the last six months."

"I got no help from the dealer so I appealed my case to IH. A district representative came out to see me and said that if the tractor fell apart at 1,500 hours the company could take no responsibility or pay any damages. In other words, he told me that the tractor was no darn good and neither is the company if they can't build a tractor that won't stand up any longer than 1,500 hours."

**John Blaska, Marshall, Wis.:** John names as "best buy" his Herdex dairy records system from Raytec Manufacturing, Rt. 3, Ephrata, Pa. "It takes only seconds a day to keep the breeding and health records for our 75 cow dairy. The color coded records tell you at a glance the reproductive performance of a particular cow. Anyone on an AI program should not be without this system."

"We're also well-pleased with our 5100 International soybean special drill. It places the seed at a uniform depth in both ideal conditions or trashy, cloddy fields. The metering system is also very accurate. We use this drill for oats, wheat and soybeans. The press wheels do an excellent job of controlling depth."

**Pete Vanderploeg, Hickory Corners, Mich.:** "We're extremely pleased with the seedbed prepared by this machine in a wide variety of soil conditions," says Pete about his "best buy" Glencoe 203 Soil Finisher.