

Reader Letters

out far too fast. Their life is not going to be nearly as long as the Goodyear Power Torque or Armstrong Maxi Trac. We've owned all three," says Knicely.

He likes Rite-way's multi-fuel hot water boiler. "We like it because of its good operation. Creosote has not caused problems for us. Heat is good and even. For fuel, it burns wood, coal, oil or gas, whichever you choose."

Richard W. Drewry, St. Charles, Minn.: "Everything I didn't like about the Deutz 13006 tractor has been solved in the Deutz D130. It has good fuel economy and a convenient and comfortable cab that's quiet. It's a change for the better," says Richard.

Dean Monson, Gratiot, Wis.: "It cost \$16 to treat a cow for mastitis with it but it didn't clear up the problem," says Dean, disappointed with "ImPro mastitis treatment from Pro-Ag, Inc. The idea behind it is that you don't have to throw the milk away while treating but I tried it on five cows and only one cleared up so the odds aren't too good. It would be a good idea if it worked better."

On the plus side, Dean's happy with his New Holland 489 haybine and his Metz Bale Kage. "We didn't think anything could beat the old 469 but the new 489 works even better and runs smoother than our old New Holland machine. With just the head floating, it really hugs the ground but bounces over rocks without breaking a guard or section. In the two years we've had it, we've only replaced one guard and a few sections and we do have some rocky fields.

"Our Metz Bale Kage built by Metz Welding here in Gratiot, has to be the best on the market today. It's designed right and built strong. It should last for many years."

Dwayne Alons, Boyden, Iowa: He's pleased with his new spinner-type micro spray nozzles used to apply herbicides and pesticides in a controlled droplet size. "I applied 1 1/4 pint of Treflan with 2.6 quarts of Amiben as I disked my ground for soybeans. I had excellent control of grass and broadleaves and only applied 1.6 gallons of total material per acre. This was a real savings in time and material since I only filled up once for my 100 acres, using just slightly more than one-half the recommended rate for Amiben."

Also on the positive side, Dwayne is happy with his 8006 Deutz tractor and Buffalo-Til All-Flex cultivator. "I bought the tractor in 1977 and really enjoy driving it. It never takes more than 4 gallons of fuel per hour even for tough chisel plowing. On light jobs like planting corn it will use only 3/4 to 1 gal. per hour.

"The Buffalo-Til cultivator works well in trashy conditions and in conventional tillage. The large rear shovel does not allow perennial rooted weeds to snake around it as other cultivators do. It will get whatever's between the row. They may cost a little more but they're worth it for their ruggedness and the job they do.

"I also like my 1980 Olds Cutlass with a 350 V-8 diesel engine. It's got a lot of spunk, good economy at 35

miles per gallon, and a stereo system that's top notch.

"Probably the 'worst buy' I've made is a Caster Gate used for holding pigs to castrate. It looks like a mailbox on end and you stick the pig in head first. The clamps that hold the legs of the pig don't have strong enough springs so the skin is not stretched tight enough to castrate single handedly as was advertised. I did get my money back, however."

Arthur Keuper, Ionia, Mo.: "I haven't seen much that this machine won't cut," reports Arthur about his "best buy" New Holland 479 Haybine. "It'll cut through badly tangled fescue or brome at four miles per hour. And, there's been almost no expense on the machine after several hundred acres other than a few sickle sections. A pleasure to run."

Melvin Longhensy, Webster City, Iowa: "We couldn't load this spreader full. If we did, the shear pins or apron chain would break. After about 30 half loads, the gear box went out. This spreader has to go," says Melvin, disappointed with his Schultz Spreadmaster manure spreader.

On the positive side, he's had good luck with his Stormor 1,200 bu. drying bin with Ezee Dry roof dryer. "It's simple to operate. There are no augers or stirring devices to break down and the corn comes out in nice condition. Drying costs are low."

Boyd Morgan, Belgrade, Mont.: Boyd is disappointed with his Melroe 115 Spra-Coupe. "It wouldn't hold a spray pattern if the engine dropped 50 rpm. Didn't have nearly enough power and service was very poor at our local dealer."

On the plus side, he's happy with his Agro III sprayer mounted on a 1-ton pickup. "It's very accurate. I can put on anywhere from 1.5 gal. to 30 gal. per acre and vary my ground speed from 6 to 21 miles per hour."

Roger Bennatti, West Brooklin, Maine: Roger likes his Woods M5 Brush Mower. "It's well-built and extremely easy to maintain. Works well in grass and in older and small birch. The blades are easy to remove and sharpen."

Roger unhappy, however, with his "Sovema Rotovator model SPS. In the past year I've had to weld and then replace the pto shaft. It was made of a rather flimsy tube which could not handle our 'normal' Maine soil. Both times it split before the slip clutch even came close to slipping."

Kendal Probst, Northport, Mich.: He's pleased with his "International Hydro 84 tractor. It's turned out to be a real workhorse. The convenience of the hydrostatic transmission is great. My daughter does all the orchard mowing with it and feels very safe with it. Although we haven't needed service, I know the dealer backs up his sales with parts and service."

I enjoy your paper very much. Some of the ideas I have used myself. I especially like the "best and worst buys" section.

But I question one recent article. If there is demand for a piece of equipment like the "Cadaver Cart", then a lot of hog producers should seriously look at their management. Instead of spending money for this cart to remove dead sows, I would suggest they spend it for a vet, or that they change some management practices.

Jeff Ott
Ott's Feeder Pigs
Eaton, Ohio

Just a note to let you know how much I have enjoyed FARM SHOW. It gives me a chance to see what is new on the market. A lot of these products one would never hear about if it wasn't for a publication such as yours.

What I especially enjoy about FARM SHOW is the followup articles on how previously published new products are making it in the market, such as you did on our new rotary disk scrapers which were initially available for grain drills and are now also available for Deere 7000 and 7100 series Max-Emerge planters. Our rotary scrapers for Deere planters have gained much more popularity than we had anticipated, considering that we had heard very few complaints about the popular Max-Emerge planter. But I guess even the best can be improved on. It would be almost impossible for a small manufacturer to get started without a publication like FARM SHOW.

Galen Bowerman
Dawson, N. Dak.

I am a new subscriber and am pleased with the first three copies I have received. However, as a retired farmer, I must strongly protest the recent article on a sparrow trap. That trap has to be one of the most cruel, inhuman and disgusting pieces of equipment I have ever seen or heard of. In all my years of farming, I have never found any type of wildlife (birds, ground hogs, skunks, wolves, etc.) that did harm to me or mine, and I know I speak for my neighbors as well.

R. D. Moore
Ottawa, Ont.

It's very heartening, indeed, to read in your "Farmers Nominate Best, Worst Buys" section that most of those interviewed are pleased with the service level of today's agricultural equipment.

Considering the multitude of products turned out by U.S. manufacturers, it's conceivable that a lemon will find its way into the marketplace. It's also conceivable that not all manufacturers have the same quality standards.

A third possible reason for consumer dissatisfaction is that some products are misapplied, and it is The Gates Rubber Company's contention that this is the cause of the V-belt air conditioner drive problem experienced by one of your respondents, Mr. H. Charles Correll, Spearville, Kansas.

Upon reading Mr. Correll's com-

ments, I sent two of our field researchers out to investigate. The air conditioning unit that was installed on the tractor was a "home built" unit fashioned from Mr. Correll's own design. Among other faults, our researchers determined that the "make-shift" drive was overloaded, had a small backside idler, and the sheaves had excessive wear.

If we had been asked to comment about the design of the drive, we never would have recommended it.

The Gates Rubber Co.
Box 5887
Denver, Colo.

I noticed FARM SHOW's recent article on the OPEC Killer Still. It appears that the biggest problem is probably the operator and not the unit itself. I have visited with many farmers who own stills and almost invariably these people do not follow approved mash making techniques. If you have good beer, you will make good alcohol. I also think people expect too much from a still. These batch units in most cases are not automated and certainly the people who bought those four units had to know that, for \$13,000, you couldn't expect a fully automated piece of equipment.

If you do not want to put forth any effort or labor, forget alcohol. Anything worthwhile takes a little work.

B. Hanson
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Kansas City, Mo.

We are new subscribers to your magazine and have really enjoyed the first three issues. We are wondering if you have heard of anyone using whey in alcohol production. We have whey readily available from cheese plants and would be interested in learning which enzymes, or whatever, would be necessary to break down this product.

Ed Fenton
Rt. 1, 35th Ave.
Sears, Mich.

I would have liked to see the Oliver 77's and 88's, and the 770's and 880's get a little more spotlight in your recent "Best Tractor Ever" article. But, as they were a smaller company, there were not as many to go around. We have used and owned other tractors but we now have 15 of the smaller Oliver's and they truly are great. In 1934 or '35 they were the first with 6 cylinders. They began live pto and electric hydraulic cylinder control in 1948-49. They were also the first with direct start diesels.

Dwight Micanek
Lynch, Neb.

FARM SHOW can't be compared to any other farm magazine we receive. I read every page. Took me two weeks to get through everything in the first issue I received. Keep up the good work and keep filling your paper with all those far out, neat inventions.

Rene Jacobs
Jarvis, Ont.