

Deere 2940 tractor. "It has lots of power and good gear selection. But the hydraulic levers are inconvenient below the seat, it has a small starter and it takes a lot of room to turn in the field. Also, this tractor is not as easy to handle as my 1968 3020 John Deere.

"My poorest purchase is a 1-ton GMC pickup truck. The paint started falling off the day after I got it and I can't keep up with the rust on the body. There are also problems with the timing chain, transmission and clutch. It has the poorest body I've ever seen."

Glenn Rietveld, Chicago Heights, Ill.: He has two "best buys". "We're real pleased with our Tye grain drill. Does an excellent job of metering and planting in conditions with a lot of corn trash. We also like our Amiad injector pump. Very accurate in metering liquid fertilizer into our irrigation water. Simple to use."

James Taylor, Brawley, Calif.: "After repeated computer, electrical and hydraulic malfunctions, we sold it to reinvest the money into something less hazardous to our nerves and pocketbook," says James, dissatisfied with his New Holland 1075 computerized hay bale stacker.

He's happy, however, with his New Holland 500 hay baler. "Under many different conditions, this baler is able to produce nicely shaped bales for hours on end with very little to go wrong," he says.

Lamont Kaelin, St. Joseph, Mo.: "Until recently, we were the proud owners of a Caterpillar 3208 diesel engine in a White 4-180 farm tractor. With 1800 hrs. and an expired warranty, a rod bolt broke and destroyed the engine. Some of our neighbors had warned us of similar Cat engine problems but now we have a \$7,200 repair bill and first-hand knowledge of the term 'throw away block'. The Caterpillar engine has been a constant source of problems, with three water pumps and excessive oil consumption and heating problems from the first day of use. By contrast we recently sold a Cummins motor with 736,000 miles of faithful service and only one major overhaul. Our suggestion is that comparable quality should be given by Caterpillar."

Joe Berg, Stuttgart, Ark.: He had trouble with his Massey Ferguson 2675 row crop tractor. "The engine was underpowered and never pulled its rated horsepower. One time it was 30 hp. short. The tractor spent two months in the shop but the problem was never corrected. It burned 9 gal. per hour pulling light loads, and smoked like it was burning coal. The local dealer tried everything he knew, but the factory representative didn't show much interest."

On the plus side, Joe's pleased with his Case 2090. "It has an improved cab and steers twice as easy as two of my older 70 series Case tractors. I like the shorter turning radius, and it's easy on fuel. Its slower rpm engine should increase engine life. Good dealer service."

Bryan Bowman, Liberty, N.C.: He's pleased with Devcon "plastic steel" from the Devcon Corp., Dan-

vers, Mass. "My spray barrel had five holes in the bottom when I went to use it one Saturday afternoon. There was no way to get a new one until Monday so I tried plastic steel. It worked, so I got my herbicide and nematicides on. The plastic steel is still working. I'd recommend it to any fellow farmer."

Claire L. Peterson, Newark, Ill.: "Seems to be the ultimate in combines," says Claire, pleased with his International 1460 combine. "After running the 1460 about 35 hrs., I can say it seems to run as well as the 1440 we traded in. These combines are easy to work on and we get good service."

John Shellhammer, Anthony, Kan.: "If I needed another 4-wheel drive, it would definitely be another Versatile," says John. "I like the service features, dependability, power, performance, economy and just about everything else."

"I'm not as satisfied with my '79 F-150 Ford pickup supercab. The body seems poorly built, with many rattles and squeaks. At 10,000 miles, the tierod ends wore out. The steering gear box needed to be replaced at a price of over \$500. It got 8.7 mpg when I got it but that improved somewhat. It does run and ride nice and is more comfortable than the '73 Torino I had. Also, from what I hear about the new Ford pickups, I guess I didn't get too bad a buy at that."

Hershel Fisher, Bourbon, Ind.: Hershel likes his Deere 2940 tractor. "I bought this tractor in Oct. 1980 and used it for all fall plowing and spring work. I'm amazed at the horsepower this tractor turns out for being rated 80 hp., yet it's economical to operate. No complaints so far."

James E. Young, Piketon, Ohio: "The only expense so far has been a 54 cent knife to cut twine," reports James, pleased with his International 241 large round baler. "I've baled at least 1,000 bales without any trouble. This is a well-made machine that forms a good, tight, well-shaped bale."

Larry Ruffner, Vermontville, Mich.: Larry's had trouble with his Deere A-18 high pressure washer. "The initial price was \$347 back in

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1974 and I've put a new complete pump on it at an average of \$120 every year except last year. At that time, we decided to fix the hairline crack ourselves. It still leaked bad. This year we found an ultimate cure. We scrapped it! I would think that, as conscientious as Deere is with quality, they would examine the outside manufacturer which supplies this poor product."

On the plus side, Larry says he's pleased with the improved capacity on his new 1981 4-wheel drive Deere 6620 combine. "It's a better-built

machine than the first 6620. Deere has perfected and eliminated many of the small problems that plagued us. It has plenty of reserve power and operator comfort, which is tops on our list. To top it all, it's amazing what a little push from the power rear wheel drive can do to get you through a soft spot."

W.D. Aiken, Port Colborne, Ont.: He had trouble last spring with his Mastercraft Rototill. "My garden had been dug up and I wanted to break it up even finer with the Rototill. But it wouldn't go through heavy, loose soil."

He's happy, though, with his Black & Decker work wheel. "It removes rust and old paint, and smooths new surfaces for paint. Did everything I needed without having to use several tools."

Rudy Raths, Norcross, Minn.: "My 'best buy' is a Neuero 675 pneumatic grain conveyor," says Rudy. "In three years, we've moved thousands of bushels of corn, beans, wheat, oats, barley and sunflowers with no trouble at all. There's much less cracked grain than with an auger, and no dust. Makes grain moving simple and easy."

"The Neuero company is one of the best companies that I've done business with. Manufactured in Germany, their machine is superior to anything that I've ever seen or worked with. I'd recommend it to anyone."

Rudy adds that "my 'worst buy' is a Steiger II 4-wheel drive tractor. We had trouble right from the start. On the first day in the field we broke down for three hours. In fact, there was not a day that we didn't have trouble. It didn't have any power, although we were told by our dealer that it would have more power than our 7520 John Deere. Nothing was ever done to solve the problem."

"After the first 300 hrs., the Steiger II started to use from two to three gallons of oil a day. We gave it a complete overhaul at 700 hrs., then decided to sell it."

Ray Henry, Richland Center, Wis.: "We bought an 8-ft. Impco 3-pt. tractor blade rated at 100 hp. and manufactured by Independent Mfg., Neodesha, Kan. When we used the blade around the farm on a 70 hp. tractor, the vertical pivot snapped off and, to my surprise, I found out the solid pivot shaft turned out to be a pipe filled with cement. The blade is worthless with no pivot."

"I called the company and they said tough luck. The 12 mos. warranty was over. I then called the consumer protection agency and they said that since it was an out-of-state business they could do nothing for me," says Ray.

Ron Kapperman, Ohio, Neb.: He's disappointed with a three-wheeled motorcycle he bought from Carl Heald, Inc., Benton Harbor, Minn. "It's built too light so the axles bend. The chain sprockets continuously break and wear out, as do the throttle cables. This was supposed to be a rugged farm machine. It won't hold up for a Sunday drive, let alone in the field," says Ron.

Lane Briggs, Great Falls, Mont.: "It's a fine machine. Cuts any kind of

hay and close to the ground at fast speeds. The cutterbar mechanism is unique and holds up well," says Lane of his "best buy" Hesston 1090 9 ft. mower-conditioner.

Murray Nash, Pickering, Ont.: "The plants stand like trees, making them a dream to harvest. A beautiful long-eared corn with large plump kernels," says Murray, pleased with Pioneer 3901 seed corn. "Last year's May 15 planting yielded about 130

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dry bu. per acre. For our area, Pioneer seems to be superior for yield and lodging resistance."

On the other hand, Murray's had bad luck with another brand of corn. "This variety was a disaster," he says about Trojan TX 94 seed corn.

On the other hand, Murray's had bad luck with another brand of corn. "This variety was a disaster," he says about "Trojan TX 94 seed corn. Right from the start, it was a poorer looking corn. By the time harvest came it was a nightmare, with severe lodging and gooseneck stalks. May 15 planting yielded about 80 dry bu. per acre."

Randy Hampshire, Deford, Mich.: "We were among many people who say they have no need for sealed storage, but we now own three structures," says Randy, pleased with two Harvestore silos and a Slurrystore. "The feed quality is the best and the savings in protein costs are hard to believe. The system is not magic but increased management awareness, and many other little things, make it pay."

Robert Klinkhammer, Anamosa, Iowa: Robert's two "best buys" are his New Holland 513 spreader and an Astro farm building. "The spreader has been used daily with no problems, not even a loose bolt. The Astro building is well-constructed of excellent materials. No roof leaks or any other trouble."

Robert's had trouble, however, with his Homelite 150 automatic chain saw. "We had so much trouble with the chain saw that we easily spent as much as the purchase price for parts and service in the short time we owned it."

Arnold Janz, Calgary, Alberta: "This combine has fantastic capacity in wheat, rapeseed and especially barley. I like the easy access to adjustment areas, the good cleaning capabilities and, except in rapeseed, the low losses. Also, the cab is very comfortable and the controls and adjustments well-placed," says Arnold about his "best buy" N5 Cleaner combine.

Ronald J. Wright, Greenfield, Mass.: He's happy with his Chevy diesel pickup. "It gets good mileage and has 63,000 trouble-free miles on it," he told FARM SHOW.

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