

silage cart. "We've used it for over a year, unloading eight hours a day, with almost no problems. It's a much simpler cart than a previous one of a different make.

"Another good buy is our Deere 4240 tractor with power assist front wheels. The cab is both comfortable and quiet. The large cubic inch engine responds at all speeds and the power front-wheel assist has worked well in pulling through soft spots in the fields. It's easy to handle, making it an ideal tractor for my wife and daughter to drive.

"We're also happy with New Holland's 238 tandem axle running gears," he adds. "They're well-built and travel well on the road, besides carrying loads well on soft ground."

**Wayne Mininger, Eaton, Colo.:** "Our 'best buy' is a 1979 Ford TW-30 tractor. It came to us in better condition than any major purchase we've made in a long time. In its first 1,100 hours it's been virtually trouble-free. Well-balanced and easy to handle. The tractor dyno checks at about 15% over the advertised horsepower and

sealed bearings, the time spent to service it is small. There have been no breakdowns in 1,100 acres. Easy to operate and drive comfort is excellent." William told FARM SHOW about his "best buy" John Deere 7720 combine.

**Thomas A. Votipka, Belvidere, Neb.:** "I keep asking myself why I didn't buy one earlier," says Thomas about his new 16-ft. Hale stock trailer. "Within the last four months, we have transported milk cows, calves, furniture, firewood, and hay. The best feature is its low profile and capacity. We pull it behind our 3/4-ton pickup, but have also pulled it with a 1/2-ton.

"I have another recent purchase which I think will prove to be a 'best buy'," adds Thomas. "I bought a New Holland 1038 Stackliner but haven't had a chance to use it because I purchased it in the off season. The bale wagon has a capacity of 104 bales. It picks up, loads, hauls, stacks, retrieves and unloads one bale at a time. I feel it will be a great asset to my operation and plan on doing custom work with it next summer."

**Richard Weiler, Athens, Wis.:** He's disappointed with his "Badger 207 manure spreader. One corner sagged from the first two weeks. Also, the apron tore. The spreader was built too flimsy for its size. The dealer had my money and I had his junk. I'll never buy another piece of Badger equipment."

**Joe Kalvoda, Mandan, N. Dak.:** Joe nominates three "best buys" — John Deere 4630 and 4430 tractors, and a 1979 Ford Fiesta. "In 2,500 hrs., the 4630 has never lost an hour of time. The 4430 has been in the shop only once for minor repairs. Both are a pleasure to drive. We've found the Fiesta to be an economical car, getting 30 to 35 mpg on short runs and 40 to 45 on the road."

**Lee Phelps, Schoolcraft, Mich.:** "I have a Wil-Rich 20 ft. field cultivator that has been great, but the spring coil mounted at the rear must have been made out of coat hangers," says Lee. He adds that, "I've always driven 3/4 ton pickups with big V-8 engines and automatic transmission. Recently, I went to a 1/2-ton, 6 cylinder with 4-speed transmission. Wouldn't go back to a 3/4 ton."

**Richard Walther, Waverly, Iowa:** Heading his "best buy" list are two Massey Ferguson products. "Our 2675 Massey tractor with 105 hp. seems to have as much power as most 120 to 130 hp. tractors. With its 27-speed transmission, there's no problem matching pto power with ground speed for almost all implements. All minor problems have been easily fixed. Massey's 880 spring reset plow, with five 18-in. bottoms, pulls easily and works smoothly. No problems in 300 acres of fairly rocky ground.

"Our Allis Chalmers 501 power washer has needed no maintenance in five years other than periodic lubrication and a semi-annual check-up" Richard points out. "It's used for cleaning tractors and equipment and we've also used it as a water blaster before painting three buildings. With decent care, the

washer should last for several more years.

"One of the best tillage tools on the market is the Brillion 18-ft. culti-mulcher. One pass and you have a prepared seedbed on spring or fall-plowed ground. No breakdowns in six years. Neighbors have also used the mulcher on part of their ground."

**Dennis Slattery, Hicksville, Ohio:** "I purchased a John Deere 4420 combine last spring for wheat and then used it in corn and soybeans. This machine has had unending trouble with V-belts. Then, in the feederhouse, it started back-feeding under the sprockets and feeder chain. It did this even in wheat straw but

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was terrible in soybeans. Would plug up about every hour and bend the adjusting bolts, plugging at the head so badly you had to chop the straw out with an axe. The dealer worked on it many times to no avail. It also uses a quart of oil a day and the water pump went out.

"The machine has 240 hours on it now and is still in warranty. Dealer wants \$10,000 to trade for a new one. I feel John Deere owes me a new machine and should take this one back."

**Ralph Miller, Wellington, Kan.:** "My nomination for 'worst buy' is a couple of Ray-Mac Auto-Mac NH3 control valves," says Ralph. "I bought two of these valves in December 1976 and used them first in the fall of 1977. They worked fairly well the first season. In May, 1978, the company told me they were replacing the slides, as they were not properly designed. I received no replacements. In August, 1978, when one of my slides broke, I called the factory and was told replacements would be sent. This call was followed up with six more phone calls and three letters. The letters were never acknowledged, and the calls were nothing but broken promises of 'shipment will be made next week'. The last time I called was July 21, 1980. Now I have two units that have been welded several times and work only part time."

**Roger Fick, Hardwick, Minn.:** "I'd like to nominate my Crysteel truck grain box and Lo-Boy hoist from Crysteel Manufacturing, Lake Crystal, Minn., as best buy," says Roger. "Both box and hoist are well-constructed of heavy gauge steel. The hoist is designed for maximum lift with no notching of box cross-members."

**Earnest Sorensen, Ceylon, Sask.:** This baler made 1,560 bales last year with only minor adjustments and regular servicing," reports Earnest, pleased with his New Holland 845 auto-wrap, 800-lb. round baler. "The baler trips and ties in one simple op-

eration, saving time while shifting and backing to drop the bale. The 'super sweep' pick-up on the baler is one of the best. It enables the operator to get all of the finer hay and the chaff when baling straw. Because this machine is chain type, I believe it will wear longer than a belt-type baler."

**Ed and Marg Tetreault, Merlin, Ontario:** "We've had excellent quality in our machines purchased recently but the service from some dealerships is poor. Others bend over backwards for their customers. A good dealer usually pre-services the machine. In most cases, we feel the service received from the dealer dictates the satisfaction."

**Wayne F. Lubeski, Bad Axe, Mich.:** "We ran about 1,000 acres through it last fall without a bit of trouble except for a malfunction in the monitor system," reports Wayne, pleased with his International 1480 Axial-Flow combine. "We harvested corn with moisture content in the 30's with very little kernel damage."

On the negative side, Wayne's had trouble with his International 250 loader. "The frame was bent, or wasn't properly aligned when welded at the factory. We informed the dealer and were assured we would receive a new frame. Six months later we still had no frame. IH said they would send out a field rep but, after another six months, still no rep and the loader remains bent."

**Reinhold Schmidt, Robinson, N. Dak.:** "Seven years ago I bought a 560 International equipped with an F-10 Farmhand loader. The tractor runs fine in summer but, when winter comes, look out. If it's damp, foggy, or cold, the carburetor ices up and for some reason, runs on four out of six cylinders. We recently had it overhauled and, as it still did the same thing, had to take it back to the shop for more work. We finally purchased an 830 Case with loader."

**Duane Swenson, River Falls, Wis.:** He's unhappy with his Hesston PT-10 mower-conditioner, purchased in 1978. "I hadn't cut more than 10 acres of hay with it when it broke down. I returned it to the dealer who gave me another Hesston to finish cutting with while he fixed mine.

"The following spring I started out with the fixed PT-10, and I hadn't cut 20 acres before it stopped working. The dealer took it back and brought me out a Hesston 1090, which I used all summer. The dealer returned my PT-10 in the fall.

"I started out last summer with the fixed PT-10 and cut 90 acres of hay and the steel started coming off the roller. The company will only make a \$300 adjustment on a Hesston that has only cut 120 acres of hay. The price of a roller alone is \$600, not including freight or labor."

**Cyril Schank, Fallon, Nev.:** Cyril's happy with the Ford 6600 tractor he bought last year to work alongside three other Fords in his "tractor stable". "We have a Ford 4000, 5000 and 9600, besides the new 6600. Maintenance is much easier on the Fords and many parts

(Continued on next page.)

### "The company turned a deaf ear. We got rid of it."

the cab is about the best I've been in. Controls are tops."

Wayne's unhappy with his "Chatanooga Line culti-mulcher. We were constantly breaking spring-teeth and the company turned us a deaf ear. We got rid of it."

**Dean Nielsen, Comanche, Iowa:** "It doesn't take a lot of babysitting," says Dean about his "best buy" Shivers Circulator and Dri-Flo grain system. "We test samples every couple hours to see if grain is at the correct moisture. It has 10,000 bu. wet storage and dries up to 7,000 bu. in a 24-hour day. Dry corn is automatically transferred to two 13,000 bu. bins."

**John Barendregt, Union, Ontario:** He's disappointed with his Forest City Do-All 26-ft. cultivator. "It does a fair job but wears out too fast. If we wanted to put it back in the field, we'd be looking at a large cost to get it back in shape. The reels kick stones that stop the reels and make the field a mess. Distributor and dealer were no help at all."

On the positive side, John says, "Our A & L grain cart with 425 bu. capacity is the best investment we've made for harvest in some time. It increases the capacity of our 7700 Deere combine by one third to a half. The cart was well-engineered before putting it on the market, with a hydraulic shut-off valve that works super and is built extra heavy on the stress points."

**William Menold, Dunlap, Ill.:** "I'm impressed with the tremendous capacity of this machine. Because of the spring-loaded belts and chain tighteners, grease banks, and the