

Deere 220 flexible platform. "With automatic header control and float springs, it cuts soybeans off below the pods but slides over rocks and follows uneven ground. The few rocks that are picked up seldom get into the machine. Cuts everything within reason, including short beans, fine grass, weeds, and even small trees. You can combine in any direction through any material without wrapping the ends of the reel because of the row dividers ahead of the reel. Works nearly perfect in most conditions."

Burke Fisher, Indianola, Miss.: "In the spring of 1979, I bought several Forrest City products which were all worst buys. These included an 8-row folding hipper, hydraulic row markers, and an eight-row folding Do-All. Hinge pins on the Do-All have lots of slack and won't last long. Takes two people to fold it up, and all the turnbuckles either have bent handles or we've lost them. All the problems occurred in only one season and over only about 700 acres."

Jerry Zimmerman, Firesteel, S. Dak.: "I bought it new last spring and it's been a headache ever since." Jerry says about his "worst buy" Herman Culti-Weeder. "When the machine is folded down and in field position, the 14-ft. middle section is out of the ground while the two wing sections run level. A new center section did not solve the problem. Now, the factory says they will give us another one."

Ron Chamberlain, Kentland, Ind.: "When it rained at spraying time, my comfort level went way down. I called in a helicopter and sprayed weeds thick as hair on a dog's back in my drilled beans," says Ron, who told FARM SHOW he switched to drilled soybeans because he was convinced he could control weeds without cultivating. "We had every kind of broadleaf but the Basagran killed them. The canopy closed up and I combined clean beans." Ron is unhappy with his Chevrolet "Blazer" 4 WD. "Assembled very cheaply. Paint has dirt underneath. Tailgate won't hang or close properly. Exhaust rattles."

Richard Jagels, Buhl, Idaho: "The front of the pickup is great but the back is a joke," says Richard about his 7-ft. Sund combine pickup. "Does a perfect job getting every bean onto the teeth, but the rubber flaps that feed beans to the combine auger suck the pods under and onto the ground. This is also the hardest turning pickup I've ever seen."

On the plus side, Richard says that "Ray Stueckle's combine book has been a big help to me. I've talked to Ray over the phone and been to one of his combine seminars. He's a smart man. I set my 660 Case combine to his specifications and had only 3.1% cleanout on dry beans." (The popular book, written by Ray Stueckle, R&H Machine, Box 1548, Caldwell, Idaho, was featured in FARM SHOW's July-Aug., 1979 issue — Vol. 3, No. 4.)

Willard MacPhail, Cornwall, Prince Edward Island, Canada: "This is the lightest to operate and easiest to service forage harvester we've ever had," says Willard, pleased with his

2100 Fox, equipped with two-row corn head and grass pickup. "The first season it worked excellently. The second year, we ran into a lot of down and tangled corn, and found the pickup belts weren't working properly. Our dealer promptly fixed the problem, however."

"Another good buy is our power hacksaw from M & S Metals. One of the handiest tools we own. The price was right and it saves a lot of labor," Willard points out.

Albert Kohlmeyer, Chatfield, Minn.: "The dealer was helpful, but

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it's hard to correct poor engineering in the field," says Albert, upset with his "worst buy" Gleaner FH combine. "It's our fourth Gleaner and we got it just in time for bean combining. The water coolant level-light and beeper were on all the time until we disconnected them. Someone left a heavy piece of scrap iron in the bin, which wrapped around the unloading auger and bent the tube. The air-conditioning doesn't work. You need a pliers to turn the heater control knob on and off, and the heater is in the roof so your head's too warm while your feet freeze. The heater hoses leaked, dripping anti-freeze on the windshield. The cab is terribly dusty, and no wonder: There's a one-half in. gap between the header and the combine.

"There are lights everywhere except on the hydrostatic control, where you need them. The mph gauge isn't accurate. It shifts so hard that sometimes I nearly pull my arms out.

"On the corn head, the gathering chains keep jumping off the drive sprockets. In downed corn, the cross auger puts all the broken stalks into the center, so we were continually plugging the feeder beater."

Ronald Jacques, Hutchinson, Kan.: "Handiest vehicle on the farm. Especially good in our sheep operation," reports Ronald about his Honda ATC 110 three-wheeler. "Hardly a day goes by when it's not used. Some problems with an engine oil leak at first, but warranty covered it."

"Another good buy is the Wetmore 400-bu. grain cart," he adds. "We ran 30,000 bu. of grain through it this last year with no problems. Really helps speed up wheat and milo harvest. Makes unloading on-the-go easy and is rugged-built. Works well for high moisture grain."

First on his "worst buy" list is "the Fi-Shock 7000 electronic bug killer. We bought it to control flies in and around our sheep barn. It killed some flies but I didn't notice any significant difference in the fly population. It was not worth what I had to pay for it."

Norman Heitstuman, Uniontown, Wa.: "I have very little Deere equipment because of the high initial cost, plus the high cost of maintenance after the sale," Norman told FARM SHOW. "Deere and International are constantly figuring ways to build more of their own parts so they have a captive customer and can charge most any price they want for parts."

"I have a Gleaner MH combine and am really happy with it. A good performer that's easy to work on and cheap to maintain since I can buy many parts at my local NAPA parts store, or bearing and power transmission store."

"I have been reading with interest the FARM SHOW stories and letters concerning Ray Stueckle's combine modifications," Norman continued. "I've known Ray personally for years and support him 100%. After all, many of his ideas boil down to putting combines in order the way design engineers intended them to be built. The problem starts when production engineers and accountants have other ideas to cut costs."

"I know for a fact this goes on since I had a Massey-Ferguson 655 windrower that caused lots of trouble. In talking with the factory engineers, and after two years of recalls, I finally traded it for a Hesston 6400, the "Rolls Royce" in haying. It's built like a fine watch, and burns about half as much fuel as the MF 655 did even though both have the Chrysler 255 6-cyl. engine. Many shortline companies have machines and service as good as the big ones, like Deere and IH."

George Solheim, Castalia, Ia.: "Starts as easily on the coldest day as other brands do in a heated garage," says George, pleased with his Deutz 4506 3-cyl. tractor. "Uses less than a gallon of fuel per hour, has excellent power for its size, and good traction. We grind all our feed with it and haul manure every day. Our 8006 Deutz is real top-notch, too. Bought it new in 1975 and have never had it back to the dealer."

Second on his list of good buys is his Gnuse 3-pt. rear-mounted loader bucket. "We've filled ditches, landscaped our home, plowed snow, hauled hay, lifted machinery — you name it. Have used it four years now and there's not a dent on it."

George is unhappy with his Aqua Still water distiller. "Burns out one heating element after the other. The guarantee isn't too good; They fix it once, then it's yours."

Gary Klingman, Strawberry Point, Ia.: Gary's happy with Bin Stairs, an outside staircase ladder for grain bins. "Makes checking grain moisture on my 6,000 bu. drying bin easy and safe. It's easier to get tools up when Stir-rator repairs are needed."

Also on Gary's best buy list are his DeLaval DV3000 milker units. "The dual pulsation system on these units has dropped our mastitis problems to almost nothing. They are very gentle on injuries and help heifers adjust to milking quickly. They're also lightweight with few mechanical problems."

Glen Etter, Bradford, Ohio: "The blower in my Sear's wood-burning

stove is undersized. It's a good stove that puts out lots of heat, but the blower doesn't have the ability to move much."

His "best buy" is DHIA, the Dairy Herd Improvement Assoc. "The service is accurate, dependable and it's run by good people," he says.

Dean Ellermeier, Scribner, Neb.: Dean's disappointed with Boar Power Boars from Monsanto. "They'd eat, sleep, and drink but hardly ever breed," he told FARM SHOW. When they did breed, litter size was small and pigs grew slowly. We're disappointed and will never buy breeding stock from a breeding company again. An individual purebred breed is the only way to go."

On the plus side, Dean's satisfied with his Bearcat 950 grinder-mixer. "Have had only minor problems, worked out quickly with the dealer. Since I grind an average of 4 to 6 tons of hog feed per week, I bought electronic scales with the machine. I think the scales have more than paid for themselves in protein savings alone."

Michael Martin, Logansport, Ind.: "If you have trouble with machinery

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or a dealer, don't be afraid to call the company yourself," advises Michael, who had trouble with his Case 1845 skid loader. "When I bought it, they told me it was their most trouble-free machine. They also said they would bring another one out for me to use if they ever had to take it in to work on it. That's never happened, despite the fact that my 1845 has been in the shop at least six times in four months. We had all kinds of trouble — a cracked block, bad hydraulic cylinders, bad carburetor, and bad hydraulic hoses and engine seals.

"The dealer got so he didn't want to work on it, so I called the Case company myself. They said they'd talk to the dealer. Two days later, they called back and said it would be fixed in a week. The dealer was angry, but the company thanked me for calling. They said to call back if I had more trouble."

Maxine Cain, LaFontaine, Ind.: "I'm tired of buying inferior products, from extension cords to a \$10,000 auto to a \$50,000 combine," says Maxine. "It seems as though American workers are putting out poor quality products while costs to the consumer rises each time you turn around. I even bought an alarm clock with no alarm! I say America should be proud of the products it manufactures and should try to give satisfaction instead of cheating those who buy them."