

spread. "Works fine except for the safety mechanism, which breaks the chain all the time. You have to be careful how you load it or it won't unload."

Another "worst buy" nomination from Merlyn is, "The Dr. Scratch cattle duster. Hard to effectively regulate the amount of dust applied."

L. Lamar Black, Millen, Ga.: "A well-constructed piece of equipment that's easy to adjust. Does an excellent job of incorporating chemicals and leveling seedbeds," says Lamar, pleased with his Forest City Do-All and Spring tooth pulverizer.

He's unhappy, though, with the M & W Gear Co. auger on his 375 bu. M & W Little Red Wagon. "The auger is too slow — takes 45 min. to unload the wagon — and not long enough to reach the center of the truck, causing grain to spill over sides. Will not stay in transport position unless tied with a rope. You can't unload the wagon into a pit unless the auger is removed, and when using the auger, you have to pull the last 10 to 15 bu. into it by hand."

John B. Traylor, Jr., Selma, Ala.: "The salesman made claims about this fuel conditioner for gas and diesel that simply did not happen for

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me," says John who bought the conditioner from Primrose Oil Co. "He claimed more miles per gal. but I made a good check, comparing 10 tanks with 10 tanks without and saw no increase in mileage."

On the plus side, John's happy with his Hayvan big round hay bale mover. "I knew it was what I needed when I saw it. You can load and unload easier than with any machine I've ever seen with no mechanics or hydraulic involved."

Larry Ruffner, Vermontville, Mich.: "One of my 'best buys' ever was my subscription to FARM SHOW because it's informative, inventive and a good wholesome magazine for the times," says Larry. "I enjoy every feature in it and it's put together like no other publication I've ever read."

"My other 'best buy' is a John Deere 6620 bought a year ago. I think this combine outperforms any rotary machine in its class, all things considered. We had a few problems at first, but they were worked out. The seat, body and closed-center unloading auger are just some of the features we especially appreciate."

On the minus side, Larry says he had trouble with John Deere's A18 high pressure washer. "There are six of them in the neighborhood and all have had water pump problems and all are hard to get primed."

Doug Payne, Claremont, Minn.: "Small for maneuverability but big enough to get the job done," reports Doug about his Deutz 7206 tractor. "Has plenty of power and at 72 hp,

the most fuel I've put through it is 2 gal. per hr. On light loads it uses only 1/2 to 3/4 gal. per hr. Good dealer service."

Michael Ownes, Holloway, Minn.: "We've always had trouble with soybeans wrapping on the soybean head of our 915 International combine until we installed these dividers," says Michael about his new Hiniker weed dividers. "Didn't have a bit of trouble after installing them, whether in planted rows or drilled rows of soybeans."

"FARM SHOW has been our other 'best buy' this year," he adds.

On the minus side, Michael says he's had trouble with his International 400 Cyclo air planter. "Have had this planter for the last three years and have not had one successful season with it. It either plants the seed too deep or else puts two to four kernels in a hill. We've never gotten a uniform stand of corn even after putting Maxi-Depth attachments on it from International."

Gerrit Huisman, Sacred Heart, Minn.: "Why can't contractors be trusted anymore?" asks Gerrit, upset with builders "who promise one thing and do another. We were going to build a pig nursery and waited four months for the cement contractors to finish the foundation, pit and floor. Seems as if you can't take a contractor's word seriously anymore. Have heard other complaints, too, about contractors promising a certain date and not finishing."

At the top of Gerrit's "best buy" list is a 1979 Ford F-100 pickup with 4-speed, overdrive transmission. "Handles nice and we're pleased with the ride, performance and gas mileage. Gets close to 20 mpg on the road."

Larry Olsonawski, Hallock, Minn.: His "best buy" nomination goes to Roundup herbicide by Monsanto. "Really did a good job getting rid of quackgrass and Canada thistle," he reports.

James Bonnar, Roland, Manitoba: "This shift is the best I've had in all my experience with Allis Chalmers tractors," says James, pleased with his 145 hp. 7045 with power-shift transmission. "My wife likes to drive it over any other tractor. Have had no problems with it."

"Another good buy was a used Gleaner 'M' combine," continues James. "Handles any heavy swath of grain with ease. Was used on our 640 acre farm, plus a lot of custom work, with only one minor problem."

One more "best buy" was a Polaris 340 snowmobile. "Great way to get to snowed-in granaries to check on grain, and gave us many enjoyable hours of snowmobiling over frozen fields. Wish I'd bought one years ago."

Robert Pray Sr. & Son, Groton, S. Dak.: "This book really took the bugs out of our John Deere 95 combine," says Robert, who nominates Ray Stueckle's book "Combine Settings for Better Harvesting", which he read about in FARM SHOW, as his "best buy".

Another good buy was his Wilrich 24-ft. field cultivator. "Built tough as you can imagine. Doesn't use slave

cylinders on the wings — it has all-mechanical linkage — so it stays on the ground, working perfectly level," explains Robert, who also adds FARM SHOW to his "best buy" list.

He had trouble, though, with his Kovar 24-ft. hydraulic harrow. "We had to rebuild the cart as the wing sections kept breaking. Replaced all chain linkage to sections the first 100 acres. We have no rocks, but the teeth broke just from hard, dry clumps — must have replaced 20 to 30 teeth. No solution yet to this problem."

Claire C. Kunz, Madelia, Minn.: "Hardly ever misses 24 hours without stopping," Claire reports about his Farm Fans AB 12 corn dryer. "Have to wait 6 to 24 hours for service and on weekends it's almost impossible to get in contact with them."

Cary Brown, New Madison, Ohio: "Has poor fuel economy, very poor hydraulics, you can't see out of the

"Best 4-wheel drive tractor on the market."

cab and the company was rude and unconcerned. Worst buy I ever made," says Cary about his 8630 Deere tractor.

On the plus side, Cary calls his International 4586 4-wheel drive tractor "The very best 4-wheel drive on the market today. Excellent is the only way to describe it. Power is unlimited and it runs trouble-free. The cab is 10 years ahead of its time."

Larry Eley, White Plains, Ga.: "All competitive unloaders are now adapting the principles Jamesway has been using for years," says Larry, who nominates his Jamesway Volumatic II 20-ft. silo unloader as his "best buy". "The silage distributor, built into the machine, fills the silo uniformly to the top without any hand work, and the independent ring drive will not get stuck in loose silage. Works with haylage just as well as corn silage."

On the other hand, his Splice-It fence repair tool has been a disappointment for Larry. "Splice-It either cuts the wire or breaks it after the crimp is pulled. Takes at least three hands to use the tool and splices are not sized correctly, causing splice joints to be too loose. Telephone companies had better tools than this 20 to 50 years ago."

David E. Breeden, Laurinburg, N.C.: "The sorriest piece of equipment I ever owned is the 3588 2 + 2 International tractor," reports David. "Will not stay together a whole 12 hour day. Tractor should not have been put on the market until some of the bugs were washed out."

On the other hand, he's happy with three other International products. "I'm very pleased with the IH 1066 tractor, the 400 Cyclo air planter and the IH 475 harrow."

Stanley Grabowski, Interlaken, N.Y.: "The only problem with this machine is that to change the sickle drive belt you have to take half the

side off — a days work," says Stanley about his otherwise satisfactory New Holland H-79 Haybine.

He says he's completely satisfied with Fahr's hay tedder. "Lets you make hay in half the time by allowing the hay to cure twice as fast. No problems at all."

"Another good buy was our Allis Chalmers 'K' combine. Does a good job of cleaning and will go through heavy mud. Little trouble, except the engine caught fire, but I had a new one in three days because the company took one off the assembly line. Drove 1,100 miles to get it."

Stanley nominates his Grove kicker hay rack and wagon as a "worst buy". "The sides weren't made strong enough. The floor rotted out and the axle broke."

Tommy Floyd, Chapel Hill, Tenn.: "This is the fourth Caprice we've owned. Has the ride and feel of a big car and handles great," says Tommy, happy with his Chevrolet 1979 Caprice sedan. "Well-pleased with everything except the gas mileage, which doesn't come close to the EPA mileage estimate. Has a 350 engine with plenty of power though."

Bill Rennick, Milestone, Sask.: "If one man can make that much improvement to all makes of combines, why can't the so-called engineers in the factories come up with ideas to make combines more efficient?" asks Bill, who modified both his Massey Ferguson 510 and John Deere 105 combines along lines recommended by Ray Stueckle, author of "Combine Settings for Better Harvesting."

"If those farmers who don't believe it works would change just one combine over to the Stueckle method, they'd never go back again. The money spent modifying is a small fraction of what's saved by eliminating dockage at the elevator." Also on Bill's "best buy" list are RW Pre-cleaners, sold in Canada by Oliver Industrial Supply Ltd., which he mounted on all his tractors and combines, and a swather. "The main problem with all our farm engines is dust or snow, but this has solved our problems. Makes air filters last up to six times longer," says Bill. "It forces most of the dirt or snow that would normally enter the air cleaner out of the intake air with a jet mounted on top of the exhaust or muffler. Works great."

Harvey Anliker, Forbes, N. Dak.: His "best buy" was actually a 40-ft. field cultivator-digger he built himself. "I built it to get away from problems of diggers on the market. The steel is twice as strong as that the factories use, but most important, the cost was less than half that of any digger this size on the market."

Harvey is disappointed with his 7000 Allis Chalmers tractor. "The cab fell apart within 6 months, and the turbo-charger had to be replaced twice. The front crankcase seal leaked, the oil cooler had to be replaced, we had trouble with the transmission, and had problems keeping the front wheels aligned due to poor spindles."

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