

Bruce E. Anderson, Glenburn, N. Dak.: "They said it would use less oil than other brands and they were right. In fact, it didn't use any oil because the cattle wouldn't use it," says Bruce, who's disappointed with his Sittner cattle oiler. "When they do use it, so little oil is used that it doesn't reduce flies on the cattle at all."

On the plus side, he's pleased with his Dual 3000 Loader. "With the quick-attach feature, I can take the loader off and put it back on just as easily as hooking up to a cultivator. In the spring I have the loader on to feed cattle and off to do field work at least once, and sometimes twice, a day. You don't need an extra tractor just for the loader."

Ed Ratashak, Osceola, Iowa: He likes his John Deere 1850 Field Conditioner. "We had a very wet, late spring and this was the only tillage tool I used on soybean stubble before planting. It produced a level seedbed and I really appreciated the 12-ft. transport width."

On the negative side, Ed is disappointed with his 60-ft., 8-in. Snowco portable grain auger. "I had only used the auger a few days when the pto gearbox went out," he points out. "Because of the design and location of the gear box, the gear lubricant can't be checked without taking the box completely off. The box hadn't been filled before auger assembly. Consequently, I had to wait a week for a new gear box to arrive during peak corn harvest period."

Karl Wetter, Plummer, Idaho: "This is the best time-saving device that ever happened to fencing," says Karl, who's happy with Reel-Tite barbed wire fence tighteners by Kermco products. "Reel-Tites are small, metal star-shaped reels that you insert in the wire and tighten with a handle. You leave them in the fence and tighten again next season."

Marvin D. Dramer, Algona, Iowa: "This is the first purchase I've ever made from Sears that I wasn't satisfied with," reports Marvin, who had trouble with a Sears self-sharpening chainsaw. "It was hard to start and wouldn't keep running. The carburetor is so small it doesn't have any adjustments on it to keep it running."

On the plus side, Marvin likes his Keifer bumper-type livestock trailer. "I like the ease with which you can load hogs in it. Once you get to the livestock buyer, the whole back door swings open for easy unloading."

John F. Koehnke, Cornelius, Ore.: He's been pleased with his 51-ft. Allied 7-in. auger. "It's powered by a 16-hp air-cooled engine and will move almost twice as much grain as a 6-in. auger. Well balanced and easy to move, it'll unload one ton of wheat a minute from bin to truck. Has been completely trouble-free."

On the negative side, John is disappointed with his single axle GMC 6500 series truck with a 366 engine and an 18-ft. bed. "We ordered it with the heaviest springs possible but, with about 2/3 load or heavier, you can hardly hold it on the road because of rear-end sway. It could easily roll on us. Also, the drive line is too small

— twice it has collapsed and twisted off. The company will not correct either problem."

Alois Hoffmann, East Carondelet, Ill.: He nominates Bar Bait rat and mouse killer made by Salsbury Laboratories, Charles City, Iowa, as a "best buy." "We've eliminated more of our rat problems than with any other product after using Bar Bait for just six weeks. It's easy to place at necessary locations, and not as messy as some baits. Most important, it gives good results."

Glen Taylor, Milford, Iowa: He's upset with a 20,000 bu. Butler grain bin he purchased from Mid-States Builders, Spencer, Iowa. "It was poorly constructed. I had to stop combining and make Mid-States come out again to put in 50 bolts they had left out, and to rebuild the drying floor, before it was safe to put grain in. It cost me two good harvest days

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and many hours of frustration. Service was terrible."

Glen is pleased, however, with his "best buy" 10006 Deutz tractor. "I especially like the air-cooled engine," he reports. "It's very economical to run, easy to service and we've had no breakdowns in 900 hours. It's the best tractor I've ever owned."

O'Neal Guyer, Martinsville, Ill.: He's well-pleased with his three-wheeled Honda motorcycle, model AT-90. "I'm 57 years old and have a crippled foot so I need something to get around my 400 acres. I haven't had any trouble in using it to check crops and fences, etc. Every farmer ought to have one."

Charles B. Volz, Raymond, Minn.: "Lets me travel 1/2 to 3/4 mph faster with better results than with a regular floating cutterbar," says Charles about his "best buy" White Quick Cut head for his 8600 White combine. "Also, we appreciated being able to replace sections without removing the sickle from the cutting bar."

Donald G. Zahs, Ainsworth, Iowa: Donald's well pleased with his Krause model 15, 17 1/2-ft. disc. "It has all but eliminated our trouble with ridging because of its center flex feature. Pulls easily with a 110 hp tractor and is easy to handle. Does a good job."

"My worst experience has been with my Marvel Brute quonset-type building," he continues. "To save money, we decided to put it up ourselves and, boy, did we have problems. It seemed like they never bothered to update the instructions when they changed the building. All the bolts and nuts weren't shipped with the original order and had to be reordered. Once they arrived, they tried to get me to pay for them again. I think I have most of the leaks stopped after using a bucket of tar. It was a

trying time and tempers got short many times in erecting the building."

Marvin H. Meyer, Portage Des Sioux, Mo.: His "best buy" is a Lely Roterra. "Using the Roterra and pulling my planter behind it, I can usually prepare a better seedbed and incorporate my chemicals better with less compaction than I have ever been able to do before. It's especially good for a one-man operation. When I pull out of a field, everything is done."

On the other hand, he's had problems with a Lely spray monitor. "The nozzle tip monitors never worked properly and were made too weak for the job," he says.

Wesley T. Kelley, Martinsville, Ill.: "I won't even look at a Ford or a Chevy now," says Wesley, who's happy with his 1978 Dodge W-150 pickup. "The gas mileage is great, it has the best transmission I've ever seen and the service is good."

Also on the plus side, he likes Amzoil synthetic motor oil. "You can go one year or 25,000 miles between changes, plus it gives you longer engine life and better gas mileage."

Robert Stevens, Lexington Park, Md.: "I bought a GE Smoke Alarm in 1977. One year later, it needed a new battery and the cost of a new one was \$7.99," says Robert about his "worst buy" nomination. "I sent the alarm back to GE and bought a more reasonably priced one that uses a 9-volt battery."

Gordon G. Goldfish, Cotesfield, Neb.: "There is one thing I would never part with in my hog operation," says Gordon. "It's a totally automatic hog sorter — the Weight Krates, made by Osteel Corporation, of Sylvan Grove, Kan. It can't be beat for sorting hogs. You set it to catch them at any weight you want to sell at and then load the already-sorted hogs. If you follow instructions, hogs will learn to use the Krates in 2 to 3 days."

"I sell around 1000 market hogs a year and haven't sorted any by hand since getting the Weight Krates two years ago."

Gordon adds that his "worst buy" was a bunch of Minnesota-Wisconsin feeder pigs. "They shipped me a load of pigs infected with necro, a severe contagious dysentery. After a heavy loss (60%), I contacted them but they wouldn't make any adjustment. Chalk it up as a good lesson on buying Minnesota feeder pigs."

Leroy Stebleton, Egeland, N. Dak.: "This tractor is a pleasure to operate," says Leroy about his IH 1586. "Dealer service has been excellent on the few minor problems I've had."

Lonnie Watkins, Essex, Mo.: Lonnie's White 2-135 tractor rates as his "best buy." "I've put more than 750 hours on it and never had it in the shop. It's got plenty of power and weight to handle a five bottom 18-in. roll-over plow with ease. Plus, you can see the drawbar without a mirror."

Chuck Fredrick, Aurora, S. Dak.: "My worst buy would have to be Ramrod wettable powder. It's the most irritating stuff in the world to your skin and eyes, and it plugged my sprayer about every 150 ft. It was supposed to mix up easily with water

in the bag it came in but didn't. For convenience, I wouldn't use anything but a liquid herbicide."

"I'm extremely satisfied with the lugging power of this tractor and its economy," says Chuck about his Case 1570. "The large fuel tank lets you get some work done without running home every noon. The hydraulics and power shift transmission work great."

Alwin Stauffer, Jamestown, Mo.: He's had trouble with his John Deere 410 round baler. "Once the core formed, it would bale okay, but we had trouble getting it started. The belts would swing out of line and jam the machine to a dead stop."

Alwin traded it off for his "best buy" New Holland 845 baler. "This machine has no faults that I know of. No trouble starting the bale core and it makes a nice bale."

Randy Fiorini, Turlock, Calif.: "Our Honda ATC 110 cycle has proved to be a real gas-saver for irrigation and other on-ranch driving where we formerly used a pickup," says Randy. "We bought the cycle during grape harvest for our foreman to use for supervision. It's extremely useful in that he can cover much more area and spot problems quicker than he could walking."

Ray Coleman, Berlin, Penn.: He's pleased with his New Holland grinder mixer. "I like the quality of feed it makes and we've never had a bit of trouble with it."

He nominates his Massey Ferguson 160 manure spreader as his "worst buy." "The web broke before it was a week old. We put a new one in and that broke in six months."

Major Winter, Lake Providence, La.: Heading his list of "best buys" is his 2670 4-wheel drive Case tractor. "It's got great power and pulls my 28-ft. disc at good speed. Except for a water pump, we've had no problem with it. When that happened, the dealer had it fixed in less than an hour."

He's disappointed, however, with his IH 1566 tractor. "This tractor has less than 1,000 hours on it and we've already put in two new transmissions, an axle, and an axle housing. The dealer paid for the first transmission but I paid for the second. Also, the tractor never seems to have enough gears and is either too slow or too fast."

Ken Anderson, Center, Colo.: "The 4-cylinder engine doesn't have enough torque and, after 30 hours of work, the shaft broke in the injection pump just when we needed the tractor," reports Ken about his Ford 5600. "As normal, the part has to be ordered from Kansas City so, more than likely, we'll be done with fieldwork when we get it."

Ken is well pleased with his Gehl 135 grinder mixer with bale feeder. "The capacity is good and the hydraulic motors sure beat chains and belts."