

market," reports Leroy. "They've done a wonderful job designing the pto drive to eliminate the 90° gearbox, thus lowering cost. Having the tractor positioned right beside the auger for greater accessibility is another plus."

He disappointed with "a Sioux round bale feeder. It cracked up and disintegrated after one year's use. The tubing they built it from is too light."

Bob Griteman, Napoleon, Ohio: "Until we put on Acra Plant shoes, we had trouble with disc openers plugging in wet soil on our Allis Chalmers Air Champ planter. Now, it plants at an even depth in all field conditions. We even used it to double-crop soybeans after wheat, with the straw left on the field, and had a very good stand."

Bob's also happy with Dual herbicide from, Ciba-Geigy. "Dual cleared up our nutgrass problem. Used it both pre-plant incorporated and pre-emergence with good results."

Clarence O'Bryant, Reidsville, N.C.: "We're really pleased with our 21-ft. Taylorway harrow," reports Clarence. "Leaves the land level with no furrow at the end."

"Also like our 2-180 White tractor. It has the power and the handling ease you need in a tractor, plus the comfort. Has a real quiet cab."

Jessie L. Siebert, Ephrata, Wash.: "Next time I'm going to hold back part of the payment until everything is satisfactory," states Jessie who likes the John Deere 158 front end loader he bought but had a bad ex-

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perience with the dealer who sold it to him. "The loader is made rugged and tough, is easy to put on and take off, and uses hydraulics built into the tractor."

"The problem was that I paid cash for the loader and the dismantling stand. I got the loader okay but the stand wasn't available and 10 months later I still didn't have all the parts for it. Poor effort on the part of the dealer to get them and see that I was satisfied."

Myron Wehr, New Waterford, Ohio: "Uses far less fuel than one would expect from a tractor this size," reports Myron of his John Deere 4840 tractor. "We're using less fuel per acre than any previous comparable tractor we've owned. Also has more pulling power than expected. No problems after 350 hours."

On the negative side, he's had trouble with his "IH No. 11 Subsoiler. The automatic resets would not reset when we bought it. Even after that

problem was partially corrected, the standards showed excess wear. Dealer service was excellent but IH help to the dealer was poor."

David Groves, Kempner, Tex.: "I don't think the factory did enough field testing before marketing it," says David about his Lundell model 750 big round baler. "Changes were made at the beginning of last season but it still wouldn't work properly. I think the baler could be made to work but it has been very costly to me with the company experimenting to try to make it work."

Ken Edmondson, Danville, Ind.: He notes that his Deere 653 row crop bean head "started off its first season in the worst buy category. We have many rocks on our farm which would constantly lodge in the gathering belts, causing damage to the belts and also to the rotating and stationary knives. It was not uncommon to spend an hour a day replacing broken knives, repairing torn belts, and adjusting belts and chains."

"At the start of last year's harvest season, we installed rock guards, hardened stationary knives and the new-style rotating knives. These 3 items cost over \$100 per row but were well worth it in terms of increased productivity. The rock guards deflected the rocks away from the knives and belts, therefore eliminating most of the previous problems. The new-style knives lasted 900 acres with very little attention. It's too bad Deere waited so long to make improvements, but at least now they have a tool which will do a superb job of harvesting soybeans in rocky field conditions."

John Farrell, Scottsville, N.Y.: "This machine is really well built," says John of his "best buy" Brillion chisel plow. "It has high clearance, heavy duty shanks that have taken everything I have given them. One rock I hit broke a bolt, but that isn't too much trouble to expect from a machine that takes so much punishment."

Robert Celsar, Holland, Ky.: "I am completely satisfied," he says of his Ford 7600 diesel tractor. "The main reason I purchased it was the hydraulic system. With the 5000 Ford I traded in, 18 seconds were required to open the gate on my round hay baler. With the 7600, it only takes 7 seconds. It drives and rides like an automobile. Has plenty of power and is economical on fuel."

William Schlimmer, Odessa, Wa.: Heading his best buy list is a Model 1445 23 ft. Bush Hog disk harrow. "We farm both irrigated wheat and dryland. It cuts through heavy straw in irrigated fields and doesn't go out of sight in our light sandy dryland soil. Depth control is excellent. We have had no problems in rock spots and it will ride over without breaking disks. Has held up very well."

Byron Lear, Bern, Kan.: His nomination for "worst buy" is "a Spread-all grain spreader. In the first place, no instructions came with it. When it started malfunctioning, it took us a long time to find the reversing switch and then it still didn't work right. Also, the angle adjustment is difficult

to get at to adjust."

On the positive side, Byron likes his Hart Carter floating cutterbar: "Does everything we expected it to do. Really works like it should."

Robert C. Johnson, Bluffton, Ind.: His "best buy" nomination is a 1978 7040 Allis Chalmers tractor. "My wife especially likes the hydraulic system and the six speed power shift transmission. It's quiet, comfortable, easy to handle and has plenty of power. We've had no problems in over 500 hours of use."

Lloyd Martens, Chadron, Nebr.: "It's the first pickup I ever bought that didn't have a foot-long list of things to be fixed after the first 500 miles," says Lloyd about his Chev-

"First pickup I've ever bought that didn't have a foot-long list of things to be fixed."

rolet C-10 diesel pickup. "I've driven it 11,500 miles so far and never had it back to the dealer. Gets over 20 mpg on the highway and 17 on parts trips to town. Has more zip and lug than our 350 gas units and starts fine in cold weather. Uses no oil."

Mrs. Robert Burnside, Ponder, Tex.: She likes the Steiger Panther. "I put nearly 600 relatively trouble-free hours on it in 4 mos. It pulled all the equipment beautifully, the only problem being that the seat won't lower. I'm 5 ft., 2 in. tall and can't touch the floor, so I have to push the seat all the way back and sit on the edge of it."

"We also have problems with the seat in our new John Deere 4440 tractor. The new hydraulic seat gives both me and one of our hired hands terrific backaches, and again, the seat won't go low enough. It's more comfortable out of hydraulic control, but still gives me a bachache."

John J. Beitel, Stayton, Ore.: "My only complaint, directed at all pickups, is that they get poor gas mileage," says John who's otherwise pleased with his 1977 Chevrolet ¾ ton 4-wheel-drive pickup. "There have been no real service problems since I bought it and the 4-wheel-drive makes the pickup doubly useful."

On the other hand, John has been disappointed with Monsanto's Roundup herbicide. "I used Roundup as a pre-plant herbicide before planting perennial grass seed. The treatment didn't produce anywhere near the clean seedbed needed. Although control looked good for about a month, the weeds soon started growing again. Neighbors have had similar results."

Dan Hopp, Colville, Wash.: "I couldn't get it fixed, so I traded it off for another brand," says Dan about his 7600 Ford tractor. "It burned too much oil and the transmission,

which was a constant-mesh 8-speed, ran so hot you couldn't touch the gearbox. Neither the dealer nor Ford Motor Co. would fix it."

Keith Iverson, Paullina, Iowa: He says his best machinery buy last year was replacing a worn out diesel engine in his 1969 IHC 1850 grain truck with a Model MV 446 gas engine. "The new engine fit perfectly with the old transmission, and the motor mounts. The factory rep and the dealer mechanic get an A+ for their work. They said it would work and it did. The only problem was in changing the gears in the rear end because of the r.p.m. difference, which we knew at the start would be a problem. The engine is a real runner and quiet, too."

On the negative side, Keith wishes manufacturers would standardize the thread and couplers on hydraulic systems. "Buying adaptors and O-rings is enough to drive a guy wild. Standard threads would be a big improvement."

Jerry Duerfeldt, Falls City, Neb.: He nominates his New Holland 489 Habine as a "best buy". "I owned a New Holland Haybine before but this new one cuts closer, runs smoother, and performs even better. It flexes for terraces and ditches, and requires minimal maintenance."

Mark Zenner, Genesee, Idaho: "We've never been able to plow like this before in Northern Idaho," says Mark in explaining what he can do with his "best buy" International 800 plow. "This area is very hilly and, for years, farmers have plowed by throwing the soil downhill. This has resulted in bad dead furrows and plow corners in the same places year after year. Now, with the 800 plow, we start on top of ridges and work down, throwing the soil back uphill. We couldn't do that before because other plows had to be hitched in tandem and the back plow was always tipping over, or sliding off the hills."

Patrick Quinn, Monterey, La.: On the negative side, he's disappointed with "Cobex preplant herbicide. We had an unusually heavy amount of rainfall the latter part of May last year. The Cobex failed to hold the weeds after this heavy rain. I won't use it anymore."

On the positive side, he's happy with his Deere 4840 tractor. "The best part of the tractor is the new seat, along with the power shift transmission. It has plenty of power, yet handles with ease. We had some minor problems but the dealer has corrected them."

Roy C. Bulau, Arlington, Minn.: A dairy vacuum from the Electric Cleaner Co., Osseo, Wis., is his "best buy" nomination. "You can use it for a lot more around the farm than cleaning cows. We really got our money's worth."

On the negative side, he had a bad experience with a used 815 IH gas-powered combine. "Had nothing but trouble with it and last fall we had a fire in the engine that totalled it out."

Ervin Mathiesen, Blair, Nebr.: "They need better quality control at

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