

Earl Fuhrman, Cummings, Kan.: He's sold on his new tillage tool called the Hoe-boe, manufactured by Lee Blacksmith, Rochelle, Ill. "We purchased the Hoe-Boe plow late last fall but used it mostly last spring. It plows, rips, chisels and loosens the ground 100%. The machine works fast — enables us to go in wet ground, follow with a disk and plant. Saved lots of time last spring and gave us a good seedbed. Well worth what it costs."

Earl adds that he took matters into his own hands to get satisfactory performance out of his 510 Deere round

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baler, purchased in the summer of '77. "We had trouble — lots of trouble. Could not get help from the factory. Last winter, the baler was recalibrated for minor modification. Then, we took a cutting torch to it. Now, the baler works fine and we're real happy with it."

Ronny Bell, Ostrander, Ohio: Heading his "best buy" list is the Dickey-john monitor on his 6-row planter. "It works just fine. Stopped me 5 or 6 times to warn that a chain was off or some other problem had interrupted planting. Tells when corn gets low in the boxes. Had one sending unit that quit working — dealer sent it back and got another one that works okay."

Henry Britt, Jr., Tarboro, N.C.: "Have had no major problems with this truck and very few minor ones. The few minor problems were fixed very promptly," says Henry of his Chevrolet C-10 heavy duty pickup.

Stanley Crowder, Cherokee, Okl.: He's disappointed with Monsanto's herbicide Roundup. "I have used it for 2 years in trying to control bindweed. Followed directions exactly and have not received any results."

Stanley nominates a super 1049 New Holland bale wagon as one of the best buys he's made recently: "It's approximately 18 months old and has given virtually no problems."

Martin Schroeder, Orion, Ill.: "I like the even depth of seed placement and the way the seed can be emptied from the finger unit, compared to the older Deere plateless planters," says Martin of his "best buy" Deere 7000 8-row Max-Emerge planter. "I got the deluxe monitor. The wheel that counts the acres bounces a little on rough ground and it's a little short on acres counted. Only trouble I had is that two seed packer wheel tires split and had to be replaced."

Martin notes that "an electronic bird chaser made by Agri Electronics" didn't work in his all-steel 5,200-sq. ft. machine shed: "I hung up 2 units and the birds sat right in front of them. My dealer checked with the company and was told they wouldn't

work in a building with insulation under the steel roof. Of course, I got my money back but I sure would have liked for them to have worked."

John Wienrank, Fulda, Minn.: He nominates "perma Balance for balancing the wheels on my car" as a worst buy. "They don't work — not even 2%".

On the plus side, John is well pleased with his J.C. Penney car-truck battery. "Lasts as long as you own your car or truck."

Bob Delauer, Portland, Ind.: "Excellent truck. Lots of power with good heater and air conditioner. Full-time 4 wheel drive is nice but gas mileage is a little low — only 7 to 8 mph. Excellent snow removal vehicle when fitted with a Meyer snowblade and electronic-hydraulic controls," says Bob of his "best buy" 3/4 ton GMC pickup.

Commenting on his Case 1570 tractor, he notes that "the hydraulic pumps on the hydraulics went out. Dealer gave excellent service under warranty but I was shocked that the gears failed after less than 100 hours of use."

Lloyd Bourne, Sprague, Wa.: "Really like the tandem axle setup. Smooths out rough spots. Much easier on equipment and has plenty of clearance," he says of his "best buy" Deere 1600 chisel plow.

Gerald Wirne, Westminster, Md.: A Deere 6600 sidehill combine heads his "best buy" list: "We'd recommend it to anyone with hilly ground. We can keep our ground speed along the hillsides and feel safe doing it, without losing the grain. We had one bearing go out and our local dealer gave us good and prompt service. The machine is a little time consuming to grease."

Van Walkley, Pasco, Wa.: "The problem was that probably the dealer had some bad combines he wanted to get rid of but was unwilling to stand behind them," says Van who had problems with 2 Allis Chalmers combines which had been rented out in 1966 and which he bought in 1977. "The combines were represented as being ready for harvesting. It took 5 men over 2 days to finally get them working properly. Bearings, shafts and some electrical components gave problem all through harvest. Combines were to be warranted but I was charged for all the work."

On the plus side, he has had good results with Monsanto's Roundup herbicide: "Although expensive, it sure controlled the few Canadian thistles I had. Looks as if it will be a good, all-around herbicide. Only problem might be that it drifts easily."

David Hilton, Bushnell, Ill.: He salutes International Harvester for 3 recently-purchased machines that have performed with flying colors so far as he's concerned. "We really like our 12-row hydraulic foldup cultivator. It follows the contour of the ground and is easy to transport. Our IH 915 combine has given us minimum trouble and with 28.5 by 32 tires really goes through the mudholes. Has plenty of power to spare. Our IH 12 row Cyclo planter is easy to fill and you can plant 70 acres

on one fill. We like having only 2 boxes to fill instead of the 12 boxes on regular planters."

David adds that "Our Hunter grain leg saves time at harvest and the work the crew did putting it up was very satisfactory. The auger on our Cardinal 52 ft. 6 in. bottom drive auger is wearing out at the bottom and we had to put in new bearings after very little use."

Francis Johnston, Wilmington, Del.: "The use of plastic monofilament line as a weed and grass cutter is practically useless. One to two minutes is maximum cutting time for each new extension of the line," says Francis.

Howard Keir, Ulster, Pa.: Here's how he sizes up his Gehl Bale (Model 1500A) big round baler: "Bales start easily. But it's the speed and capacity that we really like — 8 to 10 acres, or 30 or 40 bales per hour, is no problem."

Ted Rochold, Jr., Highland, Kan.: "Used Tolban on my soybeans at a high rate on an experimental basis for control of Johnson grass. Got exceptional control and the beans showed no damage. Herbicide was applied in the spring, and planting followed spraying."

Eldred Jones, Brockport, N.Y.: "I must recommend Dayton tires as one of my worst purchases of a lifetime. One 9:00 by 20 in the front collapsed at about 50 miles. The dealer informed me that the tire failure was caused by the tube, therefore there would be no replacement or adjustment. The distributor referred me to the company at Dayton. The company referred me back to the dealer. Around and around we go."

Eldred nominates a '77 F250 Ford pickup as a best buy. (It has been beyond all expectations. No problems whatsoever — not even a rattle") and Promalin as a worst buy ("This chemical is supposed to ripen red delicious apples. There was practically no fruit where the chemical was tested and what little there was never ripened"). Eldred notes that, "I'm impressed with FARM SHOW. I think it's excellent."

Richard Bonnstetter, West Bend, Iowa: "One of the most useful products I've purchased lately is a Mix Mill and air conveyor. The Mix Mill has been out for many years but the company's air conveyor is relatively new. It saves more time on my farm than any other thing here."

John Weiss, Dow City, Iowa: He's well pleased with his Allis Chalmers Cleaner Model F combine. "I'm in

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very hilly country and this 4 row combine has extra wheel spacers to give it extra width for sidehill stability. It's very simple to replace bearings in it. The dealer gives me excellent service."

Milton Steele, Blue Earth, Minn.: He's well pleased with performance of his International 815 diesel combine ("It's much more economical to run than a gas combine and adjustments are easy to change according to field conditions") and his Harvestall electric drying bin ("It has worked excellent under all conditions. Everything the dealer told us it should do, it has. The dealer was very helpful in ironing out any problems. We have used the bin for 2 seasons and are well pleased with its performance").

Adrienne Fotte, Gatesville, Tex.: "It does exactly what the ads claim," says Adrienne of his Hesston Stak-Processor. "Formerly, it took 2 people 3 hours to feed livestock during the winter. Now, one person, male or female, can easily feed in less than an hour with no lifting. With illness in the family and labor difficult to obtain, this Stak-Processor and a round baler has enabled me to continue our livestock operation."

Donald Henkel, West Brooklyn, Ill.: "It's good to have reliable dealers working for the farmer," says Donald, who lists his International 915 combine as a best buy: "This machine did all that the dealer promised and more. It has been out for a while and has all the bugs out of it. It will not throw grain out the back — even at a fast speed. We had a few things that were put together wrong at the factory but dealer service and warranty coverage were excellent."

Donald registered disappointment with "a 22 ft. Krause disk. It never did run level. First, it was put together wrong. They sent a factory representative to fix it. He walked with it in the field for 30 min. and said he didn't know what was wrong. They sent another man who looked at it in the shed, left and never returned."

Arlo Skari, Chester, Mont.: He notes that his New Holland baler No. 278 "has performed flawlessly. It's well made and I'm well satisfied with it. I like the fact that it is able to hold 6 rolls of twine so it can bale for several days."

Arlo's unhappy with his 1/2 ton 4/4 Chevrolet pickup, a 1976 model which he bought new. "Works well but evidently has a weak spring on the right side as it sags, and the doors and tailgate don't open and close properly. Local dealer has worked on it but he and the company are reluctant to admit what the real problem is, and so it goes unfixed. We have had GM products before but their handling of this problem has us considering whether to buy any more from them. We will undoubtedly fix it ourselves instead of going through all the hassle."

Paul Ankenbrandt, Mt. Carmel, Ill.: "I would personally recommend this disk to anyone," says Paul of his 13 ft. Miller special heavy duty offset disk. "We purchased the disk because we wanted to speed up our fall and spring plowing. After using it on a 140 acres last fall, we were very pleased with the beautiful and level job it did. We're also pleased with the

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