

comment on equipment. Maybe if manufacturers see the complaints in print, they'll work to alleviate the problems," says Geston. Commenting on his 490 series International disk harrow (20 ft., 6 in.), he notes that "although the basic design and frame seem to be fine, the disks, gang bolts, and bearings are totally inadequate on ground that contains any rocks at all. Spacers between the disks seem to be cast out of glass. Not only the expense of replacing these

Bureau's "Freddie Computer Service". "We just write down and code everything and it all comes back at the end of each month all in its proper place. We know how we stand every month without having to do a lot of figuring. At the end of the 10th month, we can estimate our tax easily."

Gerald's unhappy with a "Commander proportioning pump from Merit Industries. Have had it just about a year and used it about six times. After the third time, it started leaking and now I can't get it to work at all."

**Ray Underwood, Warsaw, Ohio:** "With winter coming, I have to tell you about my snowblower — a New Idea pto-driven 3-pt. hitch model. We live down a long lane and need something to move a lot of snow. It really does the job. Throws snow 40 ft. and more. Last winter, I blew out snow drifts 6 ft. deep on township roads that the road grader couldn't get through even with chains on. I wouldn't be without it."

On the negative side, Ray registered disappointment with "Surge pipeline milkers. Expensive to operate, didn't save any time or work. They didn't work well to say the least. Electric pulsators would stop in the middle of milking a cow. Cows dropped off in milk production. These were new units, installed by a professional. After 4 months, we sold them and went back to using the old bucket type milker."

**John Kelly, Armstrong, Iowa:** He's happy with his new all-electric grain drying system which uses the chill curing technique of natural air and ultra-violet grain lamps. "Costs less than 2¢ per bu. to dry and corn comes out in perfect condition. Can be filled to capacity in one day."

**Richard Koch, Tamaqua, Penn.:** "This machine has performed real well on our terrain and does a tremendous job," says Richard of his Deere 6600 Hillside combine. "We're certain that the time we save is well justified for the difference in cost of machines — so much so, in fact, that we purchased our second machine."

**Brad Spiney, Guiman, Okla.:** "I would like to take this opportunity to thank the dealer and his entire staff for their personal and courteous service," says Brad, who nominates his Deere 7700 combine as a best buy. Had trouble with the turbo charger but my dealer had it running again in 3 hrs."

Commenting on his recently purchased International 490 tandem disk, Brad notes that "it has performed very well. I had some trouble with several braces but the dealer fixed this. He has serviced this machine to the fullest extent and I wish to thank his dealership for their personal and courteous service."

**Wayne Wangsness, Decorah, Iowa:** His "best buy" is Bowes Power Aid, a fuel line de-icer and fuel conditioner. It was 16° below zero and we got the tractor started (an 1805 MF) but it had no power at all, despite letting it idle for a long time. We went to town for a fuel filter and fuel conditioner but found only Bowes Power Aid. We dumped it in and drove ac-

ross the corn rows as fast as the tractor could pull itself in first gear. In a couple minutes, the motor took and it has worked great ever since."

**Gregory Hahl, Donnellson, Iowa:** Gregory salutes the dealer who sold him his International combine. "The most satisfying thing about this product is the dealer's service. He strips parts off new machines to keep the machines he sells running in the field. There's not another implement dealer in the area that does that."

**Don Teague, Bovina, Tex.:** "Handiest thing for teenage boys that we have in our house," says Don of his family's Litton model 420 Microwave oven.

**Jack Sheppard, DeWitt, Ark.:** The best buy he's made recently is a small portable "WeatherAlert" TA-3 receiver for National Weather Service broadcasts. "This small radio receiver from Radio Shack lets us listen to continuous weather broadcasts, allows planning of planting, harvesting and spraying operations up to the very minute."

**Robert Henn, Hawkeye, Iowa:** "The best buy I've made recently is a 330 Owatonna skid steer loader. Saves a lot of time and labor. Dealer service is good. Another good buy that I made is a Lorenz Model 844 snowblower. The new-style, beater-like augers break up hard, crusted snow and require less horsepower. Our 80 hp. tractor can handle as

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much or more than most other snowblowers with tractors of 100 hp. or more. I have no one worst product to complain about, but would like to see more quality in new machines. Bolts and other items that are not properly aligned or tightened can cause major problems. After paying such high prices for machinery today, I feel it should be made better."

**James Sage, Waterloo, Iowa:** He's well pleased with his Deere No. 27 stalk chopper: "Does an excellent job of chopping, even under damp conditions. Sturdily constructed."

**M. Wayne Warfield, Gaithersburg, Maryland:** "We had two other Massey Ferguson balers before but this one is the worst," says Wayne of his MF No. 12 baler with thrower. "We baled 18,000 bales and it broke 4 to 5 bales per load. Sometimes, if the knoter didn't tie, the thrower would bust them," explains Wayne who chides Massey Ferguson's dealer program: "We had good dealers before this year and then MF decides to close them down. They (MF) opened up a new one and he stayed in business 3 months. There is a good bit of equipment and tractors in our area and no dealer. Seems MF people

don't care, especially for the older dealers who have been doing a fine job of serving the public in parts and service for 20 to 25 years."

On the plus side, Wayne lists two "best buys": His Bush-Hog 1438 disk ("it cuts sod and stalks, and does an excellent job of leveling plowed ground") and his White 348 automatic reset plow ("plows deep and pulls easy, covers trash and sod beautifully. We have an excellent dealer in our area").

**Gary Vanatta, Randolph, Iowa:** His "best buy" nomination is a Deere 4620 tractor: "This tractor has the weight to handle the horsepower with minimum slippage; handles just as easy as my old 4020."

Gary adds that his "worst buy" nomination is "a Tiller rod from Five Star Mfg. The literature said it would work on a disk, which looked good because it was lightweight. All it did was drag corn stalks and the rod wouldn't turn. We took it off the disk and pulled a harrow to finish our seedbed preparation."

**Douglas Schmid, Carrington, N. Dak.:** He salutes a "good company and a good dealer" for their quick work in getting his Leon Model 3100 rear mounted dozer blade repaired after a breakdown: "The ear that holds the angling hydraulic cylinder broke, which in turn broke the shaft in the hydraulic cylinder."

**Gary Wiest, Brady, Mont.:** "I really like the variety of FARM SHOW. It beats some of the old magazines which aren't that informative anymore."

Gary adds that he's "very unhappy with the service we have received on our Gilmore-Tatge tailgate auger. Our setup is a hydraulic drive. Our first year, due to weight of the fertilizer, the belt drive caused it to slip. To run the auger, we had to forcefully close the tail gate and scoop fertilizer out of the tail gate compartment. The company stated that their new spring-loaded tail gate was the solution — a \$30-plus item we added, plus sprocket and a chain drive. It still is an item which causes more trouble and labor than it was designed to eliminate."

**Bill Angle, Dakota, Ill.:** "An engineering disaster," is how Bill describes his "500 IHC 12 row toolbar planter. The planter wasn't assembled correctly at the factory, and also wasn't set up right by the dealer. Company serviceman showed up the last day of planting. Also had to take off new depth control wheels as they pushed the ground ahead and would not turn. No help from the company."

Bill adds that he's "very pleased" with his 850 New Holland round baler: "Have used two belt-type balers previous to this beltless New Holland. The 850 has a very good pickup for light hay. Have baled 800 bales with no chain breakage."

**Kenneth Rowley, Kennan Farms, Delavan, Wis.:** He's well pleased with his "liquid brush" power washer from the Britt-Tech Corp.: "It's really portable from one place to another. We've used it for cleaning walls and floors of buildings, wash-

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spacers, but the downtime, is very irritating."

On the plus side, Geston is well pleased with his Omaha Standard 20 ft. grain bed: "I particularly like the way the clearance lights are recessed on the sides and mount with rubber, instead of being stuck on the side where they would be knocked off by the first bush you go by."

**Dana Mannon, Neponset, Ill.:** Heading his "best buy" list is a planter monitor from the Hiniker Co., Mankato, Minn. "This model has a measuring wheel to count acres, seeds per foot, and a direct readout for corn population. The unit operated so well I doubted its accuracy. However, when I combined the corn and beans, I found it was correct. I also mounted the measuring wheel on my field cultivator to measure acres and mph for applying herbicide. Fantastic!" Dana's only complaint is that "the read-out is hard to see at times."

**Jim Jeffrey, Deep River, Iowa:** "It cut our gas bill by 1/2 to 3/4," says Jim of his "add-on" Econo Furnace, manufactured in Montezuma, Iowa. "We have a gas forced air furnace that heats our house but it was getting real expensive to run. The add-on furnace uses the same chimney (class A) and on most days completely heats our whole house. At night when the wood burns out, its thermostat shuts it off and the gas furnace takes over. I'm real satisfied with it."

**Willie Vesely, Ganado, Tex.:** His "best buy" is the Wife-Saver hitch he purchased for his pickup! "It's made by the Lewing Welding Co., El Campo, Tex., and enables my wife to easily hitch up any trailer with ease. She does all the cotton hauling to the gin and has to depend on herself to hook and unhook big, heavy trailers. The hitch is made with a spring pin that pulls up and extends about 12 to 15 in. You hook up, then back up and the spring pops into place, ready to go."

**Gerald Becker, Earlville, Iowa:** "We highly recommend the service to anyone and feel they would be pleased with it," says Gerald who earlier this year signed up for Farm