

"Best" and "Worst" Buys

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ing trucks, cleaning machines and washing show Holsteins. It has been trouble-free, doing a very satisfactory job for whatever it's been called on to clean."

David Macomber, Lena, Ill.: He's well pleased with his "best buy" Hesston 6600 self-propelled windrower: "This is my fourth self-propelled windrower and it's by far the heaviest built and has the most capacity. The air conditioned cab is really nice when the bugs are flying. Dealer provides good service when needed."

Mark Altman, Chalmers, Ind.: He's well pleased with the adapter kit he purchased from Lindquist Welding and Supply, Giltner, Neb., which allows him to use a Deere 444 corn head on his New Idea Uni-Harvester. "We raise over 300 acres of popcorn which tends to go down. With the Deere corn head, we can pick it up even if it's on the ground. Best of all, every part on the adapter kit is Deere or Uni so you can walk in to the dealer and get what you need," says Mark, who adds that "our other best buy is FARM SHOW. We learn much from it."

Mark cites his 737 Uni-Harvester shucking bed as a "worst buy": "Even though it's very expensive (\$10,000) it's built cheap. All bearings are too light. You can't adjust the shucking rolls without taking them out. That's no easy job since it involves taking off the head, throat and about two hours of work after that. It burns me up everytime I buy a machine that isn't designed so the person who has to use it day in and out has to go to a lot of work to service and adjust it. The stalk ejectors have no adjustment for space in between the rolls, so if you've got small ears they go right through and get ground up. Shucking rolls have shucking pegs — leave them in and you shell the corn on the bed which ends up on the ground. Take them out and you get all kinds of trash in the wagon. We've found no in-between. Overall, the machine is poorly designed and built cheap for what it costs. But for now, it's all we've got to handle ear corn 4 rows at a time. Vermeer is bringing out a tractor-mounted picker which we saw in FARM SHOW. If it handles 6 rows like they say, we'll buy it without a thought."

The following randomly selected FARM SHOW readers nominated tractors as a "best" and/or "worst" buy.

Versatile 150: "The tractor for all seasons. Makes short work of all your yard jobs, then doubles as the power unit for a self-propelled swather, front-end loader or back hoe. You won't believe the seat's 180° swivel until you try it out yourself. Any problem we had was taken care of by the company or the dealer." Alvin Boxwell, Cutbank, Mont.

Allis Chalmers 7080 and 7060: "These new A-C tractors are the best built and engineered tractors I've owned. The cabs are quiet and air

tight. Rear vision is the best I've seen in a cab, a big plus for operators monitoring operation of planters and cultivators. The 47 gpm closed center hydraulic system works excellent on my 10 row folding equipment. Servicing is quick and easy," reports Dale Kitchens, Slaton, Tex.

On the negative side, Dale notes that "a Case 1370 tractor," which he bought new in 1975 and later sold, "was in the Case shop as much as it was in the field. Even if poor performance was not considered, it was the worst handling tractor I've owned. The cab is located 1½ ft. too far forward on the tractor, making it difficult to monitor rear-mounted implements. The wide front is designed so the wheels can't turn short enough, causing the wheels to be dragged on the turnrows, resulting in excessive front and rear tire wear and lugging of the engine. When hydraulic orbit motors were used, the power lift did not work due to the open center priority type hydraulic system. The power lift was too slow, taking 5.5 seconds to move from bottom to top. . . . removing the hood was like taking apart a jigsaw puzzle. Four different sections, all with different sizes or screws and bolts, plus the muffler had to be removed before you got to the hood. This is time consuming and unacceptable on a modern tractor."

Deere 4430: I am very satisfied with the operation of this tractor. It has not needed any repair work other than regular service work. I also own a full line of Deere forage equipment and field equipment and am extremely satisfied with its performance and durability," reports W. J. Beall, Eatonton, Ga.

H-150 White: "I cut fuel from 10

"Just about all the 750's in this area have given trouble."

gal. to 6 gal. per hour over an IH 1466. This, plus increased traction, was the main difference. Excellent dealer service," explains Max Hughes, Mayfield, Ky.

Max nominates two "worst" buys — Roundup herbicide ("failed to control Johnson grass like I expected") and his MF750 combine: "Engine too small. Transmission has been out 5 or 6 times. Wobble box has broken 4 times. Good dealer service, though. My 715 IH has done twice the work the 750 has done. Just about all the 750's in this area have given a lot of trouble."

Deere 8430: "This is our first 4-wheel drive. Saves us from getting stuck so much. It's also nice to be able

to pull a 25 ft. disk and cover so much land in a day," notes Adolph Hula, Charles City, Va.

On the negative side, he's disappointed with performance of his "Lely Roterra. It beats the ground up too fine. When you get a rain, it sets the dirt up like concrete. It doesn't cut up Johnson grass roots like a regular disk will do."

1066 International: "Within 6 months, paint fell off the cab and it started rusting. Talked to the dealer and said he would contact company but he didn't think they would do anything and they haven't. Also had motor problems with it," notes George Jacobs, Hobart, Ind.

He's also unhappy with "an IHC plow. Bought it with new flotation implement tires and it came with used car tires. Never got the tires or the instruction book. I have called the dealer at least 20 times and have also called the company reps in Chicago and Columbus, Ohio, because the plow will not plow level because of the way it's designed and built. Both the company and dealer continue to give me the run around."

Deere 4440: This is a fine piece of machinery and well put together with a new engine with plenty of reserve power," says proud owner Lawrence Jost, Garden City, Texas.

He adds that he's disappointed with his "Bush-Hog Husky cotton module machine. It's not put together for service. Bolts and nuts come off and the shafts don't keep aligned."

Deere 8630: "We purchased our new 8630 during mid-March of 1977. It had 24.5 by 32 in. tires all around, including duals. We use a Glencoe Soil Saver with a 16 ft. 3 in. working width and pull it at 6 mph and 10 in. deep in black, waxy soil. Our dealer gave us outstanding service when we needed it the most. We purchased it from Reynolds Farm Store and only one time had to wait more than 2½ hrs. for a service call," says Ronald Waymire, Waymire Grain Farms, Albany, Ind.

He adds that their Glencoe Soil Saver has a "folding wing that cheats while chiseling. It doesn't matter how you adjust the plow to compensate for the cheating, it still does it. I've notified the dealer that we purchased it from. He notified the district representative several times, but that was over 9 months ago and I still haven't heard from them. They claim they have a cure for the problem."

2640 Case: "It runs very good. Not too much to fix on it and it's easy to service," notes LaVern Tranel, Big Springs, Neb.

On the negative side, he's disappointed with performance of his "GMC pickup with 4-wheel drive. Just always something wrong. Had to overhaul the transmission right after the warranty ran out."

IH 1586: "This new tractor replaced a 1466 IH and we're very pleased with it. The cab would have to be the most pleasing part, but the extra power and excellent fuel economy for the work done comes in a close second. As with everything, there are features we think could be improved. I guess the biggest com-

plaint is the position of the transmission lever when in park. It ends up in the way of exiting and entering the left door of the cab," says Bill Hotger, Hotger Farms, Kellogg, Iowa.

Bill adds that he's generally pleased with his 510 Massey Ferguson round baler, noting that "the baler, when working, is fine, but it's not all that dependable. The baler is a direct descendant of the Vermeer baler and is made for Massey Ferguson by Vermeer in Pella, Iowa. Most repairs we have made without too much trouble with our welder, bolts and so forth, but time lost at a critical time when hay is ready is discouraging, to say the least."

Deere 4630: "I have used this tractor for approximately 1000 hours and have not had any problems with it at all. This is one of the finest pieces of equipment I've owned or operated," says Wayne Sloan, Gore, Okla.

Wayne adds that he's unhappy with his "750 Massey Ferguson combine. The first thing was that the diesel engine used oil. It was in the shop 3 months. Next, the diesel tank straps wouldn't hold the fuel tank. I now have it fastened on with log chains. Have also had the diesel injection pump and injectors in the shop. There has been something wrong continuously since I bought it."

Deere 4630: "I think it's one of the best buys we ever made. The cab has excellent visibility and is very quiet.

"Our dealer gave us outstanding service when we needed it most."

We use it to pull a 4600 roll over. 5 bottom breaking plow at 6 mph and about 12 in. deep without any trouble. The tractor has one heck of a hydraulic system. It's the only tractor I've ever seen that you can have the hydraulic 4-wheel drive going, hit the brake, turn the steering, raise the power lift and roll the plow over with one of the hydraulics — all at once. Also, service is great," Gary Boyd, of Big Foot, Texas, told FARM SHOW.

On the negative side, Gary faults his "1755 Oliver tractor. The cab has poor visibility, is noisy and is sealed very poorly. The motor slobbers oil out of one of the cylinders and has been worked on twice and not fixed yet. The brakes have been worked on twice for hydraulic leaks. The power steering pump leaks oil, and the power lift also leaks. The motor never carries over 25 lbs. of oil pressure."