

ever, it is a little rough riding and a few of the grease fittings on the 4-WD system are almost impossible to reach to grease."

Charles J. Johnson, Bridgeport, W.V.: "Although it's a diesel it'll pop right over even at 20° below," says Charles about his smooth running 1980 Massey-Ferguson 220-4. "My only criticism is that it needs a bigger fuel tank. I installed a magnetic fuel level switch inside the tank. I connected it through a switch to sound the tractor's horn when the fuel level gets low. A sight pipe is no good."

Kenneth R. Roberts, Quanah, Texas: Kenneth's 1967 Case 930 general purpose tractor is just beginning to use some oil in heavy pulling, but that's after putting 9,000 hours on it. "It has plenty of power, excellent fuel economy, rides smooth, and handles well. It has been a reliable tractor for us," he says. "I only wish it had been built so it's easier to see the 3 pt. when you're hooking up to equipment."

"I cut a door in the hood of my 930 and fitted it with hinges and latch. It makes changing the last stage fuel filter and checking and filling the power steering reservoir easier."

Richard Pecha, Jr., Bloomer, Wis.: "I'll put it up against any new tractor Deere or anyone else makes for light work or heavy," says Richard, happy with his 1965 Deere 4020 with powershift. "It's got lots of power and handles great. The company should start building it again."

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W. Glenn Collins, Maysville, Ky.: "In my opinion, the Farmall H was nearly the perfectly designed tractor," says W. Glenn. "It was reasonably heavy (4,000 plus lbs.) and had a lot of power for its day (28 hp). At 49 years, mine still starts easily, even at 25° below. It's exceptionally maneuverable and with its 38-in. tires, we can get into muddy fields newer, heavier tractors can't. Used parts are always available if new parts are too costly. The only problem with the tractor is that there should have been another gear between fourth and fifth to provide power as well as speed. That would have made it the perfect tractor."

Don Henderson, Altavista, Va.: Don's 1962 Massey-Ferguson T0-35 will do some jobs as well as newer larger tractors, he says. "I use it for light jobs - plowing, cultivating, mowing weeds and grass in my vegetable garden - as well as for pulling logs and posts," he says. "The only problem I've had since I bought the tractor in 1991 is that the transmission tends to lock in reverse in certain situations."

Lon Herrington, Rocky Mountain Machinery, Blackfoot, Idaho: "No one will ever build a perfect tractor but our 1996 Deere 8400 is the best on the market, even though we have to weight it down pretty heavy in order to use it in our sandy soils," Lon says. "Engineers don't seem to spend enough time in the field to appreciate some of these extreme conditions like ours."

C.A. Oehler, Strasbourg, Sask.: "I'll never buy another tractor without front-wheel assist again now that I'm spoiled by my 1993 Case-IH 7120," says Oehler. "I love front-wheel assist and can't think of anything I'd change with this tractor."

"I widened out the front wheels and use no fluid in the back tires."

Jeff Jensen, Rexburg, Idaho: Jeff's put 3,900 trouble-free hours on his 1991 Deere 4955 and is pleased with its performance. "I think the manufacturer produces excellent tractors," he says. "My only complaint is that the intake and exhaust systems obstruct visibility sometimes."

Timothy Zawalick, Northampton, Ma.: Timothy's happy with his 1993 Ford 1920 4-WD equipped with Ford 7108 bucket loader. "It's compact and is easy to operate," he says. "However, the rear four-ply tires they equip these trac-

tors with aren't strong enough for the woodlot work I do. I equipped mine with Armstrong six-ply 16.9 by 24 tires which haven't been showing the wear and tear the originals did."

Robert J. Zarse, Reynolds, Ind.: Robert reports "no problems after 325 hours" on his Case-IH 7250 with front-wheel assist. "It's easy handling with a nice quiet cab," he says. "The only thing I've noticed is fuel consumption. Gallons per hour is worse than it was with our 7420, but we're covering a lot more acres so gallons per acre has dropped."

Rickey Hodges, Canadian, Texas: Rickey's had good luck with his Kubota 2650 and 4950 4-WD as well as his IH 300 and Farmall 300 utility tractors. Nevertheless, he says they all could use some improvements. "I'd like to see fenders over the front tires on all them. I'd like to see more horsepower in a small tractor. I'd also like to see a place to mount a toolbox on all of them. Finally, they all need more handholds."

John D. Spencer, Knoxville, Ala.: "Good, dependable tractors," says John about his 1969 Ford 5000, 1975 Ford 3550 and 4000 and 1978 Deere 4430. "But they could all use better seats and steering."

Charles H. York, Hamilton, Texas: Charles' only complaint with his 1989 Deere 3020: "It needs an easier hookup for implements."

Richard W. Papworth, Lethbridge, Alberta: "My 1995 Case-IH 9370 is an excellent tractor with all kinds of power."

Abe Snake, Martinville, Ohio: "It lives up to its name," Abe says about his 1982 Versatile 160 bi-directional diesel tractor. "For example, we use it to push a 7-ft. Bush Hog 307 mower so it'll chop up old deer carcasses and antlers before they puncture tires. The tractor's hydrostatic drive speeds up shuttling and allows precision rpm match to load. Fuel consumption is only 2 gal. per hour under the most extreme conditions. The factory ROPS cab is built like a battleship. We have less than \$1,000 in total repair and maintenance costs in 1,700 hours of use."

"The ROPS cab on our 1978 Ford 550 loader/backhoe diesel is every bit as strong as the Versatile's. It offers a lot of horsepower for the money. The bucket will outlift the Versatile loader by 1 1/2 times. It runs for weeks on a tank of fuel."

"Our 1962 Deere 2010 gas-powered tractor is a good medium utility tractor that easily handles a 6-ft. mower and is handier to use for detail work than the articulated Versatile."

Ron Radloff, Charles City, Iowa: The only gripe Ron has with his 1991 Deere 1070 is that it needs full live pto power.

Scott Hingtgen, Bellevue, Iowa: "You never get tired of running it in the field," says Scott about his 1995 Deere 7800 with MFWD. "It has great lugging ability, tight turning radius, and exceptional cab and control visibility. Dealer service has been great. I've had no major problems in 1,000 hours of service. The only fault I can find with this tractor is that the powershift is a little jerky and/or hesitant."

James L. Smith, Chunchula, Ala.: Newer models have improvements John would like to see on his 1972 Deere propane-powered 4020 with only about 1,000 hours on it. With a few exceptions, it's been relatively trouble-free. "The fuel cutoff switch shorted out and the power steering pump has a tendency to leak, which is a real bugger to repair or rebuild," he says. "Neither problem occurred more than once in 20 plus years of operation, however."

Howard M. Bier, Hannibal, Mo.: Howard's extremely happy with his 1981 IH 986. "The old '9' has been the most reliable, trouble-free, easy-running tractor I've ever owned," he says. "It came from the Mexican trade affair IH had in the early 1980's. I'd love to have a cab. That's the only thing it's missing."

Allen Cogar, Maudsville, W.V.: Allen's pleased with his 1983 Case 1190 but says there's still some room for improvement. "It could use better fuel efficiency, easier access behind the dashboard, different location for the fueling port, and a bigger toolbox," he says.

Harold L. Smith, North Jackson, Ohio: The only trouble Harold's ever had with his 1965 Massey-Ferguson 135 were a few minor prob-



Loader-Mounted "Finger Grab" Bale Handler

Cattleman J.R. Dudley, Scooba, Miss., didn't like the round bale spears or 3-pt. bale movers on the market so he built his own loader-mounted "finger grab" bale handler.

The patented "Baleboss" uses a pair of steel pipes equipped with 12-in. long steel "fingers" to grab the bale from each side.

"It has a lot of advantages over other bale handlers," says Dudley. "The pipes extend only about 3 in. out from the sides of the bale which allows you to stack bales close together. It has a low profile so you can stack bales three high inside a barn or two high on a wagon. You don't have to look back all the time like you do with 3-pt. bale handlers, and because of the loader's reach you can set bales down or retrieve them 4 ft. inside a fence. Another advantage is that it'll grab even damaged or partly eaten bales with no problem."

A hydraulic cylinder attached to a "scissors-type" mechanism is used to rotate the pipes. Each row of fingers is



welded to a steel bar for reinforcement. A rectangular steel frame on back holds the bale firmly in place.

Available in two models. One handles 4 and 5-ft. high bales and the other handles 5 and 6-ft. high bales. Dudley also makes a quick-mount attachment that lets you switch from using a bucket to the Baleboss in less than two minutes.

Sells for \$1300.
Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, J.R. Dudley, Box 55, Scooba, Miss. 39358 (ph 601 476-5565).

lems with the electrical system. Otherwise, he's well pleased.

Claude Esch, Mio, Mich.: "It only has a 3-cyl. engine but has plenty of power to do all the jobs we need it to do," says Claude about his 1968 Ford 4000. "I just wish they'd designed it so it was easier to get on and off."

William Bacon, Elgin, Iowa: "Extremely reliable and easy on fuel," is how William describes his 1971 Case 970 diesel. "However, it could turn tighter and brake shorter."

"I wish there was more leg room. Deere engineers must be short-legged."

Tom Ruffatto, Stevensville, Mont.: Tom's well pleased with the Deere 3055 and Deere 1530 he bought new in 1993 and 1973, respectively. "The 3055 uses little fuel, is dependable, and offers lots of power and operator comfort. My dealer is very thorough and parts are readily available," he says. "The 1530 has given me 9,000 trouble-free hours. We put rollbars and sunshades on both tractors."

"I just wish there was more leg room on each tractor. Deere engineers must be short-legged."

Jesse O. Pomeroy, Londonderry, Vt.: "I bought it used in 1993 and even though it has a lot of hours on it, I haven't had to touch the engine or transmission," says Jesse, pleased owner of a 1974 Deere 4230 with 9,250 hours. "At 20 years old, it still puts 110 hp out the dyno. It has good hydraulics with plenty of capacity. The Sound Gard cab was state-of-the-art when this tractor was new and is still ahead of some of today's other brands."

Gary Debey, Cawker City, Kan.: Gary has

three suggestions for improvement of his 1993 Deere 7700. "Make the recirculating air filter in the cab easier to remove and replace for cleaning. Make the fuel filter easier to change. And the 3 pt. needs a grease fitting on the pivot to keep it from hanging up. Otherwise, the tractor has a lot of power and good fuel efficiency. And I love the Power Quad Transmission."

Walt Krafft, Yellville, Ark.: Both Walt's 1980 Deere 2940 and his 1984 Deere 2950 have performed well for him, but he still has two complaints. "The air conditioning seems undersized and requires about \$500 of maintenance every year," he says. "Also, the cabs are way too small, too. There's hardly room for the operator and a lunchbox in there."

Stephen R. Grandstaff, Tecumseh, Kan.: "It's a good solid working machine," Stephen says about his 1974 Massey-Ferguson 1105. "The only thing that would improve it is if the hydraulic system had auto return."

Frederick Kupfersmith, Home Kan.: Frederick's the satisfied owner of a White 2-180 and White 2-70, both 1980 models. "The 2-180 would probably be more fuel efficient with, say, a Cummins engine," he notes. "It'd also be nice if the oil filter was easier to remove and replace. The 2-70 could have used a better hydraulic system."

Ben Smith, Leipsic, Ohio: Ben is the owner of a Deere 4020 diesel and Deere 3020 gas-powered model, both 1967 models. "The 24-volt electrical system on the 4020 doesn't charge enough to keep the battery up," he says. "The 3020 runs great but is gas thirsty."

Dave Stolt, Petosky, Mich.: "It's a well designed tractor," says Dave about his 1969 Deere 2520 D. "It's versatile and has traction and power that fits my small operation."

Dan Clay, Midland, N.C.: "It does a fabulous job. I'm pleased with it all the way," Dan says about his 1990 Massey-Ferguson 250.

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