

Best And Worst Buys

(Continued from preceding page)

daily."

Ronald's upset with the service he's received on his **Honda ATC 200** and 750 motorcycle. "The Honda dealer in our area does not carry the parts I feel should be stock items. You have to pay for them when you order them, which means two trips to town to get one part."

Dalton L. Biehl, Kutztown, Penn.: "Our 1986 **Grasshopper** riding lawnmower has a zero turning radius. The mower deck is out in front for good visibility. Seated over

"It has a zero turning radius. Cuts mowing time in half."

the hydrostatically driven flotation tires there's no jerking action when turning. Steering levers are also located in a comfortable position. Cuts mowing time in half," says Dalton about his "best buy."

Jerry E. McNinch, Leicester, N.Y.: "I learned my lesson about buying tools from Taiwan," says Jerry. "I bought 1/4, 3/8, and 1/2-in. socket sets with flexible ratchets and put the ratchets on top of the stove to dry off last winter. Unfortunately, the reverser mechanism on the wrenches was made of plastic and melted, ruining the wrenches."

Michael Yascolt, Pinconning, Mich.: "My best buys are a couple company publications that are helpful for welders. The first is *The Stabilizer*, published by the **Lincoln Electric Co.**, 22787 St. Clair Ave., Cleveland, Ohio 44117. It costs just \$2.00. The second is *The Maintenance Welder Digest*, published by the **Eutectic Corp.** The subscription is free to everyone. Phone toll-free 800 221-1433 and ask for the communications department."

Al Hanson, St. Cloud, Minn.: "I've owned and operated a **Deere 8300** grain drill for two years. The grass seed attachment is the worst buy I've ever made. The seed hoses are too small in diameter, causing seeds to plug. This happens so often I finally disconnected the hoses and let the seeds drop freely to the ground. The grain drill works fair but it's extremely difficult to calibrate as the seeding rate charts are very inaccurate."

"My 110 **Deere** riding lawn mower is the second worst buy I've made. The engine, clutch, and hydraulics have had major failures. I've paid for this machine at least twice over in repairs."

Bill Lindner, Hinckley, Minn.: "I've had it for more than 8 years, and other than putting bigger tires on it, it hasn't cost me a nickel for repairs so far," says Bill, pleased with his

"best buy" **International 666** diesel tractor.

Jeff Maravits, Prairie du Chien, Wis.: He nominates his 1985 **International 1460** combine as "best buy." "We put 350 hrs. on this combine last fall and I can't say enough good things about it. The only problem was that one gathering chain broke. The dealer replaced everything. Service on the machine was super."

Bobby Greenwood, Carlton, Kan.: "I bought too soon. I could get a lot more for my money now," says Bobby about his 1984 **128K IBM** personal computer. "It's done everything I need it for. My only complaint is that color graphics should be provided as standard equipment."

Walter D. Graham, Pella, Iowa: "I'm very pleased with my 1984 **Chevrolet 4-WD** pickup. Plenty of power and good gas mileage. I also have a 1966 **Deere 4020** that I'm pleased with. It has lots of power, is easy on fuel, and gets lots of work done."

Walter also lists his **Troy-Bilt** rear tine roto-tiller as a "best buy." "Lots of power and does a very good job."

Clifford Doss Jr., Kewanee, Ill.: "I recently bought a 1986 **Polaris 4-wheeler**, the first ATV made in the United States. It has a variable-speed transmission with forward and reverse and no shift pedal. I like the fact that it has an open grid platform for your feet instead of a bar that gets wet and muddy. I'm really pleased with the way it runs."

Dan Juneau, Red Lake Falls, Minn.: "I liked them so much I became a dealer," says Dan about **Halon** fire extinguishers. "They come in sizes from 1 lb. to 20 lb. and they're all refillable. They contain a substance that's completely non-toxic so that you can even spray it on food. Doesn't make a mess."

John Schloegel, Lewiston, Minn.: He had trouble with "Farm Coat" wallcoating for milkhouse walls. It was advertised to sound like a ceramic coating. At \$69.95 a gallon we expected something really good. Although we followed directions carefully, it chipped, peeled and washed off. It was advertised as a non-stick ceramic coating but manure and dust stuck to it. I could scrape it off with my fingernails. We repainted with a local product at \$28 a gallon 3 months later. We bought the bad paint through advertising literature that came in the mail."

Dean A. Frederick, West Branch, Iowa: "I have only 12,000 miles on it so far but it seems to perform well. The 460 engine has plenty of power when pulling a gooseneck trailer loaded with livestock," says Dean about his "best buy" 1985 3/4-ton 4-WD **Ford** pickup.

He lists his 1982 **GMC 3/4-ton** diesel pickup as "worst buy." "The 6.2L diesel engine is short on power but the biggest problem is with the dealer. He wouldn't submit work

orders for warranty, even while the truck was still covered. Another dealer told me the work I had done should have been covered."

Rob Dewitz, Steele, N. Dak.: Heading Rob's "best buy" list is a pair of **Deere** tractors. "Our 1981 4240 and 8640 have both been very little trouble to maintain. They've justified their higher price tag."

"We're also pleased with our two 355 **New Holland** grinder mixers. One is about 8 years old and must have had 100,000 bu. through it without a hitch."

On the negative side, he's had trouble with a 330 Mustang skid steer loader with a 25-hp. Onan engine from **Owatonna Mfg. Co., Inc.** "I bought it used with 800 hrs. on it. It used some oil right away and got worse each time I started it. I had it overhauled three times before I found someone who knew how to fix it. Now it runs okay but I wish it was liquid cooled."

C.O. Green, Sedalia, Mo.: "The solar fence charger I bought from **Central Tractor** sure works great to fence out-of-the-way pastures or to divide pastures into smaller grazing areas. I also find it beneficial to fence ponds to keep cows out."

W. Robbins, Hopkins, Mo.: "We're generally satisfied with the computer for bookkeeping purposes, but they should increase computer speed, offer more training and bring their advertising in line with reality," says Robbins about his **Xerox 820II** sold by Dickey John Corp.

James Mayer, Marcus, Iowa: He likes his 1985 **Chevrolet K-20** pickup. "It's a lot more truck than the Chevy K-10 I got rid of. The new one carries three times the load. The pickup has a 350 cu. in. engine with a manual

4-speed and pulls just about anything while still getting 13 to 16 mpg. I'm very satisfied."

M.J. Wachlin, Sargeant, Minn.: "I had trouble with my **GMC** diesel pickup but, by working with my dealer, got GM to pay 20% of the cost of repairs. It needed new rings, new head bolts, and we had to plane the heads and do a few other things. The cost was \$800, of which GM paid about \$200. It helped reduce oil consumption from 200 miles per quart of oil to over 2,500 miles. I think this was the best solution and that diesel owners should not send money to groups that say they'll fight GM for you."

C.F. Nolén, Martinsville, Virg.: "I own a 1985 F250 **Ford 4-WD** diesel that has 19,000 miles. I'm disappointed in the power. When I change gears with a load on, it smothers out. The clutch is also real rough."

Allen W. Faul, McClusky, N. Dak.: "I purchased a new **International 4586** tractor in 1980 which has a good motor but all the rest of it is junk. I replaced the transmission with a new one. The front wheel bearings wear out 2 or 3 times every year. The hydraulic valve controls need repairs 2-3 times a year. Hoses and pipes wear through and need replacement most everywhere on the system far more frequently than on the 4568 I had for three years."

Adolph Schneider, Carlyle, Ill.: He nominates his **Massey Ferguson 925** mower-conditioner with 9-ft. sickle as "best buy." "I mowed about 600 acres of hay stubble and grass last year with less than 3 hrs. downtime. However, the over-running clutch is a little slow with a hydraulic pto tractor."



Colored Twine Protects Against Hay Theft

"Normally, it's virtually impossible to identify hay. But with my colored twine you can protect your hay from thieves by having your own color code," says Mike Mattos, Patterson, Cal., who's come up with orange, black and yellow plastic twine for hay bales.

Using colored twine helps fight theft two ways, says Mattos. First, it gives you a way to identify the bales with your own color combination and second, the mere sight of the

colored twine and accompanying warning signs acts as a deterrent to the thief.

Mattos notes that on 3-twine bales, you can have 24 different color combinations. The plastic twine sells for \$17.95 a roll (6,500 ft.). Dealer inquiries welcome.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, M.A. Mattos Enterprises, 1424 Eucalyptus Ave., Patterson, Cal. 95363 (ph 209 892-6477).