

Randomly selected farmers "tell it like it is" in nominating their "best" and "worst" buys.

by Harold M. Johnson
Editor

Farmers Nominate Best, Worst Buys

Sam Grabill, Audubon, Iowa: "The worst purchase I made was not necessarily the fault of the equipment but the engineer who designed it," says Sam, who is disappointed with his Massey Ferguson 285 tractor. "It wouldn't steer with the loader off the ground from the first day I bought it. The dealer replaced everything he could think of and it did no good. Then, the company experimented with different length steering arms, which also did no good. Finally, they replaced one cylinder it came with with two, and added a new pump, which made a big improvement. A tractor of that size and horsepower is made for a loader and you'd think they would have these problems taken care of before they put them on the market," Sam told FARM SHOW.

On the positive side, he says his 915 New Holland spreader "has done everything it was designed to do.

one 3-day period with no troubles. Bale startup is good."

Also on Robertson's "best buy" list is his 4240 Deere tractor. "Plenty of music, cool air and a hydraulic seat. It's trouble-free and makes baling a pleasure."

Billy Wayne Sellers, Baxley, Ga.: His "best buy" nomination is a Paulk Rip-and-Plant subsoiler and planter. "We purchased this equipment in the spring of 1978 to subsoil corn land and it turned out to be a wise decision because of the drought that year. Even though we averaged only 37 bu. per acre, we feel we would have had much less without the Rip-and-Plant. Absolutely no problems with this machine."

Keith Kay, Minden, Iowa: "Makes for a trouble-free combination," says Keith about his Kinze 12-row (30 in.) folding planter toolbar. "I used the Deere Max-Emerge planter units. Everything Kinze Mfg., of Williamsburg, Iowa, makes is well-made and durable."

Stanley Barber, Long Valley, S.D.: He's happy with the Larson tractor cab he bought last fall for his International 806 tractor. "At the time, I couldn't buy an International cab. I contacted Larson Mfg., in Huron and they supplied me with a quality cab at a price much lower than others I'd checked on."

Paul Lietz, Alta, Iowa: "Helped us keep our combine rolling," says Paul, who's well pleased with his 61-ft. Westgo 10-in. auger. "We usually unload the combine on the go, so emptying those wagons and getting them back to the field is important. Besides having good capacity, hangar bearings reduce wear and horsepower requirements. Weight is well-balanced, with only about 100 lbs. on the tongue."

Marcel Mantei, Jr., Egeland, N. Dak.: He's had trouble with his 1979 Scottsdale 350, 4 by 4 Chevy pickup. "It's short on power, has poor steering and gas mileage, an engine squeak and, with 8,000 miles on it, I haven't been able to get any of the problems fixed. Dealer says it will be corrected."

On the plus side, Marcel is happy with his new 60-ft. Flex Coil harrow. "It was set up and ready for the field better than any other piece of equipment I've ever purchased. All I had to do was hook on with the tractor and go into the field. Excellent set-up job by the dealer."

Bob Doty, Lovington, Ill.: "It started burning off the first time I used my tractors," says Bob, who is disappointed with "Rust-Oleum No. 4200 heat resistant paint. "I cleaned and sanded all the mufflers on my diesel tractors and combine, and applied two coats. It was supposed to be good for temperatures up to 800° F."

His "best buy" is an Allis-Chalmers 1300 series, 30-ft. wing field cultivator with a 3-bar Remlinger harrow. "The rubber-mounted shanks run flat on the field cultivator, instead of springing back like most spring-mounted shanks do. This lets the A-C cultivator hold its depth, pull easier, and the sweeps maintain their points when they wear rather than

With the hydraulic slop gate, you can haul anything you can get into it," he says.

Walter Brown, Foreman, Ark.: He's disappointed with a 12 row cultivator which, he says, "I bought over the phone from Dickey Machine Works. I told the man I had heavy black soil and he assured me the machine could do the job. Once in the field, the bearings went out on the gauge wheels and bolts holding the shovels started breaking. We lost 20 shovels in two days. Everything started to bend. It was just too weak."

"Two company men came out. They worked on it all day. The next day we went to the field with it and the same things happened all over again. Then, driving down the road, the right wing fell off. Next day, the other one fell off. My son and I spent two days welding it back together."

Walter adds that his "best buy" is his 7100 Deere planter. "We used it on 2,500 acres and had very few problems."

Vincent Raymond, Watson, Okl.: He's pleased with his "best buy" New Holland 845 round baler: "Gets the bales started easily and has operated trouble-free. It's a good machine."

E.R. Robertson, Kentland, Ind.: "I've had this baler three years and have less than a \$5.00 total repair bill," says Robertson about his John Deere 510 baler. "I received an operator's manual on delivery. This year, I baled 313 big-round bales in