

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

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Farmers Nominate Best, Worst Buys

OPINION

Tell Us About Your “Best or Worst” Buy

Send your nominations to:
**FARM SHOW, P.O. Box 1029,
Lakeville, Minn. 55044, or use
the survey form on our website at
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James Vosburgh, Dowagiac, Mich.: “I’ve heard a lot of people say Chinese tractors are no good, but I like my **Foton 250A**. It’s not perfect since it has had some electrical problems, but it’s the best tractor I’ve ever owned. I’ve practically beat it to death, yet it keeps on running with no mechanical problems.

“This tractor is powerful beyond its 25 rated hp. I use it with a front-end loader, a 5-ft. bush hog, a 5-ft. rototiller, and a 5-ft. box blade and backhoe, and it handles all of them well. I replaced the original turf tires on back with lugged tires and added wheel weights for more traction.”

Arnold Piel, Stoneham, Colo.: “When I bought my 2012 **Kubota RTV900** utility vehicle it seemed sluggish and underpowered so I took it back to the dealer and had them install a turbocharger. That made a world of difference. I also mounted a 3,000-lb. winch on it.”

Bruce G. Hartman, Dansville, N.Y.: “I like my **Sears Craftsman 2-piece** lithium-ion C3 drill and impact driver kit. The lithium batteries are much improved over the Ni-Cad batteries. They charge faster, have a battery level indicator, and they provide full power

www.ezproductstx.com). It’s powered by a 5 1/2 hp Briggs & Stratton engine that starts easy. This wire roller is lightweight and easy to load into my pickup. It can handle both electric and barbed wire. The only problem is that my neighbors like it, too, which makes it hard to keep at home.”

Stan Thomas, Ashville, Ohio: “I like my **Lisle 8-piece** tap socket set (ph 712 542-5101; www.lislec.com). I’ve done industrial maintenance work and fabrication work for more than 40 years. These sockets do away with the old “T” handle and can be used with a ratchet or drill. They’re ideal in tight spots where a T handle won’t fit. They’re a big time saver.”

Francis Henderson, Brinston, Ont.: “Two years ago we bought a used 2009 **Kubota** zero turn riding mower equipped with a 48-in. deck, and it’s the best mower we’ve ever owned. It has a great seat, cuts evenly, and is easy to handle.

“We bought our 2007 **Deere 5525** tractor used in 2010 with 500 hours on it. The first time we used it oil got mixed in with the anti-freeze. They said the engine cooler was porous and there was no warranty coverage for the repair. The person we bought it from said it wasn’t his fault. Now if we don’t start the tractor once a week it’ll lose its prime and won’t start. We may have to install new lines and a new electric fuel pump.”

C.F. Marley, Nokomis, Ill.: “I use a cane for walking. I wanted to use a gas flame to control pesky weeds in my driveway and among my plants. So, I bought a weed flamer at a local farm store and attached it to the walking cane. It actually works better than just using the flamer because I don’t have to stoop over to use it. By resting the cane on the ground, I can keep the flame more concentrated on the center of big weeds and watergrass clumps.”



Larry Hacker, Lincoln, Ark.: “My **Reese 2400** drum mower is the simplest and most efficient mower I’ve ever owned (ph 812 208-8542; goodwindsignconcepts@gmail.com). It has fewer than 10 moving parts so maintenance is minimal. This is my second Reese drum mower. I used the first one for 9 years but received more than half the machine’s original price when I traded it in.”

Claude Royster, Jr., Ft. Walton Beach, Fla.: “I like my 2011 **Ford F-150 4-WD** pickup which is equipped with an EcoBoost 6-cyl. engine. I’ve always been a Ford truck owner and used V-6 engines, but after reading about the EcoBoost engine I decided to buy one. It’s all that they advertise. It has great torque at low speed and gets good mileage even when pulling a heavy load.”

Thomas Kingston, Corvallis, Mont.: “I own a small 160-acre farm so I farm with used equipment. Several years ago I bought an older **IH 440** baler and a **Farmall H** tractor. I paid \$100 for the baler and \$600 for the tractor. I replaced missing tines on the baler’s pickup reel and changed the lube oil in the gearbox. The tractor ran poor and fouled the spark plugs, but new copper plug wires corrected the problem. I also had to replace the rear tires and found a set on eBay for \$450.

“The tractor runs great now. In light windrows I can operate in third gear; second gear in heavy windrows. The tractor starts easy, doesn’t use oil, and has good hydraulics. The baler works good, too. Both machines were a great bargain.”

Joyce Smekofske, Forest Lake, Minn.: “My 1997 **Toyota Corolla DX** has more than 378,000 miles on it, and the only repairs I’ve had is to replace the starter twice. I change the oil myself every 3,000 miles and regularly install new plugs and filters. The car still gets

right up until they need to be recharged. I find that buying online at www.ebates.com and then picking up the product at my local Sears store is always much cheaper than buying at the store itself.”

Timothy Weihert, Waterloo, Wis.: “My 2008 **Dodge Ram 1500 Quadcab** pickup, equipped with a 4.7-liter engine, started out as a best buy. However, after 4 years of dependable use it developed an intermittent starting problem. The engine would turn over but wouldn’t start. One time I had to call a tow truck, but when it got there the pickup started right up for him. I had the pickup towed to the dealer anyway. The dealer found no codes or anything but did replace a \$400 power module.

“After we drove the pickup home we were able to make only a couple trips between farms before it failed to start again. The pickup sat in our yard for 3 days because it wouldn’t start. The dealer sent a service man out to our place and he checked for codes but found none. Then when he turned the ignition key, it started right up. He drove the pickup back to the shop where it started and ran perfectly for a week. They never were able to find the problem. Finally the dealer bought the pickup back and I bought a 2012 **Ford F-150**.”

Jim Walsh, Colville, Wash.: “I like my three **Stihl** chainsaws which include an M3-180C, 038 AV, and 041 Farm Boss. I cut at least 10 cords of firewood every year, and these chainsaws are always ready to work. The 041 is more than 40 years old with no major repairs. I don’t do anything special for winter storage, yet the next spring all it takes is a couple of pulls and off they go. I wish I could make the chains themselves last as long as the saws.”

Billy Lutes, Sedan, New Mexico: “I like my **Easy Roll** wire roller (ph 806 659-2467;