

## Farmers Nominate Best & Worst Buys

Water Solutions, ph 515 733-5053; [www.essentialwater.net](http://www.essentialwater.net)). The product reduces or eliminates iron and sulphur smell in well water.

Oxy Blast Plus mixes hydrogen peroxide with other natural ingredients. The company offers a squeeze pump to inject the product into the water system.

"Oxy Blast has changed our lives. Our water quality and animal health have improved, as has our own health. Even our lawn has improved," says Ann. "The water pressure greatly increased due to the product cleaning out the lines. We couldn't be happier."

**Walter Wiebe, Burns Lake, B.C.:** "My 1969 Deere 4020 tractor had a new engine and new paint when I bought it used about two years ago to plow up 40-year-old fescue sod. It starts easy even in cold weather and has a lot of power and traction. I don't plan to ever part with it."

**Glenn Nelson, Mountain Home, Ark.:** "My best buy is a fuel enhancer called **Cut My Dependency** (ph 850 391-0966; [www.cutmydependency.com](http://www.cutmydependency.com)). It's a liquid fuel additive that can be blended with regular grade gasoline, diesel, and biodiesel to improve fuel mileage, reduce hydrocarbon emissions and increase vehicle performance. It's a combustion enhancer, meaning that it helps create a more complete burn of the fuel you use. You remove the gas cap and pour one ounce of the fuel enhancer directly into the fuel tank for every 17 gal. of fuel.

"I started using this product about three months ago and was quite skeptical at first. But after a while I noticed I was getting more hours per tank of diesel on my tractors. I've also used it in two of my trucks and have noticed better engine performance and increased mileage. I'm not a dealer for this product. I'm just a satisfied user."

**Chris Hardy, Miles City, Montana:** "My 1955 Chevrolet C6500 truck equipped with a 261 Jobmaster in-line, 6-cyl. engine is my best buy. This truck had sat unused for 15 years, and the carburetor was in a box in the seller's garage. We scrounged up a used 6-volt battery and a can of gas and it started right up. Then we put it to work, hauling about 250 loads with it over the past two years. It has required only basic maintenance and minor repairs and has never made me walk.

"I have an early 1960's International R-190 truck equipped with a massive Red Diamond in-line, 6-cyl. engine. When the engine threw a rod I found that the cost of parts for an overhaul was astronomical. So I installed a Ford V-8 460 cu. in. engine with the Ford 4-speed transmission. A 3/4-ton Ford pickup clutch and driveline connect to the 3-speed auxiliary gearbox. For more than 15 years since then, this truck has been used every day.

"My 1978 FT55 Toyota Land Cruiser is a phenomenal vehicle. I've used it to travel from Montana to Virginia Beach to Florida through Texas and back to Montana, back to Florida, and then back to Montana again. We've used it as a log skidder, ultimate hunting rig, and daily driver and it has never let me down. My only complaint is that the body design traps mud and water which makes rust-out a major issue. We cut aluminum road signs (available at any metal recycler) to fit the body panels and used caulk and rivets to seal and secure them. It proved to be a permanent fix. The same idea can be used on rusted-out floorboards."

**J.W. Heard, Naples, Texas:** "The only problem I've had with my 2005 Deere 310SG backhoe is when an electronic valve went out. Otherwise, this machine runs great and does everything I ask it to.

"My 2004 New Holland TN655 4-WD tractor had many problems during the first two years. The dealer had to replace two sets of wiring harness, as well as a starter, battery, and hydraulic pump. The tractor sat in the shop for about six months. Two weeks after the warranty expired I had to replace a throw-out bearing, and then a solenoid, starter, and battery as well as two cables to hydraulic valves. Also, almost every electronic switch has gone out."

**Ronald J. Arnold, Kingsport, Tenn.:** "My 2005 Deere 2210 tractor equipped with a front-end loader and a rear grader box is a best buy. This little tractor doesn't know that it's little. It can do big tractor work and has never failed me. I couldn't farm without it."

**Gordon H. Paul, Yorkton, Sask.:** Gordon's happy with his 2001 Poulan Woodmaster 2250 chainsaw equipped with a 16-in. bar. "We bought land with an abandoned yard site and have used this chainsaw to clean up all the old Maple trees in the shelterbelt. We've gone through more than eight chains, which were resharpener until there was nothing left to sharpen so they had to be replaced. It has been trouble-free and reliable from the day we bought it and has never been back to the dealer. It does seem to like our Canadian winters, though. It starts easier and runs smoother during the winter than during the summer, especially on real hot days."

**Ken Wohl, Huxley, Alberta:** "I'm well satisfied with my 2007 GM SLE 2500 4-door quad cab 3/4-ton pickup.

"I also like my 2004 Massey Ferguson 9790 self-propelled combine. No problems. I use it to harvest wheat, rye, oats, barley, and peas. Visibility is good and it handles well. It has a lot of power."

**Lester Kinzer, Edon, Ohio:** Lester likes the Grain Grabbershe installed on his combine grain auger (Reitzel Bros., ph 419 272-2680; [www.reitzels.com](http://www.reitzels.com)). The add-on units



are designed to be placed in the middle of the auger between the flighting. Kinzer says that with one Grain Grabber between each row of flighting, you can run your reel higher and out of the crop which will result in less shattering. The grain will feed more evenly, reducing slugging and allowing you to run longer at night.

"I had a problem in heavy wheat straw and bean stubble - material wanted to bunch ahead of the auger, causing slugs to go into the cylinder," says Lester. "Now with Grain Grabbers installed, grain feeds into the cylinder more evenly. New combine headers come with fingers out to the end of the auger. Grain Grabbers do the same thing on older headers and cost only a few dollars.

"Our EX-Mark 72-in. Zero turn mower has been trouble-free and is a best buy. It has reduced my mowing time by half. I especially like the way the mower extends out, which makes it easy to mow around trees and bushes."

**Joseph J. Syczyuo, North Fork, Idaho:** Joseph likes his Tru-Spark ignition firing indicator (Garner Bender, Inc., ph 414 352-4160; [www.gardnerbender.com](http://www.gardnerbender.com)) "This pen-sized instrument shows the ignition (spark)

## "Best Buy" In-Row Eco Weeder

Maurice Cormier of New Brunswick, Canada, can't imagine weeding his 50-acre produce farm without his Eco Weeder (formerly called the Reigi Weeder). He bought the equipment three years ago for his strawberry beds.

"We used to hire six people to weed strawberries and it took three days," Cormier says. "With this we do it in one."

An operator sits on the weeder, and guides the pto-driven weeder wheels equipped with rubber-mounted steel rake teeth. The teeth uproot weeds without damaging the crop.

Initially marketed for strawberries, the Eco Weeder removes weeds in the rows between plants. It also works well in tomatoes and some row crops, Cormier adds. Because of its 2-ft. clearance, the machine can go over mature plants. Get the weeds when they are 2 in. or less, Cormier suggests. Once they get 4-in. tall, the machine doesn't work as well.

He has had the machine for three years and said it paid for itself right away.

"It's a lot less tiring than hoeing and does three times the work," Cormier says.



Eco Weeder removes weeds in the row between plants.

Eco Weeder has single and multiple row versions.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Marc Sorel, Sales and Marketing Representative, Univerco, 713 Route 219, Napierville, Quebec, Canada JOJ 1L0 (ph 800 663-8423 or 450 245-7152; [www.univerco.net](http://www.univerco.net)).

voltage - all you have to do is hold it near a spark plug lead. It works on lawn mowers, chainsaws, vehicles, etc., and has saved me a lot of time and money. I plan to buy another one. It retails for \$19.95."

**Bob Wurst, Waynesboro, Tenn.:** A cast iron hydraulic pump that he bought from Northern Tool rates as Bob's "best buy". "I've got an older Kubota tractor and the hydraulic pump went out on it. Kubota wanted about \$600 for a new pump, which I couldn't justify. I had to do some replumbing in order to install this pump and I had to mount a pulley on the engine crankshaft so I could belt-drive the new pump. Works great and cost me just a little more than \$100."

**Malcolm McEachern, Harwood, Texas:** "My 2006 Massey Ferguson 1552 tractor equipped with a front-end loader is my best buy. It always starts right up. It has plenty of deck room and plenty of power. I use it to mow acreage for my cows and to move lumber and other loads, and also to do landscaping work.

"My 2006 Sears Craftsman radial arm saw equipped with a 10-in. laser track is my worst buy. I can't stabilize the motor on the arm, or adjust it accurately to square and perpendicular cuts. It's built too flimsy for the \$600 I paid for it."

**Roger Boertje, Pella, Iowa:** "My 2005 Toyota Matrix is a trouble-free, reliable car. It has about 48,000 miles on it. It went back for repairs under warranty once at 35,000 miles, due to a broken cruise control switch on the steering column. Other than that it has required only routine maintenance."

**James Hale, Floydada, Texas:** James likes his 2005 Kubota B7500 tractor. "This is my second Kubota - my first one was a B7100 model that I bought in 1979. I use them both like they're big tractors, often overloading them, but I've had no major problems with either tractor. The few problems I've had were due to normal wear and tear and were handled promptly by my dealer."

**Ben Page, Skiatook, Okla.:** "It has more than 200,000 miles on it with no problems," says Ben about his "best buy" 1998 Dodge 1-ton, 4-WD diesel pickup. "It rides smooth and gets 18 to 21 mpg."

On the "worst buy" side, he lists his 1987 Vicon RP 1210 round baler. "This could be a good baler if I could get some dealer or factory help. I'm having trouble keeping the tail-gate locked so that the pressure gauge will work. I called both the dealer and factory,

but both of them basically said I should just buy a new baler. That's all well and good if you have \$23,000 just laying around. If anyone has any advice on this problem I'd like to hear from them."

**Brad Backlund, Kandiyohi, Minn.:** Brad's impressed with his 1979 International Harvester 1440 combine which he bought used. "It now has more than 4,000 hours on it and has been virtually trouble-free. I always oil the chains, keep everything greased, and change the oil and all filters regularly. A lot of farmers spend thousands of dollars each year on newer machines but I haven't had to. It's stored in a neighbor's shed and always starts after sitting idle for a year."

On the negative side, he's disappointed with his calf-size Norbco headlocks. "Calves get stuck in these headlocks. I have other brands of calf-size headlocks that are taller and have a longer opening, but even full-size cows can go in and out of them without getting stuck."

**Jack Kiser, Fremont, Ohio:** "It starts good, is fuel efficient, and has required very little maintenance," reports Jack about the International Harvester 574 diesel tractor that he bought used.

He's not happy with the 2004 Chicago heat gun he bought from Harbor Freight Tools. "I tried using it to soften cement on the tile floor in my kitchen but it burned out after only about five minutes of use. After junking it, I bought a Warner heat gun for less money and used it to do my entire kitchen floor. It still works great."

**Bill E. Baer, Westville, Okla.:** Bill's impressed with his 1999 TimberKing 1200 portable band sawmill. "I spent three years researching all makes on the market at the time, and I'm glad I went with this company. They have a solid-built mill that performs great with very few problems. Customer service is great. I've used my sawmill to cut logs 30 in. in diameter by 18 ft. long with ease. I plan on many more years of use from it. This sawmill paid for itself in just one year."

**Clayton Foss, Holden, Mo.:** Clayton likes his DeWalt 18-volt impact driver. "As a building contractor, I build decks and other things like steel roofs that require a lot of screws. These impact drivers will drive a lot of screws per battery charge and stay engaged in the screwhead much better than a drill driver with less down pressure. That saves on screw tips, and also makes it easier for me at the end of the day."