

## Farmers Nominate Best & Worst Buys

dump trailer which he read about in FARM SHOW (ph 208 455-8433; www.atvwagon.com). It measures 73 in. long by 45 in. wide. An electric motor, operated off the ATV's 12-volt battery, drives a screw jack that cranks the bed up or down. A wireless option gives you the freedom of dumping the trailer bed without always going back to the ATV.

"I've used this trailer for several years to haul mulch, dirt and other materials on a daily basis," says Ted. "I've used the dump feature thousands of times and, although parts do wear out from time to time, replacement parts are readily available and reasonably priced. Company support is great."

**Chuck Norman, Pine River, Minn.:** "My 2011 Stihl MS 250 chainsaw is easy to start and to operate. It has a recoil starting system that works well and eliminates hand cranking."

**Roger W. Meihak, Forest Lake, Minn.:** Roger says his 1981 Kubota L 275 4-WD tractor has required only routine maintenance.

have been kept properly inflated and rotated, yet with only about 30,000 miles on them they're cupping out and wearing extremely poor. The Ford dealer and Pirelli customer service departments are full of excuses, and it's not hard to guess why."

**Charles Hardenburger, Haddam, Kansas:** "I was sold a new Buhler baler with the promise of a bright future, but the truth of the matter is the baler was out of production by the time I got mine home to the farm. As a result, I received very poor service from the dealer and none from Buhler."



"Neither the dealer nor Buhler carry an inventory of parts for this machine, and neither are able to service it. In fact, no one at the Buhler plant seems to have any knowledge of the baler. When I called them with questions on how to set the machine, they referred me to another farmer who owns one."

**Mike Kellett, Sublette, Kansas:** Mike's impressed with his 1952 International Harvester refrigerator. "This unit has run day in and day out for more than 60 years, costing a grand total of \$1.80 in maintenance and repairs. My grandmother, a fanatical bookkeeper, recorded in the farm ledger, 'April 3, 1963. New light bulb for refrigerator, \$1.80 from Bob Wright at Southwestern Bell.' Bob, a family friend, knew of her penchant for quality and provided an aircraft warning bulb from an AT&T microwave tower. It's still working to this day."

**Arnold G. McCormick, Dayton, Ohio:** "MotorKote lubricant works great on bearings and old engines under load (ph 888 771-5656; www.mrmotorkote.com). It also does a great job on hydraulic equipment."

**Lynn Lilienthal, Grand Island, Neb.:** "The custom knife I bought from Sharp Decision Knives is my best buy (ph 402 849-2616; www.sharpdecisionknives.com). Last summer my 4-wheeler got stuck. Another 4-wheeler came along and tried to pull me out, but the winch cable snapped and we had to cut the cable to rethread it into the winch. We had no tools except for a pliers and my new Sharp Decision knife. We laid the cable across the hitch and used the pliers to pound the knife through the cable, with no damage at all to the knife's edge."

"When I called company owner Jon Moore and told him what I did, his first response was 'I think you voided the warranty on this one'. But when he saw the knife in person, he was as surprised as I was. Jon makes his knives from high carbon steel, and also makes his own Damascus steel for the knives."

**Roy E. Sapp, Independence, W. Va.:** "I'm well pleased with my 2012 Kubota L3200 4-WD tractor equipped with an HST-type transmission, 2540 front-end loader and BK976 backhoe. This machine has great power and the backhoe and loader are easy to remove. You just pull 2 pins to detach the backhoe and pull 2 more pins to remove the loader. It's also equipped with a 3-pt. hitch for hooking up to implements."

**Eldon Reese, Janesburg, Mo.:** "My 2008 Howse 10-ft. mower cost less than half as much as a Deere or some other brands. I do custom work and have hit tree stumps, trash, pieces of steel, and iron posts with this unit. The sheet metal on it is getting beat up, but



Tom Goodman completely refurbished this "best buy" Terramite T5C loader backhoe, which he bought used with 1,700 hours on it. "It's a tough, compact machine," he says.

### "Best Buy" Terramite Backhoe/Loader

Late last fall Tom Goodman of Malone, N.Y., bought a used 2000 Terramite T5C loader backhoe with about 1,700 hours on it. He says it's his "best buy" (Terramite Corp., Charleston, W. Va. ph 304 776-4231; www.terramite.com).

"This is a tough, compact machine," says Goodman. "It's built from 1/4-in. thick steel and weighs about 3,100 lbs. The front loader can lift 1,750 lbs., and the backhoe has 750 lbs. of pressure. The backhoe extends 8 ft. 4 in."

"The loader backhoe was in pretty good condition when I bought it but needed some tender loving care, and I needed a winter project so I completely refurbished it," says Goodman. "I also added my own personal touches."

The machine is powered by a Kohler Command 20 hp engine that drives a hydraulic pump. "It has a hydrostatic transmission with one pedal that controls both forward and reverse," says Goodman.

He disassembled the rig into more than 100 pieces, cleaning and painting as he went. "I bagged and tagged everything to make things easier for reassembly," says Goodman.

"I painted the transmission red and the torque motor black. I also spent a day cleaning and painting the rear end. I painted all the control levers black as well as the front and rear wheel hubs, adding a touch of red here and there."

The hydraulic hoses were in good shape, but Goodman had to replace two couplers that were leaking a bit. He also replaced the front bearings, races and seals. "It looked like someone had used an impact driver on them," he says.

He also bought a new tie rod end for the power steering ram, and he ordered a complete new set of decals.

He removed the cage and cut it down 2 in. so the machine would fit into his garage. He also welded a crack in the fender where the cage mounts and another one in the hoe bucket. "There were no cracks anywhere else on the machine, which shows you how well it's built," says Goodman.

Before painting the rig he wrapped all the hoses with tin foil to keep from getting paint on them. "It was a little time consuming but worth it," he says.

The previous owner had installed a makeshift roof over the cage made out of an old 55-gal. plastic drum, but Goodman thought it looked tacky so he removed it. "I might use 10-ga. steel to build a new one someday," he says.

He also installed a new seat that swivels forward and back.

"This is an amazing machine that's incredibly powerful. I plan to do a ton of work with it that I couldn't do with a bigger rig," says Goodman. "It's small enough that I can get back in the woods where a big loader backhoe can't go. I have a small acreage and used it recently to dig some holes around my house. I've also used it to pull out some big rocks that I didn't think it could handle. I'm really impressed with it. If it lasts another 1,700 hours I'll be very happy."

He says company service is also great. "Getting parts for this machine is no problem. In fact, when I called the company for bearings and seals they gave me the parts numbers so I could buy them locally and save money. They did the same thing for the decals."

Base unit price for a new Terramite compact loader backhoe is \$21,295.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Tom Goodman, 83 Cty. Rt. 28, Malone, N.Y. 12953 (ph 518 483-0724).

**"It has a handle on it so once I drain the oil and gas, it should make a good boat anchor."**

"Parts for it are easier to get than I thought they'd be."

On the minus side, "My Honeywell 2000 inverter-generator is almost impossible to start after it sits for a few weeks. It still works as a generator, if I can get it started. But the inverter part runs at full speed all the time. It has a handle on it so once I drain the oil and gas, it should make a good boat anchor."

**Eric J. Jacobson, Lloydminster, Alberta:** Eric's the satisfied owner of a 2010 GM Sierra 1500 4-WD, 1/2-ton pickup. "So far everything on this pickup works perfect, with no design flaws."

"The Honda GX200 5 1/2 hp engine on my Johnson transfer auger won't start in cold weather and the company can't seem to fix it. I took it to the dealer and contacted company headquarters. The problem is a poor fitting choke valve. If anyone has a solution for this problem, please let me know."

**Ty Waterman, DeFuniak Springs, Fla.:** Ty's disappointed with his Deere LA145 garden tractor. "After less than 200 hours I had to change two mower arbors, and the electric clutch and the wiring harness twice. This mower is difficult to get running in the spring and fails at least once mid-season every year. Repairs can take a week which results in lots of downtime. To top it off, the dealer told me, 'Well, after all, it's just an entry level mower.'"

**Lee deVries, Crawfordville, Ore.:** "My best buy is the Farmall Cub carburetor repair service offered by Mike Finch (ph 248 684-4029). Recently I bought a Cub Low-Boy tractor equipped with a 5-ft. Woods belly-mount mower at face value, not knowing much about it. I quickly realized the tractor didn't have enough power for the mower and could barely operate it in low gear."

"The mower was in good shape so I decided to find a good Super A to put it on and was going to sell the Cub. Then I read an article in FARM SHOW about Finch's carburetor repair service. So I boxed up the carburetor and mailed it off to Mike. About a week later it came back, and what a difference it made. Now I can mow nicely with the tractor in second gear. He saved me a lot of trouble and expense."

**William Detering, Cambridge, Neb.:** "The Pirelli tires that came on our 2011 Ford F-150 pickup are my worst buy. These tires

it still does an excellent job cutting. I try to keep the blades sharp so it'll work good on my 50 hp tractor. No problems with the seals or bearings."

He's not as happy with his 8-ft. Bush Hog mower. "I can't keep the seals in the gearbox from leaking oil, and the pto shaft twisted off at least twice. Also, the rear wheel carrier has been repaired many times. Since I got the Howse model I seldom use this machine."

**Larry D. Miller, Ashland, Ohio:** "My Cyclone Leaf Vacuum is a joy to operate (ph 888 531-7253; www.cyclonerake.com). I vacuum about 4 tons of leaves each fall, and for 25 years I've struggled with them. This leaf vacuum not only does the job well, but it fits perfectly on my Deere X465 riding mower. It's so much fun to use this unit that I look forward to the fall and leaves filling my yard. The machine gives meaning back to 'Made in America'. A great company and a great piece of workmanship."

**Carl Jeffries, Ardmore, Ala.:** "My Belarus 572 65 hp tractor is dependable, with only minor breakdowns that were easy to repair. The dealer always explains how to make any repairs over the phone and this has saved me hundreds of dollars. This tractor costs much less than other brands. I love it."

**Stephen Till, Bellevue, Iowa:** "I'm well pleased with my Bobcat 325 excavator and 763 skid loader. I'm a professional grave digger and an installer for 7 different monument companies, so my business depends on good equipment. My old saying is, 'good equipment doesn't cost, it pays.'"

**Jack V. McMurry, Farson, Wyo.:** "The 1976 Deere 4430 tractor I bought used 6 years ago has been trouble-free. The hour meter on it doesn't work, but it must have at least 15,000 hours on it. I own three other Deere tractors - 80, 730, and 750 models - and all work great."