

BUYING TIPS YOU CAN USE

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

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Roger Gutschmidt, Gackle, N. Dak.: “I have been buying **MasterForce** tools at Menards stores for over 5 years now (www.menards.com). It’s Menards’ own brand of hand and power tools. The hand tools have a lifetime warranty. The power tools I bought almost 5 years ago had a ‘no hassle 5-year warranty’. Recently, I took the entire kit of drill, circular saw, flashlight and battery packs back into the store because some parts of the kit were no longer working. Menards immediately refunded my money (in the form of an in-store credit) because they no longer make the nickel cadmium batteries in my tools. I went right to the tool department and picked out a new set of MasterForce cordless tools, which included a 20-volt lithium ion drill, circular saw, grinder and impact drive, 3 battery packs and one charger. The set was about the same price as my credit so I basically got a new set of tools with a 3-year warranty. I bought the extended warranty so I now have a 7-year warranty on these tools and I know that with no questions asked they will replace the tools anywhere, anytime.

“Dewalt or Milwaukee do not even come close to this kind of warranty and service. I

2003 **Ford Explorer** I bought used with about 65,000 miles is my worst buy. It now has about 121,000 miles on it. The ABS brakes quit working, both rear springs broke, the wiring for the electric-operated windows deteriorated and had to be repaired, and the heater controls quit working and were repaired, but then failed again just 30 days later.”

Alfred Jessen, Tracy, Minn.: Alfred’s disappointed with his 2012 **Bobcat Telehandler**. “This year the hydraulic hoses broke after about 300 hours of use. The Telehandler came with a one-year warranty, so neither the dealer nor the company would help. I had to spend more than \$4,000 for new hoses.”

Larry Mayer, Grady, Va.: “My 2012 **Norwood LumberMate Pro** portable sawmill equipped with a 23 hp. Vanguard Briggs & Stratton engine works great (www.norwoodsawmills.com; ph 800 567-0404). I like the ceramic blade guides and the blade lubrication system on this sawmill. I sharpen the blades with a 4-in. fine grit stone on an angle grinder that’s held at about 10 degrees. I use an old Stanley saw set on the teeth.”

Walter Hatcher, Bridgewater, Conn.: Walter’s pleased with his **Husqvarna 224L**, 4-cycle, straight shaft weed whacker. “It starts right up every time and runs quiet, unlike 2-cycle models. It’ll cut through most weeds with just a touch of trigger pressure. It’s a little heavy, but it cuts so fast and so well that the job is done before the weight gets uncomfortable. It’s a great tool.”

Rick Martens, Wentworth, S. Dak.: “I’ve put about 294,000 miles on my 2003 **GM** diesel pickup and have only replaced the transfer case. This pickup has no rust, no leaks, and uses no oil. It gets 23 mpg on average and will pull anything I can hook on behind it.”

Ron Brown, Festus, Mo.: Ron likes the **Howard Leight Sync Digital AM/FM** radio noise reducing earmuffs he bought from the

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
www.FARMSHOW.com,
or E-mail your comments to:
Editor@FARMSHOW.com**

took a Milwaukee drill in for service a few years ago and didn’t get it back for a year. It never did work right again and all my warranty was used up.”

Jerome B. Thiemann, Winsted, Minn.: “I had a seized engine on a tractor that had not been used for years. We put the transmission in high gear and rocked the flywheel back and forth but still couldn’t break the pistons loose, so we sprayed a small amount of **WD-40** into each of the cylinders for a week. When we came back the pistons were loose, and the engine has run fine ever since.”

William Mader, Omer, Mich.: “My **Sears Craftsman Max Axxess** socket and ratchet set is really handy. The sockets fit many different sizes and types of bolts including hex, Torx, spline, etc. I bought this set mainly to remove the spark plugs on my Ford 2N tractor, as there’s not a lot of room between the head and the gas tank.

“My **Arrow 10** by 8-ft. storage shed is my worst buy. Some of the self-tapping sheet metal screws and machine screws didn’t have the Phillips screwdriver slots cut into them. The panels are made of thin, flimsy material, and if I put any pressure on them during installation they’d bend. Also, the holes didn’t all line up when the panels had to be joined together.”

Glenn Armintrout, Washington Court House, Ohio: “My **MI-T-M** hot water pressure washer works great for cleaning tractors and trucks (www.mitm.com; ph 563 556-7484). Also, I found that I can warm up the water in our swimming pool by running water through the pressure washer when we top it off.”

David Sotak, Ladysmith, Wis.: “The



C. Crane Co. (www.ccrane.com/earmuffs; ph 800 522-8863). The earmuffs have 10 memory presets and an AUX jack with auto detect for audio devices.



Ralph Berger, Arnold, Mo.: Ralph’s impressed with his 2012 **LS 4047** 4-WD tractor equipped with a 16-speed transmission, front-end loader and backhoe (www.lstractorusa.com; ph 252 984-0400). “I was a heavy equipment operator for 40 years and am now retired. About a year after I bought this tractor I had a problem with the controls on the backhoe and couldn’t get the dealer to fix it. Fortunately, I was able to find another dealer who sent out a company rep within 10 days. He solved the problem.

“The backhoe is easy to remove – I just