

## 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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**Richard Eltgroth, Sauk Centre, Minn.:** “I like my **Bobcat A300** loader tractor. With the push of one rocker switch it changes from being a skidsteer to all-wheel steer. I have had it for about 5 years. It can really push hard, and will lift 3,000 lbs. up to 10 ft. high with its 81 hp. Kubota diesel engine. One joystick controls the steering and another controls the bucket.”

**Darrel Bates, Philadelphia, Miss.:** “It handles like a dream and has good power and lugging ability,” says Darrel about his 2009 **Kubota M6040** tractor. “This is my sixth Kubota tractor and they’ve all worked good.”

“My **Tuffline SF300** ATV pull-type fertilizer spreader works great ([www.monroetuffline.com](http://www.monroetuffline.com); ph 662 328-8347). It comes with a large 600-lb. capacity hopper and spreads evenly up to 35 ft. Dual lever control spreads to the left or right, or in a full 180-degree pattern. It cleans up easily and also pulls easy.”

**Michael Myers, Fredonia, Kan.:** “It has only 25 hp, but this little beast does it all,” reports Michael about his 2008 **Deere 2520** compact tractor. “We use it with a 4-ft. tiller, a 1-bottom moldboard plow, and with a bucket and rear blade to move snow. It’ll bush hog a 4-ft. swath no matter how high the weeds.”

Finally, I took the machine’s little plastic transmission apart but couldn’t get the worm gear to mesh. Back in the shed the mower went, maybe for forever.”

**Jim Gelley, Ponoka, Alta.:** “Over the years I’ve owned many different makes of 1/2-ton pickups, but my 2011 **Honda Ridgeline** is the best ever. It has front wheel drive, which is where the drive wheels should be on a 1/2-ton pickup. If I hit a patch of ice this pickup goes into 4-WD automatically. Also, there’s a good-sized waterproof box under the main box. I also owned 2006 and 2008 Ridgelines.”

**Jim Love, Pattersonville, N.Y.:** “My 2008 **Reese 2400** HL drum mower will mow anything, anytime, anywhere, wet or dry, without plugging up. It’s also easy to service. After I bought this mower I sold both my haybines and also my tedder. This machine mows faster than my haybines ever did, and there’s a lot less to go wrong on it. Requires a lot less power. When it’s equipped with a tedder attachment it’ll dry hay as fast as a tedder can. And when you’re done haying you can use this mower to top your pastures. It’s built to last. I wish all equipment worked as well.”

**Glen Ray Goodson, Galax, Va.:** “My 2008 **DR** walk-behind mower is built tough and is dependable. No problems. However, I don’t like the wheels and tires on it.

“My **Stihl MS80** and **MS 250** chainsaws have to set idle for a long time before they will run well. The chains won’t stay on the bar even though they’re properly tensioned. I’ve tried everything I can think of to fix these problems without success. These saws also guzzle gas.”



**Mike Zimmerman, Versailles, Mo.:** He’s pleased with his 1999 **Landini 65F** ag crawler tractor. “I bought it used in 2006 with only 1,600 hours. The tractor has a 65 hp Perkins engine with a 16-speed transmission, 3 pt. hitch, pto, double hydraulics, and hydraulic steering.



“This 65 hp crawler will outperform any 4-WD tractor in the produce patch. It has less slippage and reduces soil compaction when tilling ground. Our fields are usually a little on the wet side early in the spring and, with the crawler, we can till fields one or two days earlier.

“We also like using it with our plastic mulch laying machine. The soil is soft and fluffy after tilling and the crawler keeps compaction to a minimum so that there’s plenty of loose soil to cover the edges of the plastic. With tracks, we don’t feel every hump and bump in the field and therefore it holds equipment more level. We also like it at harvest time to bring in produce when fields are wet.”

**Mark Williams, Bonesteel, S. Dak.:** “I saw the article in **FARM SHOW** about **Bryan Parker’s** pony motor conversion for old Caterpillar engines (ph 575 465-0276).

**Dwight A. Pfeiffer, Prairie Home, Mo.:** “In 1998 I bought a 1996 **Jeep Cherokee** used with about 10,000 miles on it. It has no rust on the body and starts every time, and the tires still wear even. It gets 19 mpg. Now this vehicle has about 286,000 miles on it and the only repair it has needed was to overhaul the transfer case. I wish everything else I owned was as reliable as this Jeep.

“My **Chuck Wagon** utility vehicle is my worst buy. It has no power and can barely pull itself up our driveway. I’ve had to replace the throttle cable twice, and it’ll probably go out again soon. I thought I would use this machine to haul firewood, but that’s out. Now it’s just an expensive golf cart with a bed on back.”

**Randy Hinzmann, Zumbrota, Minn.:** “This stove heats great and has been trouble-free,” says Randy about his 2007 **Harman PC45** corn stove ([www.harmanstoves.com](http://www.harmanstoves.com)). “We have a St. Croix corn stove in the basement, but the Harman model puts out twice as much heat burning the same amount of corn. The auto-start function is a real plus, too. I like not having to mess around with wood pellets or starter bricks.”

**David Weidner, Chambersburg, Penn.:** “About 15 years ago my wife came home with a new **Snapper** walk-behind mower, and it works every bit as good today as it did then. I’m not great at providing regular maintenance, so in the fall this mower goes straight into the shed until the next year. The following spring, out it comes and away we go. It’s hard to believe it’s still working so well.

“We knew that some day the Snapper would go to mower heaven, so we got a great deal on a **Troy Bilt** walk-behind mower. Our problems began right away. The forward clutch never seemed to work right, and the dogs in the wheels also malfunctioned.