

BUYING TIPS YOU CAN USE

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

Lloyd Schade, Homer, Alaska: Lloyd says **Barricade Fire Fighting Foam** is his “best buy” (www.barricadefoam.com; ph 800 201-3927). It’s a water-based gel that’s added to water to fight fire. It’s used in wildland forest and grass fire protection. The product can also be used on houses, log piles, shrubbery, haystacks, cars, propane tanks, and anything else. It can be applied using standard hoses and nozzles. A home fire defense kit that includes a nozzle is available. The company recommends that you coat the object until it’s white, which usually means a coating of about 1/4 in. thick. When the danger has passed, the product can be rinsed off with plain water and a pressure nozzle.

“We have a real fire danger here on our 600-acre ranch, which has 23 buildings on it,” says Lloyd. “There are beetle-killed trees all around us and a lot of open grass land. Our 500-gal. water tank trailer doesn’t go very far with just water. However, with Barricade Foam added to the water, it’s the same as having 5,000 gallons. The product will last for 24 hours or more.

“We’ve used it twice in the past two years — once on a grass fire that a neighbor started, and the other time on a fire started by light-

ning. It has a hydraulic lift that makes nice, even, tight bales. Overall, it’s an enjoyable machine to operate.”

Mike Colclough, Clinton, Ontario: Mike likes his 1998 **Case IH MX110 Maxxum** but says it could use a few improvements. “My main complaint is with parts availability. I broke the screen mesh on front of my grille while lifting something with the front-end loader. I took the broken mesh to my local Case IH dealer, but they told me I couldn’t buy the mesh separate. Instead, I would have to buy the entire grille for \$460. So, I fixed it with duct tape for \$2.50.

“Another thing I don’t like is the in-dash acre meter. You have to turn the tractor off just so you can adjust the meter for working width and for most other adjustments. Deere’s corner post monitor works much better. I bought a Deere power strip so I can plug in monitors, CB radios, etc. It gives me six outlets instead of two.”

Roger Cogdal, LaMoille, Ill.: “I love my side discharge **Walker tilt deck mower**. (Walker Mowers ph 970 221-5614; www.walkermowers.com). First of all, the tilt



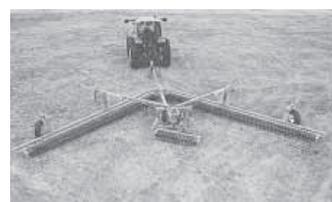
deck allows me to really keep it clean underneath. Being clean underneath means there is never any buildup to keep freshly cut grass from moving through at maximum capacity. And, being kept clean means longer life because grass buildup underneath contributes to rotting out of mower decks. As far as I’m concerned, the Walker is the Cadillac of mowers. I have been using one for four years and I’ve had very little upkeep.”

Jack Kaschmitter, Paynesville, Minn.: “I purchased an underground rodent blaster and the first time I used it, the blast was so large I decided to never use this piece of equipment on my farm again. My ears were ringing for a long time after the one use.

“I found an alternative that works well. It is a gopher poison that is made of hulled oats and strychnine. It works so well I’ve eliminated all gophers from my farm. The product is from **RCO** and I bought it from Fedick Distribution, North Branch, Minn. (ph 651 674-2100).

“You can learn more at RCO’s website: www.rodent-baits.com.”

Ted and T.J. Shambaugh, Oakley, Ill.: This father/son team loves their **Phoenix Rotary Harrow** because the rolling harrow makes an ideal seed bed (www.phoenixrotary.com; ph 888 891-9929).



Ted prepares the ground using the 36-ft. long harrow set at a 45 degree angle. He pulls it at 10 to 11 mph. Then, T.J. follows behind with a 24-row planter.

“By pulling at that speed, it sets up a great profile for planting. The fine soil settles down with smaller clods on top. It is ideal for planting in.”

Charles Sassmen, Reedsport, Oregon: “My 2000 **Dodge 2500 diesel pickup** is by far the best pickup I’ve ever owned. I installed a BD power chip on it which provided a 100 hp boost (BD Power, www.bd-power.com; ph

ning. Both times Barricade saved the day.”

Stedman Twiss, Camden, N.Y.: “Several years ago in FARM SHOW **John Fuqua** of Waynoka, Okla., showed a wire stretcher his father had made (Vol. 15, No. 6). He said it made quicker and tighter splices than any power puller or conventional wire stretcher.



I made one using his directions and it’s the handiest fencing tool I have. It’s made from two 1-in. pieces of pipe connected by a 90 degree elbow. The handle, is 16 in. long and the other is 8 in. long. A 5/16-in. dia. hole is drilled through the 8-in. piece, 2 in. out from the elbow.

“When I have a broken fence wire, I simply make a loop in each broken end. Insert a length of smooth wire into one loop and tie it. Slip the other end of the smooth wire through the second loop and then through the drilled hole in the stretcher. Just turn the handle until the fence wire is as tight as needed, then back off and tie it.

“I made this stretcher 10 years ago and mentally thank Mr. Fuqua every time I use it.”

Gary Stern, Halliday, N. Dak.: “I’m well satisfied with my 2002 **New Holland 688 round baler**. It’s a well-built, large capacity baler. The grease zerks on it are well marked and easy to find. I like the way the pickup attachment floats and also the way it picks