

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**

Craig McPherson, Blum, Texas: Craig uses a **Powrachute PC2000** powered parachute on his 2,000-acre dairy farm and says it's his “best buy” (Easy Flight, Inc., Box 38, Greenville, Ill. 62246 ph 618 664-9706; E-mail: roy@easyflight.com; Website: www.easyflight.com). “I've been flying powered parachutes for eight years, and I think they're great machines for farmers and ranchers. I use mine to check fences, herd cattle, do livestock head counts, and look for stray animals. It works great for checking on crops because I can tell quickly where there are any problems.

“My **Case-IH 5700** chisel plow is my worst buy. It isn't built strong enough so I have to spend every winter welding up new cracks that develop in it.”

Linda Baziuk, Fisher Branch, Manitoba: A product called The Livestock Tailgate made by **Dave Stoneman** rates as Linda's “best buy” (Box 21, Fisher Branch, Manitoba, Canada R0C 0Z0 ph 204 372-8481). “It's designed to improve cattle flow through livestock handling chutes and prevents the animals from backing up in the alleyway.

“The tailgate mounts at the height of the

underground poly dog house that's designed to keep dogs cooler during summer and warmer during winter. “I paid \$300 for it but unfortunately it has been a miserable failure. I couldn't get any of my six dogs to go inside it, even if I threw a T-bone steak down into it first. The problem is that it isn't big enough - dogs find it claustrophobic.”

Richard Henderson, Franklin, Ind.: “My best buy of all time was my 1950 **Farmall M** tractor which I bought new for \$2,250. I sold 35 fat hogs to pay for it. I still use it and it runs great. I don't do heavy work with it, but it still has a place alongside our green line of tractors.

“I'm disappointed with my 1995 **Ford F-150** pickup. The battery lasted less than a year, and the dealer didn't want to replace it but finally did. The tilt steering wheel system didn't hold up so they replaced some parts under warranty. However, after the warranty expired it went out again and this time I had to pay \$385 to fix it. An oil leak developed at 35,000 miles, and a pan gasket had to be replaced at a cost of \$500. Then the transmission developed a leak, which cost another \$200 to repair.”

James A. Giknis, Gill, Mass.: “The company I work for bought a 2001 **Ford F-350** 4-WD pickup for my use and I'm not impressed with it. This pickup is so high and hard to get into that I lost 36 lbs. in just six months. It's much better than any diet I've been on. It's also underpowered and gets stuck easily.”

Daniel D. Cripps, Brush Creek, Tenn.: “It lets me haul heavy loads with ease,” says Daniel, pleased with his 2001 **Deere 6** by 4 Gator. “It tows loads well and is almost un-stoppable in all weather conditions. This vehicle is almost maintenance-free.”

On the negative side, he lists his **Sears Craftsman** 18-volt cordless drill. “After about six months the chuckless mechanism locked up so I couldn't even change bits. The dealer broke a screwdriver trying to replace the chuck.”

Peter Howe, Barboursville, Va.: Peter is the satisfied owner of a **Deere 6410** 4-WD tractor equipped with a front-end loader and cab. “This is the 50th Deere tractor I've owned over the years. It has about 1,500 hours on it and works great.”

Mike Hinga, Otterbein, Ind.: Mike's impressed with his **Battery Tender** that keeps idle batteries charged (ph 386 736-7900 or www.batterytender.com). “I had a problem with batteries running down on equipment during long periods of non-use. The Battery Tender solves the problem. Batteries for my tractors and combine can cost up to \$250 each, while the Battery Tender sells for about \$60. It keeps batteries charged all summer and winter without having to check the charger, ever.”

Kenneth Evers, San Antonio, Texas: “Our 1995 **Lincoln Town Car** has about 114,000 miles on it and is our best buy. We took a 5,000-mile trip with it last fall with no problems. It gets about 25 mpg on the highway and 20 mpg in town.”

David Tubbs, Hudson, Ind.: “My best buy is a 42-in., 16 hp **Farm Fleet** riding mower. I use it to pull a 22-in. push mower equipped with front caster wheels, which gives me a total cutting width of 60 in. I bought the mower new for just \$1,600. One big advantage of this setup is that it doesn't scalp like a conventional 60-in. mower would. Also, it can mow right under the lower branches on our large blue spruce trees.”

Michael K. Haas, Madison, Kansas: Michael's disappointed with his 2001 **Subaru Outback**. “Two months after I bought this vehicle it started leaking dust into the interior. Everything's covered with dust and it's in the air. I've taken the vehicle to two different dealers and a body shop. The deal-



animals' backs so when they approach, they lower their heads and push up on a U-shaped, rubber-covered bar. The bar is held up by their backs until they pass through and then it falls silently into place, preventing them from backing out. Because it is counter-balanced, the device actually applies pressure to the cow's tailhead and encourages her to move forward before it drops down behind her. The tailgate is designed to be fitted to any type of wood or metal alley measuring 20 to 36 in. wide.”

Patrick Prom, Eden Prairie, Minn.: “I'm impressed with my **Deere 870** tractor that's equipped with a 3-cyl., 28 hp diesel engine. In my opinion it's the most economical tractor in its class and also has the highest torque. I use it during the summer to operate my 6-ft. rotary mower and during the winter to operate a 5 1/2 ft. snowblower.”

Robert M. Temple, Gadsden, S.C.: Robert's not happy with his **Pet Protector**