

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,
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the survey form on our website at
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Ed Leightley, Centre Hall, Pa.: “I like my **Superior Biomass** corn burning furnace (Ja-Ran Enterprises, 3541 Babcock Road, Lexington, Mich. 48450 ph 810 359-7985). I installed it in the basement of my home three years ago and it has worked great ever since. It lets me heat my home for only about \$8 per day. It’s hooked into the hot air ducts that service my oil burning furnace and produces a nice, steady heat. In fact, my house has never been more comfortable. It feeds corn in from the bottom and has a big fire pot so there are no clinker problems like you sometimes get with top-feeding models. Since last November, I’ve burned about 450 bu. of corn, and during that time I’ve had to remove only 25 bucketfuls of ash.”

Mike Slykhuus, Monroe, Iowa: “My best buys are two **DeWalt** products - a 14-volt cordless drill and a circular saw. They’re both durable and have a lot of power. I like being able to use them anywhere with no cords.

“My **Sears** Robogrip wrench pliers is my worst buy. The pliers broke at the extra notch in the jaw.”

Stanley Domin, Pleasant Valley, N.Y.: “I haven’t had any problems at all with my 1993 **Case-IH** 5230 tractor. It’s a nice tractor.”

rotary disc cutters.

Randy Hay, Chenargo Forks, N.Y.: Randy’s pleased with his **Melroe** Bobcat 743 B skidsteer loader which he bought used. “It’s a great machine. I use it mostly in my construction business as well as around our tree farm. We put a set of tracks on it this spring and now it’ll go just about anywhere.”

Wendell Kenison Jr., West Lebanon, N.H.: “My 2000 **Woods** MD 160 5-ft. mower cuts well and is built heavy. It can go 10 to 12 hours a day with no problems. It’s also easy to hook up. This machine can easily cut through 2-in. dia. softwood trees.”

Glen Massey, Berlin, Md.: Glen nominates his 1996 **New Holland** 644 round baler as his “best buy”. “It’s the best baler I’ve ever owned. I’ve used it to make almost 10,000 bales with only minor problems. I think it’ll hold up for several more years.”

Lonnie Cellan, Inkom, Idaho: “This tractor will pull one third more than my previous wheel tractors, and it uses less fuel doing it,” says Lonnie, pleased with his 1998 **Caterpillar** Challenger 95E tractor.

“My **Raven** 600 granular applicator controller is my worst buy. It blows fuses about every hour. When I called the company for help they couldn’t find anyone who knew if I could put a higher amp fuse in it. When I needed a magnet to go in a shaft sensor, it took two weeks and several calls to get it - and they wanted a \$100 minimum order. I’ll never buy a product from this company again.”

Mike Lammers, Leipsic, Ohio: Mike likes his 1999 **Deere** 455 riding mower equipped with a 60-in. deck. “It has a lot of power and torque and is a pleasure to operate. It has about 270 trouble-free hours on it. The deck is easy to put on and take off - it takes only about two minutes. If my yard was smoother I could mow as fast as the machine would go and it wouldn’t even bog the engine down. It’s a great tractor.”

Susan Theisen, Gaylord, Mich.: “My 1999 **Zetor** 3340 4-WD tractor equipped with a front-end loader is my best buy. It’s reasonably well priced, well made, and simple to operate. The loader is built heavy. This tractor is easy on fuel and has great hydraulic output. I also like the large operator’s platform.”

Gary A. Simpler, Sudlersville, Md.: “I like my 2000 **Deere** 345 riding mower. I like how easy the mower is to operate, especially the way it backs up. It’s a nice mower.

“My **Melroe** Bobcat 763 skid steer loader has been a great help in our operation.”

On the negative side, he lists his 1993 **Dodge** Caravan. “We took out an extended warranty on this vehicle, which was a great idea because it has already gone through three different transmissions in just 81,000 miles. Also, the air conditioner has needed frequent repairs.”

Don Crump, Baldwin, Ga.: “In 1995 I bought a new **Ford New Holland** 4-WD 1720 tractor equipped with a **Woods** 165 front-end loader with quick-tach brackets. I use this tractor to mow my yard, fluff and rake hay, and clean manure out of chicken houses and barns. I also use it to move logs, pull trailers, stack round bales, and many other chores. No problems with either the tractor or the loader.

“In 1967 my dad bought a **Stihl** S-10 chainsaw which I still use. It always starts on the fourth pull just like it did when it was new.”

Jon E. Otts, Canastota, N.Y.: Jon likes the **Grizzly** model 30 portable bandsaw mill he bought last fall. “It saws straight, true

Peter Reimer, Port Rowan, Ontario: “My worst buy is **Uniroyal** Loredo tires made by Michelin. After only two years the tread started to separate from the tire. Some steel belts protruded and the tires looked like they were ready to explode. The tires still had a lot of tread depth. I called the company but no warranty or any type of consideration was offered. It’s a poorly built tire from a company that says it makes only ‘perfect tires’.

“My three 1977 **Deere** tractors are best buys. They include a model 4230 with 5,700 hours on it; a model 2130 with 4,600 hours; and a model 2130 with 3,400 hours. All three have been trouble-free. I have no complaints with any of them.”

Ryan Wilson, Bosler, Wyo.: A 1999 **Suzuki** 250 4-WD ATV rates as Ryan’s “best buy”. “It has more than 4,700 miles on it but is still going strong. It has been driven in deep water and over almost everything imaginable. My only wish is that it had a liquid-cooled engine. I recently bought a **Polaris** 2000 ATV. We’ll see if it matches up to the Suzuki.

“My 1993 **Chevrolet** K-1500 4-WD pickup was my worst buy in recent years. We used it every day to do chores on our ranch but the doors rattled, the front bumper fell off, and the frame kept cracking in a number of places. It was a smooth riding pickup and had a great engine. However, the chassis left a lot to be desired.”

Edwin Alt, Ottawa, Ohio: “It does a clean, neat job at a reasonably fast speed. No skips or plug-ups,” says Edwin about his **Deere** 925 mower-conditioner equipped with