

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**

James Norris, Ft. Worth, Tex.: “I saw the story in your last issue about Nissan’s new pickup. In that story you said it’s the first Japanese full-sized pickup and that the Toyota Tundra is 7/8th size.

“I’d like to tell you I’ve got a 2000 Toyota Tundra pickup and it’s a full-sized pickup that’s as big as a Ford F-150 or a Chevy 1500. It’ll out-pull, out-drive and out-run a Ford F-150 pickup, all while burning less fuel. It’s fitted with 16-in. wheels and has tremendous power and wonderful handling. It’s a great pickup and one of my best buys ever.”

Ron and RJ Parr, Allen, Texas: “Our 1996 Chevy Suburban has been a nightmare,” say Ron and RJ. They use the truck to travel around the South pulling a 35-ft. Silverstream trailer. “Since we bought it we spend more time at the repair shop than on the road,” they say.

“We broke it in gently, but after we hooked up the trailer for the first time the gearbox on the rear axle went out almost immediately. It was under warranty, but a couple months later it went out again,” they say. Since then the rear axle has been worked on a total of seven times with the rear gearbox being replaced six times in all. “And even when it was work-

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Lyle Moege, Hurley, S. Dak.: “In a recent issue I read about someone dissatisfied with their Deere 425 riding mower. I was worried because I took delivery of a 425 that very same day,” he says. “But green paint did not let me down- I have found it to be a quality product. Especially useful is the all-wheel steer with power steering,” says Moege. “It makes mowing in tight places easy.

“The Deere 425 is an all around excellent product with solid engineering and great maneuverability. It’s my best buy.”

James Wilhite, Jefferson, Georgia: “Kroil is the best penetrating oil I have ever used. I have used several other name brand oils over the years and Kroil beats them all 2 to 1.

“Not only will it loosen frozen threads and stuck screws, but it will also dissolve grease, oil, dirt, and rust. “It can do so many things that it will never be replaced in my toolbox.” (website: www.kanolabs.com).

Robert Young, Trenary, Mich.: “My 1999 M&W Gear 4407 round baler is an excellent baler. It has a simple design and works great. I like it better than a lot of the balers sold by big companies like Deere and New Holland. Their balers are more computerized and make bales faster, but this is a good baler for the smaller farmer. I use it to make 4 by 4-ft. silage bales weighing 1,200 to 1,300 lbs. apiece and put up 1,200 to 1,500 bales per year. The baler signals when the bale chamber is full and then I push a button to tie the bale. The first year I used this baler I accidentally backed it up into a bale and bent

the bale ramp, but the dealer repaired it at no charge.

“I paid \$9,500 for the baler. At the time I bought it I checked out a New Holland baler that sold for \$18,500.”

Arty Rubenzahl, Neversink, New York: “The Load Handler that attaches to a pickup



bed is my best buy. I am able to unload large quantities of dirt, gravel, rock, or lumber with just one hand.”

The “Load Handler” consists of a wide belt that lays in the pickup box and is cranked toward the back by a handle mounted on the tailgate. It’s able to move over 3,000 lbs. and fits most pickups. “I’ve even used it to haul firewood.” (ph 800-533-5545; website: www.northerntool.com).

Arden Walizer, Loganton, Penn.: “The problems FARM SHOW has had with its 1995 Ford Windstar van - going through five different engines - could probably have been prevented by using Amsoil. It reduces friction and lowers an engine’s internal temperature, which causes the engine to use less oil. My son has a 1999 Dodge Caravan equipped with a 4-cyl., 219 cu. in. engine. He’s an AI technician with responsibility for several thousands cows so he does a lot of driving. His Dodge already has about 180,000 miles on it but the engine still runs great. He started using Amsoil at 10,000 miles and since then has changed the engine oil only five times and the transmission oil twice.

“I use Amsoil in almost all my equipment including 15 tractors, most of them antique models, as well as two New Holland 4-WD tractors. And yes, I am an Amsoil dealer.”

Larry Niemann, Farmington, Ark.: “It’s very reliable, has a lot of power, and is as comfortable as many luxury vehicles,” says Larry, happy with his 2002 Ford F-350 4-WD crew cab pickup equipped with a Power Stroke diesel engine.

M.L. Lindsay, West Monroe, La.: “My new Maytag dishwasher is my worst buy. It doesn’t do a good job cleaning dishes and doesn’t heat the water or sanitize as claimed, and any debris that happens to be left on the dishes is distributed throughout the dishwasher and ends up glued to the dishes. If you don’t load the bottom shelf before the middle shelf, the middle shelf will sag down into the bottom shelf and as a result you can’t pull it out. Another problem is that the dishes come out wet. If a few granules of detergent fall outside the cup and onto the door latch, the latch won’t fasten. The granules have to be brushed away in order for the latch to work.”

Steve Meerman, Coopersville, Mich.: “The 1986 New Holland 16-ft. hay header we use on our bi-directional tractor is our best buy. We use it to cut 500 to 1,000 acres every year. It still has all the original bearings, which I think is amazing.”

Allen Clow, Lancaster, Minn.: “My 1999 Chevrolet LT 1/2-ton pickup is my best buy. It has more than 100,000 miles and has performed perfectly since the day I drove it out of the showroom. It drives wonderfully and consistently gets 17 to 20 mpg. I always read with amusement about people who complain about problems with brakes or other little things that wear out. A lot of times people create their own problems because of poor maintenance.”