

Farmers Nominate Best & Worst Buys

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is designed to kill fire ants and their queen. It's sold in a 1-lb. container. No water is necessary. You just sprinkle the bait evenly over and around each mound in a 4-ft. dia. circle. You can use it on lawns, around the perimeter of your home, around shrubs and trees, etc. Fire ants quickly find the bait, take it back to the mound, and feed it to the entire colony including the queens. Ants start dying in 24 to 36 hours.

One container treats 10,900 sq. ft., or 22 mounds. Sells for \$12.50 plus S&H.

Mike Lawrence, Theodore, Ala.: Mike likes his **Ono's** polarized reader sunglasses (Ono's Trading Co., Mobile, Ala. ph 866 865-4695; www.onostradingcompany.com). They're polarized sunglasses with reading magnification built-in. They're designed to



provide you with a full range of vision and let you focus in on close-up details at a glance. The polarized lens is combined with a unique reader magnification enhancement, eliminating the need to switch glasses to read or perform other close-up tasks when outdoors."

John Keith, Edmonton, Alberta: An early 1970's **Case 1070** tractor equipped with a powershift transmission and cab rates as John's "best buy". "I bought this tractor at an auction more than 15 years ago for \$3,200. It has thousands of hours of heavy field work on it but has required only routine maintenance. It has gone through one set of tires, one set of batteries, an alternator, and a water pump. It still runs like new."

Ronald Fenske, Engadine, Mich.: "Recently one of your readers complained that his **Ford 8N** tractor fouls a lot of spark plugs. My Ford 8N does the same thing but I found a way to solve the problem. A friend told me to start putting fuel oil in the gas, about one ounce per gallon. After about three months I noticed good results. In the past, the carburetor needle would always stick and gas would flood the carburetor and gas would run onto the ground. I had to shut off the gas line valve every time I shut the tractor off. Now I don't have to do that any more. It very seldom fouls plugs and it also starts a lot better. I also use the same mixture in my Farmall H and Oliver 88 tractors, with good results."

Dennis Weber, Gladstone, Manitoba: "I've been driving it since the fall of 1976 with very little downtime," says Dennis, pleased with his 1977 **GM Sierra** Classic pickup. "The transmission was rebuilt in 1989 and the engine was replaced in 1991. In 1994, the front fenders and the doors were replaced because of rust and it also received a new paint job. Now it needs new tires again, but it's well worth the cost."

Garnet Symington, Macon, Mo.: A 2000 **Kawasaki 2510 4-WD** Mule utility vehicle, which he bought used two years ago, rates as Garnet's "best buy". "I use it every day to feed cows, fix fences, drag and haul trees, and check pastures. I can go through muddy ground without leaving a track, where my pickup and tractor would make wheel ruts. This Mule deserves its name. I let my wife drive it whereas I don't think a 4-wheeler would be safe for her to drive."

Roy Cote, Ft. Morgan, Colo.: Roy nominates his **Golden Grain** corn stove as his "worst buy". "I bought it for use as a second stove in our house. But when we were unpacking it we noticed the auger had fallen through the glass door. The manufacturer

failed to put in a set screw that holds the auger to the motor. Because of this the auger drive motor wiring had to be rewired, probably because the motor was free to 'flop' around during transit.

"We had to replace both blower motors due to noise (one stopped running). The circuit board had to be replaced, and the vacuum adjusting screw has been adjusted so many times that it will probably need to be replaced. The company says they test every stove before it leaves their warehouse. However, I haven't been able to keep this stove running for more than 12 hours at a time. It just shuts off. Also, it's very hard to light."

Bryan Moeller, Geneseo, Ill.: "It's the best truck I've ever owned," reports Bryan, pleased with his 1997 **Dodge Ram 3500** pickup. "I bought it used in 2001 with about 139,000 miles on it. Now it has more than 217,000 miles on it and has required very few repairs. The automatic transmission failed at about 190,000 miles. I replaced it with a custom built transmission from **Goerend Transmission, Inc.** to make better use of the power my truck produces. I highly recommend this company (ph 563 778-2719; www.gbtransmissions.com). I now have almost 400 hp at the rear wheels. It's mostly a play truck since I drive an 18-wheeler, but I do use it to tow heavy farm equipment or occasionally a gooseneck livestock trailer."

Steven Durfee, Luzerne, Mich.: Steven nominates his **CX-1** biodiesel unit as his "best buy" (Alternative Fuel Solutions; ph 706 975-2145; afs@myfastfuel.com; www.myfastfuel.com). It's a complete system that processes veggie oil, used motor oil, transmission fluid, hydraulic fluid, gear oil, crude oil, and any other petroleum-based fluid into a clean fuel product that's compatible with any engine or heating system that operates on diesel fuel. No chemicals or engine modifications are needed; just blend your used oil with some diesel fuel and run it through the unit.

The company recommends starting at a 50-50 mixture - 50 percent used oil and 50 percent diesel fuel - and working your way



down. They say most passenger vehicles will run fine on a 70/30 or 80/20 mix with no additional smoke, and heavy equipment can go as low as 95/5.

The system is remote-controlled, allowing the operator constant system control at any distance up to 50 ft.

The CX-1 cleans and decontaminates the oil/fuel mix down to 1 micron and removes any harmful substances such as acids, water, antifreeze, paraffin, metal and other particles, turning the once dirty oil into a clean burning fuel product. Dual-pole polymer filtration pods remove acids found in used petro-based oils, and also remove water, antifreeze, and paraffin.

"I bought this unit last November after seeing an ad in a magazine. It sounded too good to be true but the owners convinced me otherwise and I'm glad they did," says Durfee. "Everything is just as easy to operate as it sounds and the fuel actually runs better than regular diesel fuel. The company provided great support, even calling me at the first of this year to let me know they had a new website. This website has more information than their previous one did and is more helpful. I use the biodiesel in my two Ford

Powerstroke pickups and my wife's diesel Mercedes. I also use the fuel in my farm tractors. I make the fuel for 65 cents a gallon and I produce 400 gallons each week. The fuel maker has worked great and the company helps out whenever I need a question answered."

A smaller unit equipped with a 16-gal. poly tank called the Toby is also available. It's said to be ideal for anyone who doesn't want to spend a lot of money and needs to make a few gallons of clean fuel to operate a single vehicle or small tractor. It can produce up to 48 gal. a day. The system is equipped with a 12-volt pump and is small enough to fit in back of your car or pickup. It operates off the vehicle's battery.

Their largest system is a gooseneck trailer-mounted unit that can produce 10,000 gal. of fuel every hour.

Harold Welgraven, Chandler, Minn.: "My **Deere 775** riding mower always starts right up. We use it a lot but have never spent a dime on it. It does a nice job."

Mike Allen, Skippers, Va.: "My all-time best buy was my **Ferguson 30** tractor. My dad bought it before I was born and we still use it on our farm today. Over the years we bought many other Ferguson and Massey Ferguson tractors and they all worked great. As farms grew in size, so did the size of the equipment and tractors. The last Massey

"My dad bought it before I was born and we still use it on our farm today."

Ferguson I bought was a 160 hp, front wheel assist model. As the dealers went out of business in my area I decided to try another brand.

"That resulted in my worst buy - a 1998 **Case 180** hp, front wheel assist row crop tractor. This tractor came from another state and had only about 1,200 hours on it. It has had a long list of problems. Here's all the components that had to be replaced: the head gasket (three times), fuel injector (numerous times), water pump, vacuum valve for the turbo (twice), brake pedal switches, rear wheel bearing and seal, upper lift arm rocker shaft bushings and seals, both rear tires (after they separated), door shock, shifter accumulator (one also had to be recharged), throttle cable, shifter cable, fan belt tensioner, all six injectors, injector pump, both lift arm connector blocks.

"This tractor has about 3,100 hours on it. Now the 3-pt. lift has started to act up again so this will mean more shop time."

Wes Mills, Red Bay, Alabama: "My 2005 **Kubota M9000** and **M6800** tractors are both best buys. They start well and run smooth. They also ride well and have quiet, fuel efficient engines. The M9000 is my first 4-WD tractor, and I hope I'm never without a 4-WD tractor again."

Bernard Nash, Indianola, Iowa: "Three years ago I bought a new **Vermeer 3-pt.** mounted 9-ft., 7-rotor disc mower and it's my best buy. I use it to mow all kinds of hay ground and also to mow pasture and road banks. I use my **International Harvester 656** diesel tractor to pull it. This machine takes only about half as much fuel as my 9-ft. sickle conditioner did to mow the same area and works at least twice as fast. It runs smooth and never plugs up, even on ant hills or in multiflora rose bushes. It'll mow the heaviest crop of matted-down alfalfa without plugging up.

"There are several people in this area who

have large lots of perhaps 20 acres who let me mow their grass twice each summer. I then bale it with my **Vermeer 605C** baler in June or July which results in a good yield of a grass and clover mixture. Then I cut again in late August or September for a much smaller yield. My mower leaves these lots looking as if they were mowed with a finish mower, and the landowners are quite pleased with how they look.

"This disc mower also runs quiet, because it uses a single shaft drive running out through the bar to individually drive each rotor, which eliminates the need for idler gears.

"This mower has been a pure joy to operate. I doubt that I'll ever use a sickle mower again."

Steve Bengtson, Erhard, Minn.: Steve's happy with his 1971 **Case 870** diesel tractor. "This tractor has performed admirably, whether I use it for haying work or with a pull-type combine. It has excellent power and is fuel efficient."

John Beck, Bismarck, N. Dak.: "I bought my 1966 **Massey Ferguson 135** tractor used with about 1,300 hours on it, and it's my best buy. I use it on my 8-acre tree farm. It's very dependable and doesn't have a lot of modern electronics to cause problems. The transmission has six speeds forward and two reverse. It's a quality-built machine."

Wayne Horton, Randolph, N.Y.: Wayne's impressed with his **BouMatic** Companion tie-stall barn take-offs. "They're well designed and make milking in a tie-stall barn a lot easier job. Even with one person milking I have no problems with six units in our 62-cow barn, and I don't have to worry about over milking the cows. I did have a few problems with setting adjustments, but they were promptly taken care of by the dealer and have been trouble-free."

He says his **BouMatic** Companion milk yield indicator is his "worst buy". "I decided to have one unit installed on one of my Boumatic take-offs. I wanted to try it out before I bought them for all six take-offs. I bought it for checking milk weights and Somatic cell counts on fresh cows. However, it has been a nightmare since day one. The milk weights can be anywhere from right on the money to 10 lbs. off for no reason at all, when compared with weights taken when the DHIA tester is in each month. And the dealer hasn't been able to get the Somatic cell setting right yet."

C.F. Marley, Nokomis, Ill.: "Recently our satellite TV company told us we would no longer be able to get a favorite channel. We were told the broadcaster had switched satellites and we would need a new receiver, which would cost \$99.

"We thought about it for a while, then we recalled that we had an active contract that included that channel. So we called the satellite company and reminded them of that. There was no further argument. The company put up a new receiver at no further cost to us. The moral of the story? If you lose a favorite channel, don't spend any money until you check your contract."

Harley Wahl, Slayton, Minn.: A 2004 **Ford F-150** Supercab pickup rates as Harley's "best buy". "I bought it used and have put more than 50,000 miles on it with no major repairs. It's very roomy and is fuel efficient for a large pickup."

James Kluever, Fairmont, Minn.: "My **Case IH 80** snowblower is the best snowblower I've owned. I can see the blades turning and it never shears pins. It does a nice, clean job of blowing snow. It takes less power for the tractor driving it and is easy on the pto. Also, it never plugs up."

Loren Harris, Spring Creek, Nevada: Loren likes his 2006 **Dodge** diesel 4-WD