

Farmers Nominate Best & Worst Buys

John Janisch, Beldenville, Wis.: "After 16 years of faithful service from my American-made, 18-cu. ft. Whirlpool refrigerator, it quit working. I replaced it with another Whirlpool model. It was made in Mexico and I had to wait three weeks for it to arrive. After I got it, I filled it with milk, eggs, cheese, and meat, etc. I'm a semi truck driver so I'm not home every day. Returning from a 2-day run a couple of weeks later, I found the refrigerator running but the temperature inside both compartments was only about 68 degrees.

"I called the appliance store where I had ordered the refrigerator and they sent out a mechanic the next day. He had to send for a part, and I asked him if there would be any compensation for my food loss. He said no, so I called the company's headquarters in Michigan and asked about compensation if there had been expensive animal semen or heart medicine in the refrigerator. I got the same reply. I'm done with this company."

"I've noticed improvements in power, starting and fuel economy."

John Kurki, South Range, Wis.: "I'm well-pleased with the Genesee electronic ignition kit I installed on my Ford 9N tractor (ph 918 274-8000; www.geneseeproducts.com). I've noticed improvements in power, starting and fuel economy. The company also offers electronic ignition kits for other tractor brands."

Scott Kiewatt, LeSueur, Minn.: "A few years ago I bought a used 2003 **Drago 8-row**, 36-in. corn head and mounted it on my Case IH 1680 combine (ph 888 789-2723; www.dragotec.com). This corn head is a great improvement over the IH 884 model I had been using. It's equipped with self-adjusting stripper plates that adjust according to the size of the stalks, which saves a lot of corn. The head has paid for itself in just a few years."

Herbert Gosser, Fifty-Six, Ark.: "I'm well-pleased with my 2005 **Kubota M68 4-WD tractor**. It handles all my farm chores with ease and does a great job pulling my baler. No problems. Last year I bought a used 2006 **Kubota M68 2-WD model** and I like that one, too."

Steve Hart, Elizabeth, Colo.: Steve's happy with his 2001 **Bobcat 773G turbo skid steer loader**. "I operate a small one-man business using this skid loader and a dump trailer, and mostly haul manure. The only problems were with a leaky lift cylinder seal and an alternator that had to be replaced. Otherwise this loader has operated flawlessly. I use several attachments with it and it has never let me down. It has more than 4,000 hrs. on it. I'd buy another one in a heartbeat."

"I've had a lot of problems with the carburetor on my 2002 **Yamaha 660 Grizzly 4-wheeler**. I had to take it back to the dealer numerous times, and it always let me down when I needed it the most. I finally sold it and bought a 2010 **Yamaha 550 EPS fuel-injected 4-wheeler**. I'm well-pleased with it."

Reuben Weaver, New Holland, Penn.: "My **Deere 4200 4-WD compact tractor** is fuel efficient and a real workhorse. It's also easy to get on and off. I have leg problems and needed a tractor with a flat deck transmission, which makes the tractor easy to mount. I use a make-shift hand control to operate the hydrostatic transmission. The tractor also has cruise control, power steering, and an adjustable seat and steering wheel. It starts easy in cold weather."

Coleman Wells, Vilonia, Ark.: "I think it's

the best fence fixing tool ever made," says Coleman about his 2010 **Texas Fence Fixer** (ph 800 621-8546; www.texasfencefixer.com). "I use this tool to tighten up stretched barbed wire. With a 1 1/2-ft. length of barbed wire and a fencing pliers, I can fix a strand of stretched barbed wire in only a couple of minutes."

Nick Forrest, Miami, Okla.: "Overall, I like my 2007 **Mahindra 7010 4-WD loader tractor** equipped with a cab. On a scale from 1 to 10 I'd give it a 7. It's dependable, has good hydraulics, and a nice quick-tach loader. However, the tractor's rear hitch isn't heavy enough, and I was advised by dealers not to test it. Also, the tractor's heater/air conditioning system has never worked well which I'm told is a common problem in the company's 10 series tractors. Overall, though, it's a good tractor."

On the negative side, "My 2000 **Chevrolet Silverado 2500 4-WD pickup** equipped with an automatic transmission and 6.0-liter gas engine has always had issues. The rear main seal went out of the transmission while the pickup was still under warranty. The dealer refused to honor the warranty 'due to its obvious use as a work truck due to the diesel tank in the bed'."

John Slater, Olin, Iowa: John's the satisfied owner of a 2012 **New Holland CR6090 combine**. "It has a lot of power and tremendous capacity in soybeans. Thresholds very clean in both corn and beans."

Domenic L. Maiani, Fitchville, Ohio: "My wife and I love our 2011 **Kubota RTV 1100 utility vehicle**. We use it with a hydraulic-operated dump box, snowplow, and a heated and air conditioned cab. It always starts right up, even in the coldest weather."

George Tyler, Louisa, Va.: "We like the 2010 **HeatStar Blue Flame 20,000 btu propane heater** we bought at Farmtek (ph 800 327-6835; www.farmtek.com). We keep it as a backup heater in our greenhouse for when we lose power. It always starts even though we only use it a couple times a year. We grow more than 300 orchids and other tropical plants, so it's important that we have a dependable backup heater."

Mark Midler, N. Mankato, Minn.: Mark likes his **Miller 150 Tig** suitcase welder. "I've used this welder to build a trailer and a dragster. It operates off either 110 or 220 volts and burns hot enough that I can use it to weld steel tubing and other thick metal. On heavy material I just make more than one pass."

Pete Lauska, Allegan, Mich.: "Our 2010 **Cub Cadet LTX 1046 garden tractor** is well built and works great. No problems."

Ben James, Jacksonville, Fla.: "This car has been 100 percent trouble-free," says James about his 2007 **Subaru Forester**. "It's an all-wheel-drive vehicle so I don't have to shift in and out of 4-WD. It has a lot of traction, and one time I used it to pull a Jeep Wrangler out of soft sand."

"I've had a lot of electrical problems with my 2005 **Dodge Caravan**. It seems like there's always something going wrong with it including problems with the electric door locks, the blower speed control, and the headlights and interior lights. I've also had to replace two alternators. However, this van does have a comfortable ride."

David Howard, Lake Forest Park, Wash.: "I've put hundreds of hours on my 2005 **Mantis rototiller** with no problems, other than replacing the ignition coil. I seldom use my heavier rototiller because the Mantis is so convenient to use."

Robert Nehman, New Albin, Iowa: "I like the **Johnny Bucket Jr.** front-end loader I bought for my **Cub Cadet garden tractor** (ph 414 328-1898; www.johnnybucket.com). The loader has a self-contained lifting system. I



"I bought my 1960's 2-row, model 40 Deere combine used in 1982 and have harvested with it ever since," says Roy Noel.

He Farms With Antique Equipment

Roy Noel farms with antique equipment many collectors would envy.

"I bought my 1960's 2-row, model 40 Deere combine used in 1982 and have harvested with it ever since," says Noel, who recently turned 78.

The old combine harvests corn planted with a model 50 Deere tractor and a 2-row model 290 Deere corn planter built in the 1950's. He still cultivates with a 2-row cultivator on the 50. All of it was bought when Noel and his wife Ruthann bought their 102-acre farm in 1970.

At the same time, they also bought a sickle mower and loader for the 50 John Deere, a 1958 model 330 International, and a Case one-row corn picker built in 1945. All of it remains under roof, has its original paint and is ready to go. If his "newer" combine ever fails him, he can turn to the Case.

"It still runs, though I haven't used it since I bought the 40," says Noel. "I did put some new gears on the shucking rolls and replaced a couple of sprockets, chains and belts over the years."

The model 40 has required some work as well. Noel has replaced the paddles that feed corn back from the snapping rolls and a driveshaft for the pulley that runs the separator. He notes that finding parts is getting more difficult.

"I had to make some brass bushings for



Noel plants corn with a 50 Deere tractor and a 2-row, 290 Deere corn planter built in the 1950's.

it," says Noel.

Careful maintenance combined with keeping all his equipment under roof has contributed to its longevity. Much of it is stored under or in Noel's picture-perfect barn built in 1923. He feels working older equipment still has value. For example, the planter is equipped with a three-speed transmission for planting different populations.

"Hybrids are bred to be planted at higher populations, so the last few years I've been planting around 30,000 kernels per acre," says Noel. "The old combine handles the higher populations well, though it can bog down, and I have to stop to let it clean out."

He's quick to add that like all of his well cared for equipment, "it still does a good job."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Roy H. Noel, 14 Dutch Run Rd., Piketon, Ohio 45661 (ph 740 289-2851).

use it to carry endless loads of dirt around my property and garden. It's well-built and has never failed me, is made of heavy steel and can handle loads of up to 200 lbs. I also use it to grade my driveway and to plow snow."

Dustin Jarshaw, Newfolden, Minn.: "My 2002 **Honda Rancher 4-WD ATV** has almost 11,000 miles on it but still starts and runs like new. I own two Honda ATV's and both have earned their keep. I cut a lot of wood for heating our house and use these 4-wheelers to pull logs out of the woods and to pull my trailers."

Simon Gordon, Irvington, Ky.: "My 2011 **Deere D140 riding mower** is equipped with a cleanout on the mower deck and an hour meter that lets me know when it's time to do service work. It's a good mower."

Elliot Godwin, Sidney, Ohio: "I bought my **Deere 185 garden tractor** used for \$500. It always starts and runs good. I've used it to pull 800-lb. loads uphill with no problems."

James Tostenson, Fremont, Wis.: "I use my 2011 **Kubota RTV 500 utility vehicle** every day to do chores. It starts good at temperatures down to 20 below, but it shifts hard. This utility vehicle works well for a

small machine, but if it wears out before I do I'll buy a larger model."

On the minus side, he lists his **Ventinox stainless steel chimney liner**. "The pipe might be good enough, but the dealer didn't install the correct size and the workmanship is shoddy. It has caused us a lot of problems."

Barry Nestle, Alvin, Texas: "I bought my **Kubota BX32 compact tractor** new several years ago and love it. I use this tractor almost every day. I bought several attachments for it and built quite a few others. I'd recommend Kubota tractors to anyone."

Roy Richters, Jr., Utica, Neb.: "Last year I traded my **M&W Dyna Drive ground-driven rotary cultivator** for a new **Dyna Drive**. Both are best buys (ph 877 408-3297; www.mw-gear.com). I use this one-pass machine ahead of my planter. It leaves the soil tilled like a rototiller and seals in the moisture, without drying out the soil or compacting it."

Everett Medlin, Wyandotte, Okla.: "In December of 2000 I purchased a new 2001 **Dodge Ram 2500 pickup** equipped with Michelin 265/75 R16 tires. At about 82,000 miles I finally replaced the tires because the

Continued on next page