

Randomly selected farmers “tell it like it is” in nominating their “best” and “worst” buys.

By: Mark Newhall
Editor

Bill Gergen
Senior Editor

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:
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Darren Kornowske, Denmark, Wis.: “My 2009 Swisher 60-in. zero-turn mower has been a nightmare. Within 15 hrs. the deck bearings that held the blades failed. The dealer told me the blades weren’t the problem and that I’d have to pay for repairs. I took the bearings apart in his parking lot and showed the mechanic that the bearings were gone and the shafts were worn out, too. They ordered the parts but wouldn’t install them because I had taken them apart.”

“At 20 hrs. the frame broke in front of the seat and Swisher wouldn’t warranty it. I welded the machine back together and reinforced the frame. Then both front wheels came off. Again, they wouldn’t warranty it. I reinforced the wheel mounting brackets and then the front axle broke. Around 40 hrs. the electrical wires burned off a terminal on the key switch. That was caused by the alternator putting out too much current. I re-wired the unit myself.”

“At 45 hrs. the right hydro wheel motor quit working. The machine went through two deck belts per season because the belt path takes a sharp downward turn from the engine to the deck. I bought the machine because it was made in the U.S. and thought I was

ashes. I’m happy I chose this brand.”

Gerald Robinson, Sr., Aiden, Iowa: “I bought my Hyundai 19.2-volt drill on sale for about \$20 and it’s by far the best drill I’ve ever owned. I work it hard but it keeps on going. I’ve never been able to find another one, and I don’t know why.”

Whitehorn Farms, Floweree, Mont.: “Our 2007 Kubota 400 utility vehicle runs like a champ and always starts. It has a lot of power and is easy on fuel.”

Robert Geusewelle, Worden, Ill.: Robert’s satisfied with his 2007 GM extended cab pickup. “It has about 45,000 miles on it, with the only problem being a burned-out parking light. It gets 17 1/2 mpg both in town and on the highway.”

James McKill, Prague, Okla.: “We use our 1981 Troy-Bilt 7 hp rototiller in our one acre-plus vegetable garden and have worn out 12 sets of tiller tines. We couldn’t ask for a better rototiller.”

Ed Knecht, Fallon, Nevada: “My 1996 Ford New Holland 1715 tractor required the installation of an electric fuel pump, because the tractor’s original fuel pump was gravity-fed through a very small filter. If I was low on fuel and came to a hill, we’d have to back up because the fuel wouldn’t feed. The tractor also has to be clutched two or three times to get it into any gear at a stop.”

Mark Jones, Sault Ste. Marie, Mich.: “My 2002 Fisher 8-ft. X-blade stainless steel snowplow is an incredible plow (ph 800 678-2459; www.4qte.com). I operate a commercial snow plowing business, and this snowplow hasn’t broken so much as a bolt. It’s completely bulletproof. All I’ve done is change the oil and replace the blade’s cutting edge. Hands down, this is the toughest piece of equipment I’ve ever used.”

On the negative side, “My 2007 Dixon Kodiak ZTR riding mower had problems from the start. The first model I bought blew a crank seal after just 5 min. of use, which caused the engine to seize and ruin a customer’s yard with hot oil. The replacement model’s Briggs & Stratton engine suffered from severe electrical issues due to vibration. The electrical system never did work correctly, and as a result the machine spent more time in the shop than cutting grass. The vibration would cause the wires to disintegrate inside their covers. I don’t know how many times I had to push the mower out of a customer’s yard because it quit running. I finally traded it in.”

“My Mantis garden tiller never has worked well. The carburetor is unusually susceptible to ethanol problems and has to be replaced regularly.”

Dale Kreitzer, Cresco, Iowa: “I like my American Automotive 2-post car hoist (ph 800 637-2884; www.americanautomotiveequipment.com). This hoist was easy to put together and works well. There was a small oil leak on a hose fitting, but the company took care of it. I enjoy using this hoist every chance I get. I should have bought it years ago.”

Marvin Bachman, Norfolk, Neb.: “I retired and moved to town so I don’t need a big pickup any more. I traded for a Chevrolet Colorado 4-WD mid-size model equipped with a 4-cyl. engine and automatic transmission. I love it. It holds the road in high winds and gets about 5 mpg better than my old pickup.”

Robert Plummer, Swanzy, N.H.: “I use a 50-in. snowblower on back of my Kioti 30 hp 4-WD loader tractor. The tractor is equipped with turf tires, and I need to use tire chains on them to get through snow and ice. However, the rear tires barely miss the tractor’s body and 3-pt. hitch arms. The company doesn’t sell a spacer for this purpose so I took a front drive brake hub and disc from an old car and made one. I cut the long hub off, centered it,

getting a good product and creating jobs. The machine has just over 45 hrs. on it and the only useful parts are the engine and the pretty black paint.”

Jerry Johnston, Vestaburg, Mich.: “My 1986 Yanmar 169D 4-WD tractor is dependable and a lot bigger than it first appears. We use this tractor almost every day to do chores such as snow blading, bush hogging, operating a pto-driven log splitter, and plowing our garden. It’s equipped with a 16 hp diesel engine.”

Don Stout, Harlem, Mont.: “The MileStar tires I put on my trailer didn’t last long. The tread warped on one tire and came off on another. Neither the dealer nor the manufacturer would help. They claimed the tires were four years old, yet I only had them for 1 1/2 years and put just 1,000 miles on them.”

Sydney Cutting, Clements, Calif.: “My 2010 Dodge Ram 2500 is an excellent pickup for ranch chores. It’s comfortable to drive, even for a 5 ft. 3 in. tall person, and there’s plenty of passenger room. It’s a good looking, fuel efficient pickup. So, when will these pickups be equipped with WiFi?”

Thomas Holubec, Kempner, Texas: “My 2009 Deere 3038 loader tractor has a lot of power and is easy on fuel. I use it to push brush into piles and to do many different jobs around our farm. It’s easy to drive.”

Bob Andes, Parshall, N. Dak.: “My New Holland 5070 loader tractor is a good unit in most ways but has a jerky hydraulic clutch. Also, the air cleaner filter can’t be cleaned, yet one afternoon of baling can plug it. At \$40 apiece to replace, it’s a bad deal. The air cleaner should be redesigned.”

Brian K. Berry, Perrysville, Ohio: “I like my 2011 Portage & Main ML30 outdoor wood burning furnace (ph 800 561-0700; www.portageandmainboilers.com). It works efficiently and is easy to load and clean out