Farmers Nominate Best & Worst Buys

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Ron Say, Alta Vista, Kan.: "I like my **Cannonball** truck-mounted bale bed (ph 620 532-3675; www.cannonballengineering. com). It comes with lift arms that are independent of each other, which makes

"The bale-loading arms can also be used to lift the bed to dump a load."

centering the bale an easy job. It also works great to spin bales 90 degrees when they're stacked end to end. The arms can also be used to lift the bed to dump the load."

Marc Lever, Clatskanie, Ore.: "It performs exactly as advertised," reports Marc about his 2010 **Yukon** Big Jack wood furnace (ph 800 358-0060; www.yukon-eagle.com). "This unit is quite efficient and keeps our 1907-built farm house at 72 degrees with ease. The manufacturer was great to deal with, answering all our questions during installation. Overall, it's a well-built, heavy duty unit that should last a long time."

Arnold Colson, Corinth, Ky.: "I replaced my Deere 2955 tractor with a 2007 Valtra A-95 tractor equipped with a cab and frontend loader, and was shocked at the fuel savings alone. I had been told that the Susi engine in this tractor was fuel efficient, but until you own one you won't believe it. I love the heavy-built loader. This is a heavy, well-built tractor. I hope AGCO can make a Massey tractor this good that's equipped with the Suzi engine.

"My **Kuhn** 10-wheel Speed Rake is awesome. It's built heavy and saves a fortune in fuel compared to my old New Holland bar rake.

"The oil filter on my **Polaris** 4-wheeler is in a terrible location, and many components are hard to access due to poor design. It's a shame, too, because this product is Americanmade."

Chris Uebelhoer, Cambridge, Idaho: "I bought two Gensco steering tires for our Allis Chalmers 190 loader tractor (ph 800 828-3350). We use this tractor to feed livestock and had previously suffered many flats using standard farm tires, so we thought we'd give Gensco's used airplane tires a try. We put them on last April and haven't had any flats since. However, one tire developed a flaw where the cap was attached. I called the company and they instantly sent us a new tire and wheel, with no questions or excuses. This company stands behind its product, which is rare these days."

Don Best, Blanket, Texas: Don's "worst buy" is his 2003 Arctic Cat 250cc ATV. "The first few years after I bought it, I didn't use it much because it took so long to start and to warm up before I could use it. Then a few years ago I started using it more, and one day in the middle of a dry pasture it started smoking on front where the wiring harness goes through a metal clip to the controls on the handlebars. The machine almost caught fire before I could disconnect the battery.

"I loaded the ATV up and took it to my shop. After checking it out, it was clear the wiring had shorted out where a metal clip holder rubbed against it. I also discovered the wires were all black-taped together with no other protection. I looked at other ATV brands and the wires on them weren't taped together, but instead had heavy insulation and protection and the part holding the wires was also insulated.

"I called both the dealer and the corporate office, but they weren't interested in hearing what happened, nor were they willing to give me a replacement wiring harness, even though this was clearly a factory defect because when the wires shorted out, they caught on fire and melted the insulation and wires together. After several hours I was able to rewire everything properly.

"I can't believe a company this large would tape the wires together. And then to have a metal contact on the clip holding the wires? It was just a matter of time until it shorted out, because the wires flex and pull as you steer and turn from side to side."

James Rainey, Glen Allen, Mo.: "Our 2010 New Holland 672 disc mower cuts great and doesn't pull the tractor to death like others we've owned. It's a great machine.

"Our 2012 **Dodge** Grand Caravan has come close to getting us killed. When we step on the accelerator it hesitates, which makes merging into traffic dangerous. When driving on hills the engine just keeps pulling down, and then when it does accelerate it jerks you and sounds like an airplane taking off. We're Chrysler fans and all our trucks and other vehicles are Chryslers, but in the future, we'll think hard before buying from them again. The dealer won't do anything to help."

Steve Groff, Holtwood, Penn.: "I've used my **SAMCO** plastic laying unit (Vol. 34, No. 2) on my sweet corn for 6 years. It helps me get my sweet corn to market 7 to 10 days ahead of other growers for premium prices.



"I no-till plant sweet corn in twin rows, 19 in. apart, letting me cover two rows at a time with the SAMCO. The plastic warms the soil, and the corn emerges faster than uncovered rows.

"Once the plants emerge and reach the 4 to 6-leaf stage, or the temperatures reach 80°, I cut through the plastic. I just run a single coulter mounted to a simple toolbar on the tractor between each pair of rows. The coulter slices the thin, photo-degradable plastic and releases the plants.

"Slitting the plastic is important as it allows the plants to grow without having to break through the plastic themselves.

"The SAMCO unit was definitely a best buy, but as I no longer grow sweet corn, I have it for sale for \$1,500 (ph 717 284-5152)."

Don Clark, Witts Springs, Ark.: Don bought a Diesel Tunes Workhorse module to boost performance on Dodge Cummins diesel engine (ph 800 264-5102; www.dieseltunes. com). "There are a lot of modules out there and programmers that make big claims. I've tried several of them, but I think the Workhorse module is best. It comes with an adjustable knob, which I mounted on my pickup's gearshift lever, that's used to select the power range from stock to max. You can really tell the difference this module makes with the engine running at 1,000 rpm's. Where stock programming would lug the engine down, the Workhorse makes it scoct."

Bradley Potter, Lowell, Mich.: "After reading an article in FARM SHOW about a battery rebuilder, I thought I'd give it a try. The battery in my 12-volt cordless drill didn't work any more so I sent it to Voltman Batteries (ph 419 526-1570; www. voltmanbatteries.com). I enclosed a check for the repair along with the battery. Five days later, the battery came back. I've used it off

"Best Buy" Kubota B7510 Tractor

"My 2007 **Kubota** B7510 tractor equipped with a front-end loader and backhoe is my best buy," says Raube McDaniel, Philippi, W. Va. "This tractor just doesn't know when to stop and has had no problems. I've used it to move tons of dirt and to dig several ditches for my neighbors. I can't say enough good things about it. In the past I owned a used **Ford** 1210 tractor but was always repairing it. I had to replace the seals, gears, and the main shaft in the transmission. I spent almost as much on repairs as what I paid for it.

"My neighbor was so impressed with my Kubota that he went out and bought one just like mine. He's very pleased with it.

"I built some bucket-mounted log forks for the tractor to move logs onto my small chainsaw sawmill. I used the leaf springs from a 3/4-ton pickup. They fasten to the sides of the bucket with 2 bolts. A second leaf welds under each fork and extends back under each side of the bucket to add strength when lifting heavy logs."

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and on for 3 mos. now, and it works great. It holds a good, long charge and has as much or more power than before. I'm well satisfied with the quick turn-around and with the battery's performance. I'd recommend this company to anyone."

Ed Capron, Whigham, Ga.: "One of the finest digging tools you'll ever own is one you've probably never seen. Wolverine Nursery spades (ph 800 787-3562; www. surelocedging.com) come with 15-in. heattreated, extra thick, chromoly steel blades made from one-piece welded construction. These spades have 50-in. alloy steel handles that are a full 1 1/2 in. in dia. and come with a 5-year warranty. They work great for lifting bulbs, dividing perennials, cutting sod or pruning roots. They're the landscaper's secret weapon."

Cody Beard, Grandview, Texas: Cody likes his **Rake Master** grapple (ph 850 584-4494; www.rakemaster.net). "I recently completed demolition of a 50 by 90-ft. hay barn that had been partly destroyed by a tornado. Using this grapple I was able to pull down the barn's sides and roofing, and even dislodge the cement footing around the barn."

Miles Wellman, West Point, Iowa: "I've used Brower energy free waterers with my hogs and cattle since the 1990's and am sold on them (ph 800 553-1791; www. browerequip.com). These waterers even work in temperatures down to zero, though they work best when there's enough demand that the water turns over at least once a day. Because of the waterer's design, animals can't dirty them up with manure."

Kenneth D. Fencl, Prague, Neb.: Kenneth's happy with his 2010 Chevrolet Colorado LT1 extended cab 2-WD pickup equipped with a 5-cyl. engine. "This is a good midsize pickup with a lot of power, and it gets a respectable 25 mpg. The cab is roomy, easy to get in and out of, and rides good. Also, when equipped with the factory trailing package this pickup can pull a lot. It's an all-around good pickup."

Michael Owens, Holloway, Minn.: "It's a well-built machine for strip tilling in any field conditions," says Michael about his 16row Soil Warrior (ph 507 645-2268; www. soilwarrior.com). "The thing I like most about this machine is that it uses coulters. As a result you can use it either in the fall or spring, compared to a shank-type machine that can only be used in the fall. It's a great



Raube McDaniel built bucket-mounted log forks for his 2007 Kubota B7510 loader tractor, bolting the leaf springs from a 3/4-ton pickup to the sides of the bucket.



machine."

John W. Martin, La Crescent, Minn.: A 2004 Dodge pickup equipped with a Cummins diesel engine rates as John's "best buy". "It has more than 130,000 miles on it with only one minor problem, which was covered by the warranty. This pickup starts right up in cold weather without being plugged in and has a comfortable ride. It also gets good mileage when pulling a load."

Steve Weisbrod, Canastota, N.Y.: Steve likes his Deere 5660 combine equipped with a 6-row corn head. "Awesome performance. Hills and sidehills don't slow it down. This is my first rotary combine, and I'm impressed with the clean grain sample and minimum grain loss. My only complaint is the cab is noisier than it should be."

Craig Spierling, Levering, Mich.: Craig likes the spotweld cutter kit and Rotabroach sheet metal hole cutter kit he bought from Blair Equipment Co. (ph 810 635-7111; www.blairequipment.com). "I bought their 3/8-in. spotweld cutter to remote spotwelds on my son's car. I liked it so much that I bought their sheet metal hole cutter kit. It lets you cut 1/4, 5/16, 3/8, 7/16, 5/8, and 3/4-in. dia. holes. I use these cutters instead of drills because they cut much faster without burring the hole. I bought the kit on Amazon.com."

Ed Coker, Macomb, Ill.: "I put fluid in the rear tires right after I bought a used Kubota 4330 HST front wheel assist loader tractor. Now it's the handiest tractor I've owned in 45 years of farming. It handles my 6-ft. mower with ease."

Jeff Heiser, Vesper, Wis.: Jeff has a complaint with **Rustoleum** spray paint sold in small cans. "There isn't enough propellant in the can. As a result, the propellant runs out before the paint does. For some reason this problem seems to happen more often with gloss black paint."

Delbert Hayes, Norwalk, Iowa: "From Harbor Freight I bought a low cost, heated razor blade decal remover and used it to remove two 'slow moving vehicle' decals on a grain cart. It took only a short time to do and left the cart's surface smooth."

Gary Gunderson, Elkhorn, Wis.: "It's the best compact sports utility vehicle we've ever owned," reports Gary about his 2003 Jeep Liberty Sport 4-WD model equipped with a 3.7-liter V-6 engine, 5-speed transmission and 3-in. suspension lift. "It's easy on fuel and can handle any kind of terrain or snow.