

### 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  
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**Cornie Van Lant, Chandler, Minn.:** “I bought a new 2012 **Cub Cadet RZTS 50-in.** zero-turn mower that has a steering wheel instead of two levers. This is now the best mower money can buy. I’ve had four different Cubs over the years and this is by far the best.”

**Alton Eliason, Northford, Conn.:** “Getting rid of moles with traps is frustrating because new moles keep coming as fast as you can trap them. I’ve found that solar-powered **Mole Chasers** that stick into the ground and set up a vibration work very effectively to keep lawns and gardens mole-free. They sell for \$9.95 at Harbor Freight ([www.harborfreight.com](http://www.harborfreight.com); 800-444-3353).”

**Tavish Presswood, Canton, Ga.:** “I like my **Mahindra 4110 4-WD 40 hp** tractor equipped with a front-end loader. This tractor has a great power-to-weight ratio and is heavy enough to maintain good traction on all 4 wheels. I use it to pull a plow and a big Taylor-Way disk equipped with 26-in. dia. discs. I use the loader for everything from hanging up deer carcasses for processing to moving dirt, pushing over small trees, and much more. I previously owned a 2005

snowblowers that were real hard starters. However, after I started using **Sea Foam** these machines usually start right up on the first or second pull. **Sea Foam** also helps to clean spark plugs.”

**Glen Ray Goodson, Galax, Va.:** Glen’s the satisfied owner of a **D&R** walk-behind brush mower. “It sips fuel and does a good job of cutting, with no cleanup afterward like you have with a sicklebar mower. It’s dependable and gets into places too small for a tractor.”

**Donald Schwab, Copeland, Kansas:** Donald’s impressed with **Anatabloc** anti-inflammatory dietary supplement (ph 800 778-2031; [www.anatabloc.com](http://www.anatabloc.com)). “It stopped the arthritis pain in my hands and joints, so now I can work in my shop without hurting.”

**J. Reese, Bloomington, Ill.:** He likes the **Nite Gard** alarm he uses to protect livestock against predators (ph 800 328-6647; [www.niteguard.com](http://www.niteguard.com)). “The red blinking light is sensed as an eye and becomes a threat to the predator. It’s simple to use and keeps varmints off my property, including deer and coyotes.”

**Mike Erie, Fort Scott, Kansas:** “My 2006 **Deere** Gator is trouble-free and does everything I ask it to. It rides on no-flat tires which I really like.”

**Larry D. Keim, Davenport, Neb.:** “About 3 years ago we bought a **Champion** home from **Lifetime Homes** in York, Neb. We asked them several times to fix cracks in the walls and replace the front door because it leaks every time it rains. However, they haven’t even had the courtesy to return my phone calls. I’m disappointed in the company.”

**Ed Gorham, Gladewater, Texas:** “I went through 3 sets of **Firestone** truck tires in just one month. The first set were the wrong tires for my truck and caused it to ride like a hay wagon. The local Firestone service manager doesn’t know tires, so I tried to call the company but got no help. I won’t buy Firestone tires again.”

**Marc Anderson, Caneyville, Ky.:** “I work in a metal fabrication shop where we’ve just started using **Suhner** grinding and flap wheels ([www.suhner.com](http://www.suhner.com)). We had been using carborundum gold grinding wheels and CGW flap wheels on mild and stainless steel. However, the Suhner Magic Disc we use for grinding lasts 3 times as long and works twice as fast, and it’s not much more expensive. The Suhner 60 grit zirconium flap wheel also works great and lasts 4 times as long. We also use Suhner 80 and 120 flap wheels, which do an adequate job.”

**Larry Myers, Shelbina, Mo.:** “I use my **Ford 1720 4-WD** loader tractor just about every day and it works great.

“My **Deere 3020** is also a good tractor.”

**Donald Strick, Eckley, Colo.:** “My **Dutchman** trailer is my worst buy. The brakes on it quit working before I could even drive 5 miles. The plumbing was faulty and pushed the bathroom wall out. I had to pull the trailer 150 miles to Denver to get it fixed. The floor squeaked and they told me to just put in more screws. Whenever it rained water would leak into the front room floor.”

**Mike Barker, Humboldt, Tenn.:** “This is really a working machine. It does a lot more than I expected,” says Mike about his 2010 **Kubota KX121-3** excavator. “I use it to clean fence rows and to install drainage pipe, as well as many other jobs. It’s easy on fuel.”

**Blaine Kalahar, Champlin, Minn.:** “I like my **Rahn** ballfield groomer (ph 800 298-1707; [www.rahnroomer.com](http://www.rahnroomer.com)). It consists of a staggered series of steel street sweeper gutter brooms that are used to level dirt and dethatch grass. It can also be used to prepare the outfield grass for overseeding. It flexes when it hits an obstruction, allowing us to go right over the top of the bases in our ball field without disturbing them.”

**Mahindra 5500 2-WD** tractor, which I also liked a lot.”

**Art Spearman, Independence, La.:** “In 1978 I bought a used 1976 **Kubota L-225** tractor with 106 hrs. on it. I have a small acreage and used this little tractor to mow 3 acres and to tend a small garden. After I retired from oilfield work I started using it to rake and bale pine straw, averaging 15,000 to 20,000 bales per year for 14 years. Now it has more than 4,000 hrs. on it but has only needed replacement of a water pump, bearing, and seal.”

**Bill Flagg, Elverson, Penn.:** “It’s comfortable and reliable and does a great job of cutting my lawn,” says Bill, pleased with his 2011 **Kubota 523** riding mower equipped with a diesel engine.

“My **Timac** fertilizer spreader buggy never works properly. As a result, the crops in my fields end up with streaks.”

**James Tittle, Pembine, Wis.:** “It’s a great stove as far as starting right up,” says James, who has nevertheless had problems with his 2005 **U.S. Stove** American Harvest pellet burner. “The company responds quickly to technical questions and provided a retro kit to upgrade to easier cleanout. However, I’ve burned out 2 motors at a cost of \$139 apiece, and also had to replace 2 agitators. Now the computer is going out and will cost \$339 to replace. I wouldn’t recommend this stove to anyone.”

**Steve Kwiatkowski, Grand Rapids, Mich.:** Steve likes **Sea Foam** motor treatment for gas and diesel engines (ph 952 938-4811; [www.seafoamsales.com](http://www.seafoamsales.com)). “It helps free sticky lifters and piston rings, helps remove fuel deposits and oil residue, and reduces pinging and rough idle. It also boosts octane in gas and helps start old, stubborn engines,” says Kwiatkowski. “I had 2 walk-behind