

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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Stanley Johnson, Wyandotte, Okla.: Stanley’s had a lot of trouble with his 2010 **Deere** 825i Gator 4-WD utility vehicle. “We owned a Gator before so when they came out with the new design, we decided to try it. However, we found the new Gator to be poorly designed and cheaply made. We bought it with a cab and heater for about \$20,000. Many of the parts on this vehicle are made in China, including the engine,” says Stanley.

“This rig has had one problem after another. The engine’s drive belt slips all the time and makes a screaming sound. The air intake valve fell off one day when my son was driving down the road, and we ended up using my wife’s nylon stocking for a filter. The doors won’t stay closed and the tires were way too thin and already had to be replaced. The treads are hardly worn at all, but the tires are made from thin material that punctures way too easily. And when you do get a flat tire, you have to use a high lift jack to lift the bed 2 ft. up in the air just to change the tire.

“The gear shifter is made from lightweight material and had to be replaced under warranty. Every time I shifted gears, it felt

like Deere is riding the shirt tails of their reputation and selling disposable green plastic. After this experience we’ll never buy another Deere of any kind.”

James R. Allen, Columbia, Tenn.: “After reading the article in FARM SHOW’s Vol. 36, No. 1 last January, about **All Bikes** salvage yard in Arizona, I ordered a used rear master cylinder for a 1980 900 Honda CB custom cycle for \$357.48. The check was cashed but after that, nothing. I have been unable to contact them by phone, and a registered letter went unanswered. I have contacted the Better Business Bureau and will be pursuing other avenues. All I want now is my money back.”

Zachary Moss, Hernando, Fla.: “My 2003 **Dodge** Ram 3500 4-WD with Cummins engine gets 20 mpg if I keep it under 70 mph. I bought it new and have only had two problems so far. The A/C ducts will no longer switch from dash to floor. At 60,000 miles the brake pads started rubbing and heating the rotor. I was told the plastic pistons that are now used in the calipers have to be replaced periodically because they expand from the heat and do not retract far enough to stop the pads from rubbing.”

Larry Hilliard, Sandy, Oregon: “I bought a set of **Cooper** Avalanch Extreme tires for my 4-WD pickup. They are by far the best all-weather tires on the market. You can’t believe how well they work in snow. They are factory-siped and have a deep tread and get good mileage.”

Joni Lund, Carrington, N. Dak.: “The best glue I’ve ever used is **Last Glue** (ph 905 465-3805; www.thelastglue.com). Just a tiny drop of glue guarantees an excellent hold. Works best on non porous items like wood, steel, aluminum, porcelain, glass, rubber, pvc, plastic, and leather. Great to repair shoes and boots.”

Quentin Hendrick, Bowling Green, Ky.: “I’ve suffered clinical depression for years. It’s just my lot in life. **Phillips** Reveal 60w clear light bulbs give off a blue hue when you turn them on. That color and heat heals depression. Works for me.”

Gary Schultz, Janesville, Wis.: “My 2000 **Dixie Chopper Turbinator** zero turn mower equipped with a 72-in. deck still runs great. It can go through 10-in. tall grass and leave the lawn looking like it was mowed twice.

“This mower is equipped with two 20 hp gas engines. It’s really fun to operate and will go up to 12 mph. I can cut 4 1/2 acres in only 2 hours. It’s so much fun to use that I can hardly wait for the grass to grow.”

William Miller, West Springfield, Penn.: “I work for American Eagle Windmills, and the **Makita** 18-volt cordless tools we use on the job work great. We tried using a couple other brands but these tools have more power and are compact, which makes them easy to use in tight spots. It takes only 10 to 12 min. to charge the batteries.

“My **Sears Craftsman** socket set doesn’t stay organized in its case, and the first time I used it I broke some of the sockets. I have to keep running to the store to replace sockets. These sockets are built with about the same quality as Harbor Freight tools.”

Jerry L. Dover, Ringgold, Ga.: “We use a grapple fork on our **Bush Hog** front-end loader. A diverter valve that’s used to operate it has failed twice at a cost of \$900 each time. Finally I switched to a **Fasse** valve and that solved the problem (ph 308 233-3040; www.fasse.com).”

Chuck Virtue, Platteville, Wis.: “I love my **Peterson** silage feeder wagons (ph 800 472-1202). They’re easy to maneuver and built heavy. They also work well for feeding big round bales.”

Tom Grilliot, Hutchinson, Kansas: “I’ve had good luck with my 2002 **Deere** 6405 85 hp MFWD tractor equipped with a 640

like I was going to bend it. Another problem is the shifter has to be in exactly the right position or the vehicle won’t even start. A buzzer sounds every time the emergency brake is set, which is about the only thing we can count on working.

“The frame of the cab is made from poly with a glass windshield. The dump bed has a metal floor but plastic on the sides and back. One time I tried to pull my kids on a sled behind the vehicle and hooked a chain up to the front of the bed, so it bent back. The hydraulic cylinders on the dump bed are too small and bent right away.

“We were told by the dealer to keep the heater on during the summer just so the vehicle won’t overheat. If we turn the lights on at night, the battery soon runs down. The fuel gauge is located on top of the gas tank, so the driver has to get out of the cab and look under the vehicle just to see how much gas is in the tank.

“The cab was installed several months after we bought the vehicle. When they came out to our farm to install it they only sent one guy, even though the cab is too heavy for one person to lift. He didn’t even bring any tools with him and had to use mine.

“All together we’ve had the vehicle in to the dealer 3 times, and the dealer has come out to our place 3 times. All we use it for is to check on our cows on pasture, to haul 5-gal. buckets of feed with milk bottles for our calves, along with an occasional bale of straw. In my opinion this Gator is made for hobby farmers who just want to cruise around; it isn’t made for hard use. We could have bought a Jeep Wrangler for the money we’ve spent on this machine.

“We’re still making payments on the Gator, and if we weren’t ‘upside down’ on this vehicle we’d sell it in a heartbeat. I