

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
www.FARMSHOW.com,
or E-mail your comments to:
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Roger Hubmer, Mankato, Minn.: “I installed an electronic ignition system from **Genesee Products** in my Deere 3010 gas tractor (ph 918 274-8000; www.geneseeproducts.com). My dad bought the tractor new the year that model was introduced. Since converting it, the tractor starts easier, runs cooler, doesn’t fowl as many spark plugs, and doesn’t backfire 5 sec. after it is shut off hot, like it used to do. I also converted the tractor to a negative ground system and replaced the generator with an alternator. The kit was easy to install. I just called Genesee Products and they walked me through the process.”

William J. Etl, Fleming, Colo.: “In August, 2008 we had **Morton Buildings** put up a 50 by 100-ft. building on our farm. Materials were delivered in a reasonable time and the crew put it up right away, unlike some local builders who start a job and then go to another one before they’re done.

“In July 2011, the building burned down because of a mistake I made with a welder during harvest. We lost two tractors and a farm truck full of wheat, plus all our tools and supplies. We were uninsured so the fire cost us about \$150,000.

“I called Morton Buildings soon after and had them put up a new building just like the old one. They put it up fast. It really looks nice and is high quality. If we ever have to put up another building, it’ll be a Morton.”

Jim Ruen, Lanesboro, Minn.: “I recently ordered two wrench extenders from **Lee Valley**, the Canadian hardware and tool company. Their catalogs and online websites provide some of my favorite reading.

“The Mechanic’s Wrench Extender is terrific. The tapered lips that provide the leverage fit a variety of box-end shafts up to 7/16 in. thick. At 3/8 in. thick, my 7/8-in. box-end fit fine. The company claims it triples



the leverage on box-ends up to 1/2-in. and doubles it on those up to 1-in. I just know it helps.

“What’s great about this extender, which at \$24.50 is a lot more expensive than the piece of pipe I usually use, are its rare earth magnets. Inset to hold the box-end wrench in place, they grip it tight. Unlike with the pipe, the wrench can’t just slip away into the innards of what I’m working on. If need be, a pipe will slip over the end of the extender even better than it does over the wrench.

“I wasn’t quite as enthused about the extender for router and table/circle saw wrenches. I should have measured the wrench for my table saw, as it’s a hair shy of 1 1/2 in. wide. The extender only fits wrenches up to 1 1/4 in. wide and 1/4 in. thick. That was my mistake.

“It does fit my router wrench, which will

be handy. I thought the L-wrench connection needed to tighten the set screws is a bit of a pain. Now that I have it attached, I’ll probably keep it for the router alone. At a cost of only \$6.50, shipping it back would cost me more than keeping it.”

Glenn Friant, Sr., Morris, Ill.: “Six years ago I regarded my **Ford Ranger** pickup as my worst buy. However, after I got everything fixed it became my best buy. I bought this pickup with about 85,000 miles, and it now has about 200,000 trouble-free miles.”

William Luedke, Mildmay, Ont.: William nominates his 1998 **IH 2388 Axial-Flow** combine, equipped with a 30-ft. header, as his “best buy”. “It has a lot of power and is equipped with a hopper top bin extension, which I really like. The gas tank is big enough that I can work from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. without having to refuel. I also like the automatic chain lubricator on it.

“My **IH 1688 Axial-Flow** combine has about 4,000 hrs. on it and also has had no major problems.

“My **IH 1256** tractor has about 13,000 hrs. but still works and handles great.

“I have more than 1,000,000 miles on my 1980 **IH Transstar II** tandem axle truck equipped with a 350 cu. in. Cummins diesel engine. It can haul 20 tons out of the field with ease. It’s the best truck I’ve ever owned.

“My 2008 **Demco 800-bu.** grain buggy is poorly designed and doesn’t clean out well. It’s a real hassle, because I do custom combining and have to be careful not to mix identity-preserved soybeans with Roundup Ready soybeans.”

Tom Weleske, Hallock, Minn.: Tom’s disappointed with the Recharge mower he bought from **Driven By Solar, Inc.** It’s a rechargeable electric riding mower previously featured in **FARM SHOW** (Vol. 35, No. 2). “This mower seemed like the unit I was looking for and what I wanted for my elderly wife. The company has no dealer network, so I purchased it directly from them.

“We tried using it three times but were never able to finish mowing the lawn. We had continuous problems with electrical connections; the grass chute plugged up even with dry clippings; and the front axle doesn’t oscillate. Also, the mower has a big turning radius.

“I contacted the company and they were helpful in replacing parts, but that didn’t solve the continuous breakdowns. Finally I called and asked for a return shipping label and for a refund. They said they’d get back to me that week, but they never did. I followed up with a faxed letter but still no reply. Several weeks went by and I was informed they would contact their legal department and get back to me the following week, but they never did. So I called back again, with no results.

“I have a machinist background, and I think I could redesign this unit for less than \$200.”

Jack Stafford, Galveston, Ind.: “Jack’s the satisfied owner of a **Bobcat 2200** utility vehicle. “I’m 81 years young and don’t walk easily. I call this rig my ‘mule’ and drive it everywhere. It’s equipped with an electric bed dump which works great for hauling firewood, dirt, leaves, trash, and so forth. I just dump the material out. I even use this vehicle to drive to my mailbox. I love my mule.”

Stuart D. Hardee, Loris, S.C.: “I couldn’t agree more with the comments made by John Juhasz of Montpelier, Ohio, in your last issue. He said he doesn’t like when people list a product as a ‘worst buy’ due to problems after warranties have expired. If I lived closer to him I’d come over and shake his hand. I’m glad to see there’s someone who understands what an expiration on a warranty means.

“I worked as an automotive technician at a GM dealer from 1983 to 1990, and I can