

BUYING TIPS YOU CAN USE

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

Marvin Bourland, Hilham, Tenn.: “One of the best new tools I’ve used in years is my **Power Lock** diagonal extra leverage cutters, which I bought at Lowe’s. They have a leverage system that’s set up like lock cutters but are smaller. The hand grips are also wider and are padded. I can use these tools to make wire rabbit hutches all day long without getting a sore hand.”

Greg Stineman, Florence, Texas: “I like my **Road Boss** 3-pt. mounted grader attachment (ph 800 736-5309; www.roadboss.org). It’s simple, easy to use, and is built rugged. It works well on everything but solid rock and thick grass. A few passes with it turned my rutted, 1/2-mile long driveway into a fairly smooth road. It spreads gravel well and won’t bounce or chatter. It works much better than a standard or box blade.”

Kim Selby, Allegan, Mich.: A **Wood Master** outdoor wood burning stove rates as Kim’s “worst buy”. “The salesman told me this stove was the best on the market. However, after about 5 years the stove started to leak on the top firepot. I sent the stove back to the company to get it fixed. I called after they had it for 3 months and learned they had never even looked at it. Then 2 mo. later they

Ford Model T. I’m 70 years old now but am still driving that car. Dad paid \$30 for it. It still has the original magneto, which is built into the transmission and used to generate electricity.

“My 1984 **Nissan** 4-WD pickup is a best buy. The speedometer had about 350,000 miles on it when it broke 5 or 6 years ago. So I don’t know how many actual miles this pickup has now, but I still drive it every day. At 100,000 miles I took it in to have the valves done, but the mechanic said the engine was in great shape and sent me home without doing any work.”

Bruce Ashick, Pembroke, Ontario: “I like my 2003 **Chevrolet** 2500 heavy duty Duramax diesel pickup equipped with a 5-speed Allison transmission. I bought it used from someone who had bought it to pull a 28-ft. fifth wheel livestock trailer. He had all the minor repairs and maintenance done at a local dealer and had taken good care of the vehicle. I’ve put about 25,000 miles on it with no problems. It starts without having to be plugged in at temperatures down to 13 below zero, and it pulls a heavy load.

“My **DeWalt** 18-volt cordless drill is my worst buy. The drill itself works okay but I don’t like the keyless chuck. One week after I bought the drill the chuck stripped, making it almost impossible to tighten or remove any bits. The company said it was my fault for over-tightening the chuck and wouldn’t stand behind the product. I think this drill should have more steel parts and fewer plastic parts.”

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:
Editor@FARMSHOW.com**

told me the problem was due to ash corrosion, and that it wasn’t covered by the warranty. Ash corrosion on top of the firepot? Holes rusted straight through? On top of it all, I had to take time off from work to go pick up the stove.”

Edward Riley, Zumbro Falls, Minn.: “I had a big problem with my **Echo** CS670 chainsaw. The chain broke and made a hole in the gas tank. It’s less than a year old but I had to pay myself to get it fixed. A few months later, the same thing happened. This time I told the dealer to fix it and then sell it for whatever he could get. I do a lot of wood cutting and have used chainsaws for years. Other chains have broken in the past but they never caused problems. Other models have rubber bumpers or some kind of guard to protect the gas tank. I contacted the company but they didn’t want to hear about it.”

Edwin Lillebo, Presho, S. Dak.: “I’d like to nominate our 266 and 525 **Deere** mowers as best buys. We do custom work with them and both tractors have only required normal maintenance. I wish the 266 zero turn mower was still on the market.”

Ted Olson, Lewiston, Minn.: “I bought a Dole 300 grain moisture tester that malfunctioned. I looked on the internet and contacted **Farmtronics** in Regina, Sask., for repair. I sent it to them in December, 2008. Shipping cost was \$50 and the repair cost was \$162.48. In October, 2009, I went to use it for the first time that year and it gave me no reading whatsoever. I sent it back again in November, paying another \$50 shipping charge. I heard nothing from them before the 20th of January so I had no moisture tester to use last fall and winter.”

Glenn Fisher, Homer, Ga.: “My best buy of all time is the car my Dad bought for me in 1953 when I was just 13 years old - a 1924



Barney Brown, Richwood, Ohio: “The **Billy Goat** walk-behind brush cutter that I bought used is my best buy (ph 816 524-9666; www.billygoat.com). It’s powered by a 10 hp Honda engine with plenty of power. No problems.”

Brian Eich, LaMoille, Ill.: “My 2004 **Stihl** MM55 chainsaw is easy to start, lightweight, and accepts multiple attachments such as a tiller and rubber sweeper attachment. I use the wheel kit with it, which makes it easier to go from one place to another and also helps with depth control. The tiller works great, and the rubber sweeper attachment works great for getting rocks out of the grass in the spring. I give this machine a grade of A+.”

Curtis W. Fox, Brainerd, Minn.: “In a recent issue of FARM SHOW, Mark Haines of North Branch, Mich. said his two **Stihl** 029 chainsaws were extremely hard to start. Then after reading the instruction manual he learned that the 029 requires 89 octane gas. Once he switched to that, the saws started right up and ran great.

“I think it’s almost a must to run 92 or higher octane gas in small engines. The instruction manual for my Case riding mower, which is equipped with a Kohler engine, states to run 90 or higher octane. We mix Sea Foam in with this high octane gas, especially during the fall before storing the machine. That way we don’t have to worry about starting problems the following spring. So far I’ve never had any small engines gum up or fail to start, and they seem to have more power.”

John Forshee, Caro, Mich.: A 2006 **Toyota** van rates as John’s “best buy”. “It has