

## BUYING TIPS YOU CAN USE

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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**Clyde Fogg, Lee, New Hampshire:** “I was sold a bill of goods when I bought a **Tatanka 979** off-road vehicle from Tatanka International in Pierre, S.Dak. With upgrades, it sold for \$13,800. I sent them the money but they never delivered the truck. Now it’s 8 months later and we can’t even get in touch with the company. I’m working with the South Dakota Attorney General’s office and the New Hampshire AG’s office, and my own attorney as well. I hope no one else gets burned.”

**Mark Haines, North Branch, Mich.:** “We’ve owned Stihl chainsaws for years and have always been happy with them. Then we bought a couple **Stihl 029** models a year ago. They were extremely hard to start. We had to crank and crank, and then they would only run well when hot. Finally, my wife asked if I had read the instruction manual. I hadn’t so I took a look and saw that the 029 requires 89 octane gas. Since we switched to that, they start right up and run great. Hope this helps someone else.

“We were doing some work in the woods with our 2-year-old **Massey Ferguson 451** 52-hp. tractor, when we heard a bang like dynamite going off. We had been pushing hard

“I own a **Massey Ferguson 150, Ford 601**, and two **Farmall Cubs** and haven’t had any problems with them.”

**Steve Reuter, Stillwater, Minn.:** “It has made more than 10,000 bales with very few problems,” says Steve about his 2003 **Claas Rollant Uniwrap** round baler. “This baler is designed with a rotor cut unit on back that allows simultaneous baling and wrapping. As a result, one person can do two jobs at once and only need to concentrate on baling. Everything else is fully automatic. The machine produces excellent haylage bales which my dairy cattle love. Their milk production has increased a lot.”

**Marlin Mullins, Terry, Miss.:** “I like my **Land Pride** loader-mounted hydraulic posthole digger. The value is not so much in the brand, but in being able to use a bucket-mounted posthole digger instead of a pto-driven one. Mounted up front the posthole digger is easy to see and allows reversing if the auger catches a root. Most importantly, the downward force of the entire front end of the tractor can be used in hard ground. A posthole digger mounted up front is safer for the operator and also for anyone helping to set posts. Standard augers can be used with the hydraulic drive units.”

**Douglas Voegeli, Stillwater, Minn.:** Douglas likes **EasySet Mole Eliminator Traps** which can be set without any digging or handling spears or clamps (ph 888 778-7988; www.easysetmoletrap.com).

“I’ve tried using poisons, professional exterminators, fork-type mole traps, and double loop traps. I also tried using battery-operated sonic devices and even castor oil but nothing worked – until last summer when my **EasySet** traps sent 12 moles to mole heaven. It’s a great product, easy to set, and it works. I now own six of these traps and deploy them at the first sight of mole activity.”

**Mike Reed, Schoharie, N.Y.:** “My 2006 **Echo CS-305** chain saw has a lot of power for its size and starts easy. It’s a good, light saw for use on tree limbs, small trees, and sprouts.

“My 2008 **Honda CRV 4-WD** car is fuel efficient and, with all wheel drive, has excellent traction in snow and ice. It has about 15,000 miles on it.

“I like my **Muck** insulated rubber boots (ph 870 772-2715; www.muckbootsandshoes.com). They keep my feet warm during the winter and not too hot in the summer. They’re made from a comfortable, tough rubber.

“I’m disappointed with my **Ryobi** cordless drill/saw combo. The batteries have a short charge life, and a bearing on the saw went out after only three recharges.”

**Kazira Temple, Pisgah, Alabama:** “I built this **Rans S-4** airplane in my shop from a kit

against a log to move it when this happened. The tractor came to a stop. We took it to the dealer and learned that the part that broke was a 5 to 6-in. spline that mounts between the driveshaft and transmission. It’s a safety part, like a shear pin, that’s ground down on the sides so it will break if too much force is applied, supposedly saving the transmission from damage. It cost \$660 to repair. Now I’m scared to use this tractor for hard work. Who knows when this part will break again? Whatever happened to pushing a tractor to its limit?”

**Paul Bliss, Atlanta, Mich.:** “After reading about the **Firewood Gripper** in the last issue of **FARM SHOW**, I bought two of the larger units from Lockhart’s **Firewood Gripper** (ph 715 842-0207). These grippers are extremely user friendly. I wish I’d had them 20 years ago, they make it much easier to handle two big chunks of wood at a time.”

**B. R. Mitcham, Madisonville, La.:** “I like my 2007 **Ford F-150 XLT** pickup equipped with a 4.6-liter, V-8 engine. It has a lot of leg room, hauls like a truck, and drives like a big Cadillac. It gets at least 20 mpg. My wife drives a 2007 **Mercury Grand Marquis** but we always travel together in the F-150.

“My 1980 **Ford F-100** pickup still runs great. I installed a **Ford F-350** 4-speed transmission in it.

“My worst buy is my **Kubota MX5100** tractor equipped with a front-end loader. For the pto to turn at 540 rpm’s the engine has to turn at 2,700 rpm’s, which is way too fast. The drive train is noisy in all gears, as if they’re not meshing right. I brought the tractor back to the company but they said nothing is wrong. The tractor only has 11 hours on it.



that I bought in 1994. The kit was a 1992 model and had already been partially built. It took me about three months to finish building it. It flies great and I have more than 200 hours on it now. I fly it from my back yard. It takes off and lands quickly.”