

Tractor Supply Company is a best buy (www.tractorsupply.com). I use it for both grass and leaves and it has a lot of capacity. I'd recommend it to anyone.

"My **Grizzly** 12-volt 3/8-in. drill and 4 1/2-in. saw are both worst buys. The drill lacked power and the battery went dead very quickly. Same with the saw. I accidentally dropped the drill from my work bench and the case flew apart. These tools are junk."

Lynn Casterline, Richey, Montana: "It has about 9,000 hours on it but still doesn't use any oil. And it always starts, even in cold weather," says Lynn about his **Belarus** 825 front wheel assist loader tractor. "With that many hours you're going to have some breakdowns. However, overall I'm happy with this tractor. A lot of people say Belarus tractors are unreliable and parts are hard to come by, but I found just the opposite to be true. Except for when it needed repair work, this tractor has never failed me and runs on less fuel than any other tractor I've owned."

"I also own a **Belarus** 8345 loader tractor equipped with front-wheel assist, turbocharger, and shuttle shift. It works just as good as the 825 but has a few more creature comforts."

"I own two **Kawasaki** Mule utility vehicles - a 3010 diesel and a 3010 gas model - and like both of them. Both are 4-WD models equipped with tilt beds. Since buying them I rarely drive a pickup to the pasture. They work far better than a four-wheeler because I can haul all my fencing materials with me. The gas model is quite cold blooded, but otherwise they're both reliable. The gas model has about 14,000 miles on it and the diesel 9,300 miles."

Daniel Moore, Billings, Montana: "It's one of the best lawn tractors I've ever owned," reports Daniel, impressed with his 2008 **Husqvarna** 26 hp riding mower equipped with a 46-in. deck. "It's powered by a Briggs & Stratton engine that's easy on fuel, and the hydrostatic transmission is smooth."

"My 2007 **Deere** 300-R tractor is my worst buy. It went back to the dealer three times for belt and pulley problems, and the last time the tractor was just about to catch on fire when I stopped and checked the belts. A pulley had broken so back it went to the dealer again."

Clarence Maupin, Scotts Bluff, Neb.: "In 1978 I bought a **New Holland** 778 skid loader equipped with oversized tires and three basic attachments - a light materials bucket, a heavy material bucket, and a manure-utility fork. Since then I've built five or six other attachments that add a lot to the machine's capabilities."

"I feed 300 cattle annually and used this loader to handle all my feed and manure and to do construction work. I still use it today on my small acreage, working for neighbors and doing volunteer work for church and a local college. Many people have tried to buy this skid loader from me, but I tell them that next to my wife it'll be the last thing to go."

"After I retired I bought a 1995 **Yardman** 15 hp, 42-in. riding mower which I like. I also use it to do volunteer work at the church and college. It has about 2,500 hours on it."

"I also own a 2007 **Cub Cadet** 1046 20 hp lawn tractor equipped with a 46-in. deck that I really like. I bought the optional grass catcher for the machine. However, I'm disappointed that such a fine mower still uses basically the same grass catcher that's on my 1995 Yardman. I think if they'd come up with a grass catcher with an auxiliary blower they could sell a lot more of these tractors."

Thelma R. Harris, Oroville, Wash.: A

1985 **Subaru** Brat ranks as Thelma's "best buy". "When I was an Army recruiter in West Memphis, Arkansas, I called a Subaru dealer in Memphis and the salesman described the 'Brat' over the phone and I bought it sight unseen. Now 25 years later it has more than 350,000 miles on it yet still runs like new, although it does need a new paint job. My husband, who I 'found' 10 years ago, is a Subaru technician, which helps!"

The **Briggs & Stratton** 18 1/2 hp engine on my 2007 riding mower is my worst buy. With less than 100 hours it threw a rod through the engine case. And at 25 hours the Sears mechanic had to service the valves."

Carl Jeffries, Ardmore, Alabama: "My **Belarus** 572 tractor takes a beating but still keeps on going. It's a dependable machine. If something ever goes wrong I call the Belarus dealer in Lawrence, Tenn. and he tells me how to fix it myself, which saves a lot of money."

Robert E. Whitehead, Kiowa, Colo.: "I like my **Deere** 495 riding mower equipped with a 56-in. mower deck and Yanmar diesel engine. I use it to mow two to three acres every summer."

"My **Deere** 4-WD Gator is also equipped with a Yanmar diesel engine. It's a good, heavy machine. I use it to check on cattle and to do chores around my farm. Yanmar diesel engines cost more but make up for it with power and fuel efficiency."

Bill Farster, Wakeman, Ohio: "I contacted **Jim's Repair** in Hastings, Minn., to repower my 30-year-old Cub Cadet 1650 garden tractor with a new Vanguard engine. I



"They sent everything I needed to install the engine. The installation was easy."



couldn't be happier with the results (ph 651 437-7199). It made an old tractor work better than new. They sent everything I needed to install the engine. The actual installation was easy."

Richard Colley, Othello, Wash.: Richard likes **Dodge** pickups equipped with Cummins engines. "I bought my first Dodge diesel pickup in 1989 and am on my fourth one now. I put about 125,000 miles on that first model before selling it to my father-in-law. These pickups are fuel efficient and can pull almost anything."

James H. Crowley, Sr., Madisonville, Ky.: James is the proud owner of a 1998 **Ford** 1220 compact utility tractor equipped with a 3-cyl. diesel engine, which he bought used. "I bought this tractor about two months before a big ice storm hit last January. I put a 5-ft. grader blade behind it. Our road was completely closed off with tree limbs and ice. The tractor did an excellent job of clearing my road. This tractor is more powerful than I thought it would be."

A **Yerf Dog** utility vehicle rates as his "worst buy". "This utility vehicle is hard to start. It only has about 85 hours on it but already the complete rear axle assembly has been replaced. Also, the chain and sprocket assembly, carburetor, air filter, and fuel pump have also had to be replaced. I wouldn't recommend this machine to anyone."

Darriel Wendell Johnson, Deville, La.: "Last July I bought a new 23-ft. **American Eagle** windmill to aerate my pond (ph 440 236-3278; www.pondaeration.com). It's well-built and reasonably priced and does what it's supposed to do - pump oxygen into my pond so the fish won't die."

They Like "Sentry Pac" Aeration

Lynn Clarkson, owner and operator of Clarkson Grain, Cerro Gordo, Ill., likes his Sentry Pac aeration controller. It's designed to maintain grain quality during long-term storage by putting moisture back into grain once it's in the bin.

Sentry-Pac is a computerized controller that turns aeration fans on or off depending on weather conditions. The unit monitors the temperature and relative humidity and makes a decision every 15 min. whether or not to operate the fans. It allows you to input a target moisture content and then it'll run the fans with two primary objectives: to prevent spoilage and to achieve uniform moisture content.

Sometimes harvesting conditions are such that you have to do your combining when beans are as low as 9 percent moisture. With Sentry Pac, over time you can raise moisture in the bins to 13 or even 14 percent. The cost of operation is nominal once the Sentry Pac is installed - about 10 cents per bushel, says Clarkson.

FARM SHOW also talked to T. J. Dobson, Cerro Gordo, Ill., who has 15 years experience with Sentry Pac.

Dobson has used the system with beans, but most of his experience is with white corn which is used in the tortilla market.

On the "worst buy" list, he's dissatisfied with his 2008 **Troy Bilt** Pony tiller. "I bought this tiller when the engine blew up on my 18-year-old model. When I got it home and started it for the first time it didn't run right. The company sent me a new engine, but it doesn't work much better. The throttle is located on front of the engine, so to stop the engine you have to run around to the front. This will be my last Troy Bilt."



J. F. Clements, Mansfield, Ohio: "I like the propane weed torch I bought from **Sievert Industries** (ph 815 639-1319; www.sievertindustries.com). It worked good for more than a year before the electronic igniter on it broke. However, the company promptly replaced it without charge within 72 hours. I really like that kind of service."

Dan Penicaro, Greenville, S. C.: A healing skin creme called "**O' Keeffe's Working Hands**" rates as Dan's "best buy" (ph 800 275-2718; www.okeeffescompany.com). It's marketed in a handy, hockey puck-sized container and doesn't contain any oil because oil repels moisture. By using water and glycerin instead, the product attracts moisture, drawing it to the skin and keeping it there. It sells in 3.4 and 5-oz. containers. "It works and is reasonably priced," says Dan.

Wilbur Michels, Oreana, Ill.: Wilbert likes his **Sleeper Beeper**, now called the Nap Zapper Driver Alert Alarm (www.napzapper.biz). It's a battery-powered device that fits behind your ear and sounds an alarm when your head goes below a preset angle. The alarm shuts off as soon as you



T. J. Dobson has 15 years of experience with his Sentry Pac aeration controller and has been happy with the results.

Market demands require him to keep corn in the field late. He's been very happy with the results.

One thing about adding moisture to stored grains is that it will expand some. While this could possibly cause a bin to burst, Clarkson hasn't had any problems.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, SentryTGM, LLC, dba Sentry Technologies, 15710 El Prado Road, Chino, Calif. 91710 (ph 909 606-3070; info@sentrytgm.com; www.sentrytgm.com) or Lynn Clarkson, Cerro Gordo, Ill. (ph 217 763-2861) or T. J. Dobson, Cerro Gordo, Ill. (ph 217 369-3865).

straighten your head. "I'm retired now, but I was an over-the-road truck driver and often had to drive all night. My family bought the **Sleeper Beeper** for me and it saved my life," says Wilbur.

Kenneth Goodman, Elkton, Ky.: "My **Deere** 5410 tractor is my worst buy. At 800 hours the brakes seized up and cost \$2,800 to fix. The clutch went out at 1,400 hours and cost \$3,000 to fix. However, the tractor works great otherwise."

Philip Myers, Hallsopple, Penn.: "I like my **Streamlight** Stylus Pro LED flashlight (ph 800 523-7488; www.streamlight.com). It's a high-powered LED penlight that provides a super-bright beam. It runs on two AAA batteries, yet puts out 24 Lumens and runs for 7 1/2 hours. It'll shine 50 to 100 ft. in the dark yet is small enough to fit into my shirt pocket. The company also makes a one-cell version of this light called the **Micro Stream** that produces 20 lumens and runs for 1 1/2 hours."

Roger Gutschmidt, Gackle, N. Dak.: "I just love my radio headphones that I use to protect my ears from engine noise



and provide entertainment. They look like ordinary earmuffs, except that they have an AM/FM radio built in. I bought them from **Gempler's** (you can go online to find them at www.gemplers.com; 800-382-8473). They cost me about \$75 a year ago, but are well worth it. Gempler's sells good quality stuff. I think all farmers should have a pair and they should buy the highest decibel-rated ones available. Mine have been very dependable and they get good reception. I