

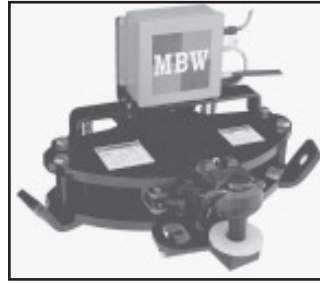
## BUYING TIPS YOU CAN USE

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

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Clayton Larson, Odebolt, Iowa: “I’ve used an MBW automatic hydraulic drawbar for three years. We’ve got some rolling ground, and the side draft would pull my 1,600-gal. sprayer down the hill pretty good if we didn’t



have this drawbar. We’re on 30-in. rows and close to a river, so you can go from bottom ground to steep hillsides pretty fast. It’s a trailing sprayer, and the wheels probably sit back at least 15 feet from the tractor. With the MBW automatic hydraulic hitch, I don’t even have to look back. If the tractor is in line with the rows, the hitch takes care of the sprayer, adjusting according to the slope. It has up to 26 inches of swing from one side to another.

# 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,  
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Editor@FARMSHOW.com**

The steeper the slope, the more it adjusts.

“There is no greasing, as all the wear points are heavy-duty plastic. You can switch it to manual, but I never have. It really does what it’s supposed to do.”

**Don Vogel, Weyburn, Sask.:** “My best buy is the **Precision Farm Parts** high inertia aftermarket rotor that I bought last year for my Gleaner R-50 combine (ph 701 459-2228; www.pfparts.com). This high inertia rotor has far surpassed the performance of the combine’s original rotor. It also takes less power so fuel consumption dropped by enough that I can operate three hours longer per tank of fuel. Never once on 1,220 acres did the rotor get out of balance, as the combine’s original rotor was prone to do.”

On the “worst buy” side, “In 2006 I bought a grain burning stove from **American Energy Systems, Inc.**, Hutchinson, Minn. This stove works well enough when burning cleaned, dry rye. However, it’s a high maintenance unit that can’t be left alone for more than five or six hours in cold weather. The stove has a habit of going out for no reason when I’m sitting right beside it.”

**Bobby Chandler, Robstown, Texas:** “Our 1999 **Kawasaki** 2510 Mule is a handy utility vehicle. We use it to pull a 16-ft. flatbed trailer loaded with fencing supplies, and we also use it for recreation. We’ve replaced the battery and one of the tires.”

**Dallas Klindt, Harlan, Iowa:** Dallas is impressed with his 1998 **Kinze** 2600 series 12-30-23 twin line planter. “I’ve always owned ‘green’ planters, but I was disappointed in the direction the company was going in regard to planter simplicity and transport width. This Kinze planter is a joy to operate in the field, and its narrow transport width is nice on the highways and country roads that I travel between farms.

“Soy biodiesel fuel has caused many head-

aches for me. I first used it during the late summer and early fall of 2006. Whenever the temperature dropped below 30 degrees the fuel would no longer flow from my gravity tanks, and it wrecked a new pump on another holding tank. As a soybean grower I feel that I should use and promote Soy-Biodiesel, but after my experience with it, I won’t.”

**Ray Graves, Loudon, Tenn.:** “My 2006 diesel-powered **Kubota** ZD-28 zero turn mower equipped with a 72-in. deck is my best buy. I use it to mow pastures, large fields, and yards. It’ll go four hours on five gallons of fuel and has reduced my mowing time by half.

“The cab I bought for my 1979 **Deere** 4430 tractor is a best buy. But the cab I bought for my **Deere** 6420 4-WD tractor is not. The fuel gauge on it works only part of the time, and the ‘miles per hour’ gauge has never worked. A Deere dealer has worked on it twice but it still doesn’t work right.”

**Brian Stapinski, Kansas City, Mo.:** “I like the 8-ft. dual operator dry blast cabinet I bought from **TP Tools & Equipment** (ph 800 321-9260; www.tptools.com). I operate a fabrication and restoration shop, and with this cabinet I’m able to do jobs in minutes that used to take hours with conventional hand held tools such as grinders, wire wheels, and sanders. It works so well my employees don’t even notice when it’s time to go home.”

On the “worst buy” side is his **Green Machine** leaf blower. “I had to finish a large job on a Saturday afternoon so I went to the local hardware store and spent \$109 on this leaf blower. On the second pull the rope starter broke, and the hardware store owner wouldn’t refund my money. They said I could get it fixed under warranty in about two weeks. I left it there and bought a new **Stihl** blower.”

**Michael Washburn, Caledonia, Wis.:** “I like the cordless drill I bought from **Festool Tools** (ph 800 714-0918; www.cpfestool.com). It’s comfortable to use and has a lot of power for a 12-volt drill. It comes with several interchangeable heads. The drill beeps whenever the battery needs to be charged.

“I also like my **Festool** plunge-cut circular saw, which is equipped with an 8 1/4-in. blade and a 55-in. guide rail. The edge has a rubber strip on it to prevent splinters when cross cutting. You place the edge of the rubber on the scribed line for a perfect cut every time. Works great for cutting off doors or for cutting panels to size. You can purchase different lengths of rails or connect two together to whatever length you need.

“This saw has a lot of power and the blade can be changed quickly and easily. I could write a book about this company’s line of tools. They’re quite costly, but the feeling you get when using them is overwhelming. I also bought some of the company’s sanders and routers.”

**Joel Twist, Eagle Creek, Oregon:** “It’s the best investment this 65-year-old has made in a long time,” reports Joel, pleased with his **SpeCo** 34-ton log splitter equipped with a Briggs & Stratton 8 hp engine (ph 800 525-8322; www.speeco.com). “I pull it behind my ATV into the woods. It always starts right up and has never stalled, even on crotchety old Douglas fir. I’d recommend this log splitter to anyone.”

**Clifford Bottens, Beardstown, Ill.:** “My 2005 **Kubota** L48 trac loader backhoe burns very little fuel and is my best buy. It’s so easy to use almost anyone could operate it. It’s equipped with a hydrostatic transmission and will do a lot of work.”

**Carol Perrer, Columbia, Miss.:** “My **Arctic Cat** 300 4-wheeler is a handy work horse. I use it to pull fencing, to spray trees and fields, and to do general chores. It saves gas.”

**Jerome Kline, Brooklyn, Iowa:** Jerome