

BUYING TIPS YOU CAN USE

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

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Tom DuFresne, Grant, Minn.: “I’ve used my **Schweiss** zero turn mower for 12 years with almost no problems (Schweiss Welding, www.schweisswelding.com; ph 507 426-7828). Most of the parts are standard off-the-shelf components so you can buy them anywhere. My mower has a 72-in. deck and steers with a single joy stick so it’s very maneuverable and easy to use. I hope I never have to mow with anything else.”

Gerald Schroeder, Chino, Calif.: “My best buy is a **TOBY** diesel fuel processor I bought from www.myfastfuel.com. I first saw it in FARM SHOW’s Vol. 30, No. 5 issue. It turns waste oil into diesel fuel. By

from **Harbor Freight**. “It was broken when I received the shipment. Due to the inflator’s low cost, it was cheaper to accept the loss than to return it, as the return postage would have cost more than the inflator was worth.”

Mike Shy, New Carlisle, Ohio: Mike likes his **Simplicity** Legacy riding mower equipped with a 60-in. deck. “This is our second Simplicity mower. We bought our first one in 1990 and had very few problems with it on our five acres. We just used it until it wore out. These mowers are easy to work on and seem to last forever.”

On the minus side, he lists his 2005 **Sears Craftsman** riding mower. “The company offered a ‘no interest for six months’ financing deal so I took the bait. What they didn’t tell me was how bad their mowers are. It doesn’t cut level and stalls easily, and it’s hard to work on. Finally I just gave it away and bought another Simplicity.”

John Zobeck, New Hampton, Iowa: “In a recent issue of FARM SHOW, Vernon Stolte of Watertown, Wis., said he had trouble with his **Waterwise** water distiller I have a distiller of the same make, which I bought in June of 2005. However, I’ve been enjoying pure clean water every day since I bought it.

“Stolte mentioned the unit shut off before it distilled a full bottle of water. I had the same problem and found that the bottom plate inside, which heats the water, builds up with lime from the water which causes it to shut off prematurely. Here’s what to do: Every month or so clean the inside with a brush and rinse it clean, then put enough vinegar inside to cover the bottom plate and let it soak overnight. Rinse it good the next morning and fill it with water, then plug it in. This idea solved the problem for me.”

Jonast Ada, Hadley, Penn.: “Our 1992 **Ford** Chatou full-size van, which we bought used in 1998 with about 68,000 miles on it, is our best buy. We use it every summer on vacation to pull our pop-up camper as well as to haul a ZTR mower home from Arkansas. We also use it to transport feed and farm machinery, etc. Our biggest expense was to replace a rusted-out oil pan. After 15 years this van is still very tight, with no rattles. We just sold it to downsize to a minivan. The van had about 214,000 miles on it.

“We used our 1981 **Ford** F-150 pickup hard, but even so it lasted 20 years until we bought another F-150 to replace it.”

Allan Pratt, Webster, S. Dak.: “I bought my 1989 **Oldsmobile** 88 used five years ago and it now has more than 178,000 miles on it. The engine has never been touched and still runs like new without using any oil. We replaced the shocks, blower motor, and belts. Parts for it are low priced and easy to replace. Overall, this is a high-quality car.”

Stephen Robertson, Kendallville, Ind.: “My 2000 **Honda** EU generator is my best buy. It starts right up and runs quiet, and with a light load will go for 10 hours on one gallon of gas.”

Scott W. Ingram, Bloomington, Neb.: “I like my 2006 **Husqvarna** Rancher 55 chainsaw. Once this saw warms up it’ll start with one pull, and it has plenty of power and safety features.

“My 2005 **Deere** LT 150 riding mower is a real treat to operate. I use it about four hours per week and have had no problems. It has an excellent bagger and mulcher.

“My 2004 **Stihl** 026 chainsaw didn’t work right from the day I bought it and is my worst buy. It’s hard, if not impossible, to start and never would run more than five minutes at a time. The dealer told me it needed a new cylinder and piston. But after he installed them it didn’t work much better, and I was out \$260. Now this saw sets in my shop gathering dust.”

Dan Erlinger, Lineville, Alabama: “My best buy is a 1968 **International** Scout 800

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**

mixing used engine and transmission oil with new diesel fuel in a 50/50 mixture, I’m able to make 15 gal. of fuel for my tractor backhoe in a very short time. It provides a real savings, as our diesel prices here in California have been unreal. I enjoy explaining how simple this system works and would be happy to talk about it with any readers (ph 909 627-2880; gerald.schroeder@verizon.net).”

Marlin Mullins, Terry, Miss.: “My **Kubota** M4900 4-WD is fitted with a **Bushhog** 246 loader. I’ve added several different attachments to the loader, including a grapple, forks, and a hydraulic posthole digger. This tractor is a real workhorse for general purpose small farm use. I also use it to skid logs and to load my small sawmill.

“My worst buy is a **Purdy** paintbrush comb. It’s an excellent concept – a metal tooth comb used to come out a paint brush when cleaning it. It worked really well except that after about three uses, most of the teeth fell out.”

Randy Wickman, Alleman, Iowa: “My 1968 **Deere** 4020 tractor equipped with a diesel engine and powershift transmission is by far my best buy. This tractor starts right up in cold weather with no ether and no glow plug. It runs great.”

Donald Thomas, Milladore, Wis.: “My 2001 **Honda** Foreman ES ATV, which I bought used with low mileage, is a great machine. It’s also fun to ride.

“My **Deere** 3020, equipped with a model 1530 loader, is a great tractor.”

Paul Kresci, Deerton, Mich.: Paul’s the proud owner of a 2006 **Stihl** MS 250 chainsaw. “I bought this chainsaw to replace my Stihl 026 model. It has performed flawlessly and is easy to maintain. I use it to cut an average of eight cords of wood each year.”

On the “worst buy” side is a dual tire inflator with pressure gauge that he bought