

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
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B.W. Donaldson, Memphis, Tenn.: He’s disappointed with his 2005 **Montana 4-WD**, 38 hp loader tractor. “The support brackets for the bolts that secure the front-end loader sheared off. Then, with less than 100 hours on the tractor, the clutch assembly went out. It has a dry disc-type clutch system. Now the engine rpm indicator has failed.

“I’ve used this tractor to bush hog my property, but because of problems with the clutch system this tractor should be used only on flat ground. I paid \$18,000 for it. No more off-brand tractors for me.”

Merle Hazen, Protection, Kansas: “I like my 2006 **EZ Boardwalk** portable sawmill and have nothing but positive things to say about it. It has performed flawlessly on several thousand board feet of eastern red cedar, walnut, Catalpa, and locust. I especially like how the cutting head sits at an angle to the log. It lets you enter the log at full speed instead of having to ease into it.”

Ralph Morgan, Bloomfield, Mo.: Ralph’s the proud owner of a 2002 **Chevrolet Silverado HD Duramax** pickup equipped with a diesel engine and Allison transmission. “This truck outpulls the last one I had and has power to spare.

pickup. To make it work even better, we designed an electric lift that lets us raise or lower the plow right from the pickup cab. It works so good that we made up several units for sale.”

Edward Welters, Verona, Mo.: “Our 1993 **Dodge** pickup equipped with a Cummins diesel engine is a best buy. Over the years this pickup has been trouble-free. It’s also fuel efficient.”

Jim Taylor, Onaway, Mich.: “I like my mid 1950’s **Deere 40C** crawler tractor which I bought used about 15 years ago. It has required only routine maintenance and always starts and works great.

“My **Stihl 028** Super chainsaw is a best buy. All I’ve replaced are the bars and chains. It’s a dependable saw.

“My **Dremel** contour sander is my worst buy. I wasn’t able to even finish sanding one chair that we were refinishing. Now all I have is a plastic box and a bunch of new sanding pads.”

Lisa Young, West Palm Beach, Florida: “My **DeWalt 368** circular saw is my best buy. I bought it for my husband for Valentine’s Day. He says it’s one of the best saws he’s ever owned. It cuts smooth and clean. He uses this saw at work and at home and loves it.

“My 2006 **Jeep Grand Cherokee** is my worst buy. At speeds under 25 mph the brakes sometimes failed. The vehicle had less than 3,000 miles on it when this problem started happening. I was told by the dealer that there was nothing wrong. After this problem happened in front of my son’s school I got rid of the vehicle. As a side note, a co-worker of mine has the same problem with their 2007 **Jeep Commander**.”

Loyal Fulton, Selma, Iowa: “My 2003 **Honda Foreman** ATV has about 7,500 miles on it with no problems. It works great for fixing fences and checking cattle, and goes through mud so deep that it would be difficult to walk through.”

Lyle Oakes, Montrose, Penn.: “My **Swisher** 4-wheeled trail-behind, 60-in. mower does a good job and is my best buy. It can be set to trail offset or straight behind the towing vehicle. By pulling a 46-in. mower along with it I can mow about a 102-in. wide swath. Also, it doesn’t scalp on uneven ground.”

Weaver Majors, Little Rock, Ark.: “This truck has plenty of power and gets 18 to 21 mpg. It’s never been in the shop for repairs,” says Weaver, pleased with his 2005 **Chevrolet Silverado 2500 HD Turbo Diesel** pickup.

On the minus side, he lists his 2004 **Kubota TG 1860** 18 hp diesel lawn tractor. “The power steering failed just after the warranty expired. It would have cost more than \$400 to repair so now I use this tractor without power steering. It has only about 140 hours on it but already I’ve had to replace the ignition switch, starter, starter solenoid, and battery, and now it has a cracked fuel tank. The engine has always been hard to start, even with a preheater, whenever the temperature drops below 70 degrees. I paid a premium for this tractor but it turned out to be junk. I wish I had my **Deere** riding mower back.”

Rick Lutt, Dallas, S. Dak.: “My 2006 **Yamaha Rhino 450** is a great utility vehicle. I use it to do a lot of spot spraying. It’s really nice to be able to drive with either hand and control your speed with your foot, instead of having to use your hand like you do with an ATV. It has adequate road speed and plenty of power. The only negative is that I have to remove the center console in order to check the oil.”

Marie Ellis, Dexter, New Mexico: “My **Sears Craftsman** weed trimmer works great on fences. However, the ball that holds the trimmer line is made of plastic and gets hot



“My **Bully Dog Power Pup** engine programmer made this truck much more fun to drive and improved the fuel efficiency by 3 mpg (ph 866 285-5936; www.bullydog.com).”

Mike Bouris, Menifee, Calif.: “I like my 1998 **Deere 730** air seeder equipped with a 787 cart, which I bought used. We got a perfect stand. It’s well built and should last a long time. We bought it sight unseen from Far Better Farm Equipment in Westport, South Dakota, and it arrived in perfect shape.”

Daryl Bueger, Redmond, Oregon: “I’m absolutely amazed how good my **Gravely 2260** zero turn mower works. It’s built rugged and is safe and easy to operate. It has reduced my mowing time by half. I like it so much that after mowing two acres I still don’t want to get off it. It’s equipped with a 21 hp Briggs & Stratton twin V-engine.”

Donald Borton, Delavan, Ill.: He’s happy with the **Stihl 029** chainsaw he bought 20 years ago. “I use it to cut an average of five cords a year. No problems. When it’s warm it requires only one pull to start.

“I bought a small **Kubota L2550** tractor in 1984 as a chore tractor and still use it all summer long. No problems in all those years.”

Ron J. Stoen, Stoen Farm Supply, Lowry, Minn. ph 800 323-5769: “I like my **Snow Sport** aluminum 7-ft. snowplow that mounts on the front receiver hitch of my