

Farmers Nominate Best & Worst Buys

Carl Tiede, Britton, Mich.: "Back in 1953 I bought a new Farmall Super M. I've done a lot of work with this tractor over the years but have overhauled the engine just once. I don't know how many hours are on it."

"I also like my Case IH 7130 tractor, which I bought used."

Kevin Ericson, Axtell, Neb.: "I like the 20-ton air-over-hydraulic jack I bought at Northern Tool. I bought it to replace the 20-ton hydraulic jack that came with my shop press, and find that it has much more power and operates faster. It cost just over \$130, including shipping. I was so impressed that I bought another jack from them to use around our farm."

Charles Johnson, Duluth, Minn.: "This is an excellent piece of equipment," says Charles about his 2010 Deere X700 riding mower equipped with a 48-in. deck and cab. In winter he also uses it with a 47-in. snowblower. "The mower works great, but I like the snowblower even better. It blows snow with ease. Last winter I spent more than 40 hrs. blowing snow. We had more than 130 in. of snow and 70 days below zero, but we had no breakdowns or repairs. The riding mower is a pleasure to handle and the cab has a good heater and windshield wiper."

Doug McAlexander, Cedar Grove, Tenn.: "I ordered an Oregon CS 250 40-volt, battery-powered chainsaw with a 2.4-amp hour battery that's supposed to double the saw's running time. The saw came with a 14-in. bar and a battery charger. It cost \$399 plus tax."

"I bought the saw to cut fence posts and dead trees along my fence lines. But whenever I try to cut a 5 to 10-in. dia.



my best buy. The truck was nice, but when I saw the bed slide out, I was sold."

"I had never seen anything like it until I saw the Silverado. The bed stops about halfway out, 3/4 of the way out or all the way out, like a drawer in a cupboard."

"I use it for hauling everything, but it's especially great for hauling things like apples to the farmers market. I just back into the stall and slide out the bed. I don't have to lift things out or crawl into the box to get things that have slid to the front."

"The bed sits between the wheel wells, which leaves some space between it and the sidewalls. I fixed up cardboard boxes that fit in the space to hold tools and things."

"The track bolts through the bed to the frame and looks like it would be no trouble to remove. If I get another truck, the bed may move to it."

Dan Miller, Middlefield, Ohio: "The Model 2010 Reliable Cultimulcher from D.A. Hochstetler & Sons (4165 S. 500 W., Topeka, Ind. 46571) is the best soil fitting tool



Remote-controlled Auger-Jogger makes it easy to move swing hopper into place under trucks and wagons.

Auger Jogger "Best Buy"

Brian Flom, Kenyon, Minn.: says the electric Auger-Jogger that he uses to move the swing hopper on his 10-in. auger is a real time and back saver.

"Before I bought the Auger-Jogger, getting that swing hopper in place under trucks and wagons was a real pain," Flom says. "Whoever was unloading had to stop the wagons in exactly the right place every time and then use a metal bar to pull or push the hopper under the wagon or truck chute."

The Auger-Jogger has 2 drive wheels that mount onto brackets bolted to the swing hopper where the original inside wheels were located. Each wheel is driven by a small electric motor. The tires have 1-in. deep treads so there's plenty of traction to move the swing hopper.

"Two features of the unit I really like



I have ever used. I bought the 8-ft. model 3 years ago. They also make 5, 10 and 12-ft. models. With 4 horses, I can till an acre an hour.

"I can adjust tillage depths from 1 to 5 in. or greater with the hand lever. It has 3 rows of spring tines followed by a row of open basket rollers."

"It makes a real nice seedbed in only 2 passes. Before I bought the Cultimulcher, I would disk once or twice, then make a pass with the spring-tooth harrow and then a Cultimulcher."

"It's the only thing I use for corn, oats and fall crops."

Bubba Curry, Shellman, Ga.: Bubba's impressed with his Kubota M9000. "We've used this tractor at our peanut buying station for about 6 years and it has received loads of abuse from our seasonal help. The tractor has about 7,000 hrs. on it so we've replaced the front tires and the seat twice, but otherwise it has been trouble-free. It's the best investment we've ever made."

On the "worst buy" side, "We ran our Case IH 6-row cotton picker through about 200 acres of cotton when it suddenly caught fire and burned to the ground. We dumped the cotton out immediately and used fire extinguishers, but the machine was too far gone."

Mike Tiska, Sidney, N.Y.: "I don't like the black general purpose grease I bought at Tractor Supply Co. It stains my clothes, hands, and everything else that it gets on. Also, I don't like their cheap rubber knee boots with cleated soles. The cleats bring half the mud from the barn yard into our garage or house."

Considering how little I've been able to use this saw, it's the most expensive one I've ever owned."

hardwood tree, the saw will run only about 20 min. before the battery dies. Then I have to switch back to A.C. power and charge the battery for 2 hrs..

"Another problem is when I try to cut a tree close to the ground, grass and small vines growing around the tree will quickly plug up in the sprocket area and then I have to remove the side cover and clean out the debris. The same problem happens when trimming shrubs around our home."

"I called the company to complain about the saw's short operating time, and they had me send the battery and charger back to them. They paid for the shipping. However, they said my battery and charger were okay and returned them to me. I'm 69 years old and have operated chainsaws since I was 12, but considering how little I've been able to use this saw, it's the most expensive one I've ever owned."

Ike's Repair Shop, Millersburg, Ohio: "My Milwaukee 1/2-in. high torque impact wrench delivers up to 1,100 ft.-lbs. of nut-busting torque."

"I started using Schaeffer's Specialized Lubricants engine and gear oil in my bulldozers and track loaders way back in 1960 and have used it ever since (www.schaefferoil.com; ph 800 325-9962). The first bulldozer I used it on was a Cat D4. I've also used it on Cat D2 and D4C dozers; on Komatsu D37E, D41-P, and D51 dozers; and on an 850E track loader—and I've never had an engine failure on any machine."

Richard Cowell, Vulcan, Mich.: The Bedslide sliding bed in my 2010 Chevy Silverado with its extended cab and topper is

the true-circle wheel operation and the remote control. Some movers I looked at had straight axles, so there was friction and slipping. The Auger-Jogger wheels are mounted at an angle so the hopper travels in a true circle without any wheel friction.

"The other feature that really saves time is the remote. I can drive wagons or a truck next to the swing hopper and hit the remote control to move the hopper when I'm still on the tractor or in the truck. The remote works just like a garage door opener. I can see exactly when and where to stop without leaving the tractor or truck seat." (www.augerjogger.com; ph 701 263-7397).

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from our fence rows."

On the minus side, he lists his 2010 Husqvarna 24 hp riding mower. "This mower has spent more time in the shop than cutting grass and is the biggest piece of junk I ever bought. I couldn't keep the belts on it, and the engine always had problems. It finally blew a head gasket and locked up."

Ovalton Rutledge, Crystal Springs, Miss.: "I can't justify spending the money on new tractors, but I'll buy any reasonably priced used Deere 4020 to use on our 300-acre U-pick vegetable farm. I fix up the best ones and part out the worst. I think the 4020 is the best tractor Deere ever made."

Larry Williams, Shepherdsville, Ky.: Larry likes his 2 Grasshopper riding mowers, both equipped with diesel engines. One is a 921 model with a 61-in. deck and the other a 928 model with a 72-in. deck. "Both of them work great and allow me to cut grass for 5 hrs. on a single tank of fuel. I can go under tree limbs and around anything with very little trimming necessary afterward. They'll cut almost anything I can drive over, including all kinds of brush."

Don Mead, Hopkins, Mich.: "I've used my DeWalt 4 1/2-in. handheld grinder to cut off some metal siding on our house so I could match what was already there. I've also used it to cut and grind steel. And one time I used it with masonry wheels to finish a patio that my wife had started building with patio blocks. It works great."

"I could go only about 30 ft. with my Worx weed-eater before the battery had to be recharged. Then after that I could go only about another 20 to 30 ft. before it was dead again. I called the company but got no satisfaction. After using it for only a half hour I hung it up on a wall, and it remains there today."

Marion Nelson, St. Helena, Neb.: "My 2014 Husqvarna riding mower equipped

Continued on next page