

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
www.FARMSHOW.com,
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Richard Remme, Luverne, Minn.: “**Super Tech Fuel Injector Cleaner** cost me \$2.95 for 8 oz., but it saved me \$500. I had 3 of 6 injectors sticking on my 1992 Ford F-150, and the \$500 estimate for getting them fixed was more than the pickup was worth.

“My wife and I were going through the checkout line at Walmart when I noticed that the guy ahead of me had 5 or 6 bottles of the cleaner. I asked if it was any good, and he said it’s the best there is.

“He was a mechanic and suggested I try it. He told me to put it in a little heavier than the directions, which call for 8 oz. in 20 gal. of fuel. I had about 12 gal. in the tank so I added the 8 oz. to it.

“He also told me to drive the pickup hard for about 10 miles. By the time I got home, it had straightened right out. The company recommends using it every 2,500 miles.”

Gary Bohannon, Athens, Tenn.: “I’m very happy with my 2012 **New Holland ProCart 1022 Wheelrake**. It rakes cleaner and faster than other wheelrakes we have used. Each wheel has its own spring and adjustment. I bought extra hydraulic lines so I could run two lines to each lift cylinder. Now I can raise one side at a time. Lets me rake with one side at a time if I need to.”

light but has a lot of guts and amazing fuel efficiency. On the down side, used parts for it are extremely hard to find.”

Howard Twaddell, Jr., Holtwood, Penn.: Howard likes his 2006 **Gehl 4840 skid loader**. “I’ve owned at least 6 different Gehl skid loaders over my 30 plus years of farming. I live in the woods with more than a half mile long lane and use my skid loader with a snowblower, grapple bucket, and wood splitter. It’s a quality, dependable skid loader with great company service.”

Steven Espeland, Canton, S. Dak.: “My 2012 **Toyota Prius** is as good as advertised. It averages more than 47 mpg and has more interior room than I expected - just as much room as the 2007 Chevrolet Impala we previously owned.”

Alan Shammel, Hilger, Mont.: Alan’s the satisfied owner of a 2011 **Dodge 1-ton 4-WD pickup** equipped with a Cummins diesel engine. “It replaced our 2005 Dodge diesel. Both pickups are extremely reliable. We use them with gooseneck trailers to haul cattle to mountain pastures.”

Daniel E. Troyer, Fresno, Ohio: “I’ve used my **Milwaukee** cordless tools for 2 years with no problems. Batteries last 2 weeks, even though I use the tools every day.”

Milton Webster, Taylor, Texas: “We needed a tractor with a diesel engine and a front-end loader so we bought a 2012 **Kubota 3200 HST**, which we really like. My neighbor likes it a lot, too, and has used it more than I have. I think he may end up buying his own.

“No problems with my 2004 **Ford F-150** pickup which has about 118,000 miles. It’s the best pickup I’ve ever owned.”

Herman Green, Traskwood, Ark.: “My 2012 **Echo** weed trimmer has plenty of power, is easy to start and comfortable to use. No problems.”



William Russell, Union, Wash.: “I was very interested in the ‘best buy’ report in Vol. 38, No. 6 from Steve Cunningham about his Kubota mini excavator and how useful he finds it around the farm. I have a **Kubota**



KX121 that I use in my small excavation business. I could go on and on about why I like it. It runs great without any problems. I use it to dig residential septic systems as well as for all kinds of other jobs. I made it even more versatile by adding a ball hitch that lets me pull a tandem axle trailer behind it. The trailer goes wherever the excavator goes and it’s easy to fill. No need to maneuver a separate vehicle into position for filling.”

Rusty Schackelford, Spring Hope, N.C.: “I like **Mechanic In a Bottle** and also **Ethanol Shield** fuel stabilizer (www.b3cfuel.com; ph 843 347-0482). These products work. I had an old chainsaw that hadn’t worked for 5 years. I put Mechanic In a Bottle in it and it suddenly ran like new.”

Donald Johnson, Wells, Minn.: “For 30 years I’ve used my 1957 **Massey Harris 444** tractor with a Deere 15A green chopper

D. J. Moore, Council Groves, Kan.: A late 2013 purchase of a used sprayer with an **Ag Express** electronic monitor turned into a worst buy for me. Service from my local dealer was bad enough with missing parts and poor customer support. But Ag Express is a big company that promises personalized service and support. They didn’t come through with either.

“The monitor was sent off to Ag Express for repair. When it came back it quit working after about an hour of use. After resetting, it started up and then shut down as the tank emptied. After many phone calls to the dealer and Ag Express, the monitor went back to Ag Express at the busiest time of the spraying season. It was 2 weeks later before I got it back.

“I found out that it traveled to the company’s Iowa address, and then to a Nebraska location where a switch was replaced.

“This time, rate mode and speed failed. After more days of problems, I finally got help from a third party so I could spray under manual control. They helped me troubleshoot the monitor, even though they didn’t sell it to me. I found out Ag Express had changed the spray modes in the monitor without telling me. This kept it from working with my sprayer setup.

“It was a long season, with the sprayer not operational for more time than I sprayed with it. I’ve been around machinery long enough to know some of this aggravation goes with operating equipment. However, I also know it doesn’t have to be this bad.”

Laddie G. Frank, Two Creeks, Wis.: “My **Deere 2020** loader tractor runs and starts good, and is easy to get on and off.”

John Kinsinger, West Columbia, W. Va.: “My 1992 **Agco Allis Chalmers** is the only tractor I use on my dairy farm. It’s small and