

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

By: Mark Newhall  
Editor

Bill Gergen  
Senior Editor



**Charles Percy, Weatherford, Texas:** “I can cut literally dozens of 12 to 30-in. dia. hardwood trees before having to sharpen the chain on my Husqvarna chainsaw, thanks to the carbide-tipped chains I use from **Rapco Industries** (www.rapcoindustries.com; ph 800 959-6130). The company claims their chain will last 20 times longer than regular chainsaw chains and I think that’s spot on.

“Another best buy is the sawmill I built with my friend Jeff Meador from plans developed by Bill Reeks and published in FARM SHOW. We built it using scrap parts and it works great. Has already paid for itself. Coleman bandsaw blades cut very smooth, which makes sanding and finishing easy.”

“On the worst buys side, earlier this year I bought an **Easy Breathe** grazing muzzle. It was not made well and only lasted about 4 months before I had to throw it away.”

**Scott Johns, Nicholasville, Ky.:** “I bought a 57-in. **Kunz** Acrease roughcut trail mower and have not found anything it won’t cut (www.kunzeng.com; ph 815 539-6954). Not only does it cut wavy weeds and grass, but it mulches it cleanly. Extremely well-built. The staff was very helpful answering my questions before I purchased it. I could not be happier.”

**Lee Mader, Albany, Mo.:** “I sent some worn-down rechargeable drill batteries to **Voltman Batteries** after reading about the company in FARM SHOW. They rebuilt them but they didn’t last as long as the originals did, although they said they would. I followed all the instructions they sent back with the batteries. I wrote them about this and they never responded. I could have just bought new batteries, for only about \$30 more at the time.”

**John C. Betka, Walkerville, Mont.:** “I’ve got a 2010 **Deere** 2320 utility tractor that has only about 200 hrs. on it. It’s had more failures than a tree has leaves. The hydraulic pump failed, the steering linkage broke, an upper steering knuckle split in two, bearings in the front wheels went out 4 times, and the torsion bar on the bucket lift arms snapped. In addition, an engine mount on the right side has broken twice, damaging the radiator and fan. Also, there was a transmission leak between the center case housing and main housing. I’ve had it in 3 times to repair this leak, which has still never been corrected.

“The dealer says talk to the company but the company doesn’t respond at all. No respect for the customer.

“I had somewhat similar problems with a 2013 **Kubota** MX5100. Lots of problems and no one at the company will help. Fuel consumption is extremely high. Just going down our 3/4-mile driveway and back used 5 gal. of diesel fuel. Oil was contaminated from fuel bypass on pistons. The engine would start but if you shut it off when warm, it would not start again for hours. Brakes would lock up and not hold. The loader bucket cutting edge bent inward and the dealer told me not to backblade with it. The pto switches failed and had to be replaced. The rear axle housing leaked between the main housing and the wheel housing. The fuel pump leaks and the engine fan blade vibrates.”

**Grace Grove, Elizabeth, Colo.:** “In 1991 I was given an old **Deere** Gyramor 5-ft. rotary cutter in trade for some work. I use it to mow my 35 acres as often as possible. About 5 years ago a grease zerk vibrated out which allowed the bearings to fail. My Deere dealer wanted \$2.49 apiece for the bearings. Instead, I purchased bearings from a local bicycle shop for 10 cents apiece. I’m 77 years old and like things that are easy and cheap to fix.”

**Tiny Simpson, Kernersville, N.C.:** Tiny likes his 2007 **Bobcat** zero-turn riding mower. “I use it to mow 3 acres every year. All I’ve replaced are the battery and 2 belts.”

**Larry J. Thompson, St. Mary, Mo.:** Larry’s satisfied with his 2006 **Ferris** zero-turn riding mower equipped with a Kawasaki 21 hp engine and 48-in. deck (ph 800 933-6175; www.ferrismowers.com). “Maintenance has been limited to sharpening the blades, cleaning under the deck, and replacing the battery.”

**John Horkavy, Young Harris, Ga.:** “My 2003 **Bolen** Iseki Zoey 4-WD diesel tractor is the most reliable machine I’ve ever owned.”

**Bob Moty, Crystal Lake, Ill.:** Bob’s impressed with his **Mail Sign** automatic mailbox signal (Amazon.com, type in “mailbox signal”). It has a spring with a

# 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**

**Tom Lloyd, Hayward, Wis.:** “We cut a lot of firewood to heat our home. Hauling it back to the woodshed has always been a big



job but it’s a lot easier now that we have a **DR** Power Wagon. I can put 3 to 4 wheelbarrow loads on it and, instead of having to lift the load by the handles, the wagon just carries it all home under power. Best of all, I found a used one at a sale for \$150 – a lot better than the \$1,800 cost for a new one.”



**Jody Thorp, Aledo, Ill.:** “Two years ago I bought a **Best Friends** grazing muzzle for our horse (www.bestfriendequine.com; ph 800 681-2495). It’s designed to keep horses from overeating on pasture. This muzzle is sturdy and safe with break-away straps if it should get snagged. Excellent product.