

Farmers Nominate Best & Worst Buys

dirt, to tear up concrete, and many other jobs. No problems at all."

John M. Kiminski, North Brookfield, Mass.: "Our 1996 Husqvarna 55 chain saw is a best buy. It starts easy and performs flawlessly. We had some problems with it at first but the dealer went out of his way to solve them."

"Our Hobart 250 amp MIG welder hasn't needed any service at all in 10 years. It does a great job on everything from sheet metal to heavy repair work."

"I've learned never to buy any bargain priced tools. You get what you pay for. When it's Sunday afternoon and you've got a breakdown, a tool that doesn't break is worth every penny."

F.N. Marquardt, Watsontown, Pa.: "We bought a used 1967 Ford 5000 tractor equipped with a gas engine with 500 hours on it. We've used it a lot but haven't had to touch the engine yet. The seat is more comfortable than the ones on my 1970 Ford 5600 or my Ford 7700. It also shifts gears easier than those tractors. I wish the factory would build a duplicate model."

On the minus side, he lists his Belar 65 hp tractor. "Oil seems to leak constantly from one place or another. The head gasket leaks in several places. We used a small ratchet wrench to remove the bolts and when they were put back in they must not have been torqued down correctly. Now other bolts are coming loose in different places. The hydraulic pump case had a hairline crack at the corner bolt hole, and unfortunately the problem wasn't found until the warranty had already expired."

Bruce Baker, Ohio City, Ohio: Bruce is impressed with his 2000 Subaru Legacy GT 4-WD station wagon. "Last January we had a lot of ice and snow with icy roads, but this car handled so well on them that we hardly even noticed that they were slippery. The ABS brake system is a big help in being able to stop securely. It's a fun car to drive and I like the styling."

"My worst buys are **Harbor Freight Tools**. I bought an item that I was dissatisfied with and called the company's toll-free phone number, then was told to call a different customer service number. I tried to call that number seven different times but always got a busy signal. I sent three faxes to voice my complaint but got no response. I'll never

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Richard G. McDanolds, North Haverhill, N.H.: Richard nominates his 1999 Husky 3,600-gal. slurry spreader as his "best buy". "I've put about 1 1/2 million gallons through it with no problems and no plug-ups. It's equipped with big tandem 28L by 26 tires which float over any ground that the tractor can get through. My only complaint is that it spreads manure a bit thick, but that can be altered."

"I've had good luck with my 1947 Deere A tractor. It has more than 24,000 hours on it with only minimal expenses."

"My 1973 Ford 5000 tractor has more than 25,000 hours on it but the engine has never been overhauled."

"My 1964 Patz gutter cleaner still has its original motor and drive unit. I've replaced the chains and drive sprockets twice. I still use this old reliable manure cleaner every day."

"My 1968 Homelite C72 chainsaw has gone through four bars and more than 25 chains and sprockets but is still going strong. It's been very dependable and is a best buy."

Jack R. Kiser, Fremont, Ohio: Jack likes his Modular 10 portable spot welder manufactured by Telwin of Italy and sold by **Harbor Freight Tools**. "It's easy to use and operates on 110 volts A.C. The only drawback is that it's limited to three welds per minute and has very short electrode arms (3 1/4 in.). Also, it's a little on the heavy side."

Joseph W. Claus, Pittsburgh, Pa.: Joseph owns a Stihl model 08 chainsaw equipped with a 20-in. bar. "It starts easy, cuts fast, and has been very dependable. I've been told by neighbors that I can cut a load of wood before they even get their saws started."

"My Stihl FS 74 string trimmer seems to cut forever. It has a manual-feed string."

"My Chevrolet 4-WD pickup is very dependable. I've had good luck with the 350 cu. in. engine."

Walter Zeiset, Manheim, Pa.: Walter says he likes the safety features built into his 1998 Gehl 3825 skid steer loader. "The safety guard has to be up in order for the operator to leave the seat. When the safety guard is up, everything is locked in place. When the safety bar is down, you can rest your arms while working the T-bar controls without having to move your feet. It's a very comfortable machine to operate. It's well balanced and is short enough to maneuver in tight corners."

Norman Foellmi, Sparta, Wis.: "I love my 1998 Dodge Ram 1500 4-WD quad cab pickup. It handles well both on the highway and in the field. We pull a fold-down camper behind it which we use on vacations and at tractor shows. The sliding window at the back of the cab is wide enough that you can crawl into the camper from the cab if it happens to be raining. With 4-WD we can go just about anywhere that we want. I added air ride shocks which make it very stable."

Dave Whaley, Wheatley, Ontario: "This machine saves time, labor, fuel and soil compaction. I can't imagine planting with anything else," says Dave, pleased with his 1999 Deere 1560 no-till drill. "It places seed accurately in everything from conventionally tilled ground to heavy cornstalks, and needs no harrows or other add-on attachments to do the job. The hydraulic system works great and is easy to use."

Ward B. Reiss, Oak Park, Va.: "My 1998 Miller Bobcat welder started leaking oil at the main seal after 16 hours of use. I took it back to the dealer and didn't get it back for two months. Luckily I didn't need the machine when it was gone."

Clarence Todd, Quimby, Iowa: Clarence likes his Chevrolet Silverado 2000 pickup. "We use it every day on our farm. It's handy and always ready to go. That's why the last three pickups we've bought have been the same model from the same dealer."

Robert Scholz, Stanchfield, Minn.: "It only leaks when it rains," says Robert about his "all-time" worst buy Lester pole shed. "It has been leaking for more than 20 years."

Reader Gives "Thumbs Up" To Rechargeable Flashlight

Michael Busch of Winona, Minn. called FARM SHOW recently to tell us how much he likes his new Streamlight rechargeable flashlight.

"I thought your readers might like to know about this great flashlight. It may be a little expensive but it's by far the best flashlight I've ever used. It's rechargeable and it puts out a much brighter light than conventional flashlights."

The manufacturer, Streamlight, Inc., of Norristown, Pa., offers two models suitable for farmers - the LiteBox and the Vulcan. Busch owns the LiteBox which is heavier than the Vulcan but also puts out more light. It's available with an 8 or 20-watt lamp and a 10-amp hour battery. Busch has the 20-watt spotlight bulb (floodlight bulbs are also available) which puts out up to 70,000 candlepower. To recharge it, you just put the LiteBox into the recharger unit which plugs into any 120-volt outlet. The flashlight can also be charged off a cigarette lighter in a car or pickup.

Both models have virtually unbreakable cases and are available with dual filaments inside the bulbs, so if one filament goes out you can just flip a switch and instantly switch to the other.

"I've used it for three years and am really happy with it," says Busch. "I paid just under \$100 for it. I bought it because I got sick and tired of having to replace my flashlight batteries all the time. I have a cow-calf operation and use it a lot to check on cows when they're calving. Even though I have the spot light bulb, it puts out a nice wide pattern of light. I can use it for about



eight hours before I have to recharge it, and I can recharge it whenever I want without worrying about damaging the battery. Whenever the bulb gets dim I just plug it in. Another feature I like is that by loosening a nut I can swing the bulb up, down or to the side. I can also pull the head out and twist it up so that it's above the body."

The Vulcan is a smaller, lighter, less expensive model that still puts out a lot of light. It's available only with the spotlight bulb. A model equipped with a 3-watt bulb produces 25,000 candle power and runs 9 hours before it has to be recharged. A 6-watt bulb provides 40,000 candlepower and will run for 3 3/4 hours before it has to be recharged.

Streamlight, Inc., does not sell direct from the factory. Call them for information on your nearest dealer/distributor.

Busch bought his flashlight from Clarey's Safety Equipment, 3555 9th St. N.W., No. 200, Rochester, Minn. 55901 (ph 800 558-8009).

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Streamlight, Inc., 1030 W. Germantown Pike, Norristown, Pa. 19403 (ph 800 523-7488; fax 800 220-7007; Website: www.streamlight.com).

It was put together very poorly."

Peter King, Barnoldswick, Lancashire, England: Peter's impressed with his Claas Whole Crop Forage Mill which fits any of the company's 800 series forage harvesters. "It turns a forage harvester into a mobile mill that mills grains on the move. Believe it or not, if the resulting forage is alkaline preserved you can harvest right in the rain. The machine is built simple and therefore I believe it will turn out to be very reliable. Another advantage is that it takes only about 15 minutes to install or remove it. I think it'll really go over big in livestock areas. On a scale of 1 to 10, with 10 the best, I give it a 10."

William T. Wright, Greencastle, Ind.: William's the satisfied owner of a 2000 Dodge Ram 1500 4-WD pickup. "It can pull a feed wagon loaded with 2 1/2 tons of feed over steep hills even with the transmission in high range. It's also fuel efficient."

"My Husqvarna 36/41 chainsaw is a worst buy. It starts hard and the hand brake on it is a joke. Also, the chain that came with it was too thick for the groove on the bar."

Ralph E. Kendall, Hagerstown, Ind.: "My 1998 Dodge quad cab shortbed pickup equipped with a Cummins diesel engine is my best buy."

"My 1998 Dodge pickup has a lot of power and is fuel efficient. It also rides nice."

"My Deere 1750 Max-Emerge Plus conservation planter does a nice job of planting and is easy to maintain. No problems."

"My Ford New Holland bi-directional tractor is a pleasure to drive. I use it to oper-

ate a Farm King snowblower."

Jack H. Landis, Lancaster, Penn.: "It has plenty of power and mows clean. It also works great for picking up leaves in the fall," says Jack, pleased with his Deere STX 38 riding mower.

"My Deere TRS 21 snowblower has better balance and snow throwing power, in both light and wet snow, than a Toro 2000 snowblower."

Norman Roorda, Monroe, Iowa: "I'm pleased with the comfort and quiet ride on my 1999 Ford F-150 4-WD pickup. I use it regularly to make trips to farm land 200 miles away."

"I'm impressed with my New Holland TN55D tractor. I especially like the cab's roominess and ease of entry since I'm tall and getting a little stiff with age. The cab on this tractor is far superior to the cabs on other tractors of similar size."

Dennis Maynard, Stewartsville, Mo.: "My best buy is my Deere 4600 tractor and the implements I use with it. After using it for one year I couldn't be more pleased. The tractor handles each implement nicely and is stable and well balanced even on steep hills. It starts immediately even in the winter without using the block heater and is fuel efficient. The steering is effortless and the hydraulics are so powerful that the loader can easily lift big, heavy bales, even with the engine at a slow idle. It does the work of a much larger tractor."

Daniel Endman, Claresholm, Alberta:

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