

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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Thomas Langan, Alma Center, Wis.: “In the last issue of FARM SHOW, a guy listed his Coleman generator as a worst buy because of a spinning bearing in the plastic endcap that ruined the generator after only a few hours of use. I bought a Coleman last year and, unfortunately, did not do any research until after making the purchase. I went to a newsgroup on the internet where they discuss generators quite often and discovered that it’s widely discussed there that Coleman generators are notorious for this problem. The generator’s only good for an average of 15 to 20 hrs. when the bearing starts to spin. If the owner isn’t there to shut the unit down, the plastic will melt and the rotor will crash into the fields, ruining the unit.

“Needless to say, I never even started my Coleman. I just put it up for sale and bought a different brand.”

Brandon White, Hillsboro, Ill.: “My Dad has a welding business in Irving, Ill. His old Ford truck finally gave up on him so one Saturday he went and bought a 1998 Dodge 3500 1-ton dually 4-WD equipped with a Cummins 24-valve turbo diesel and automatic transmission. It had 27,000 miles on it when he got it and it now has 38,500 trouble-free miles. We have pulled many

Deere 2350 4-WD tractor. My only problem was that it always started hard whenever the temperature approached freezing. I finally solved the problem by installing a large highway tractor battery in it, which I should have done years ago. Now it starts fine.”

Dwayne Sager, Perryton, Texas: “I can always count on my Case-IH 9370 tractor. It has a lot of power and a comfortable cab with good visibility. I also like the color. My only wish is that it had a buddy seat.”

Jack Jacobson, Iron River, Mich.: “My 1998 Ford F-150 4-WD pickup has been totally dependable. It has more than 26,000 miles on it with no trouble at all. It rides like a luxury car.”

Donald F. Dible, Sunbury, Ohio: “It does a great job cleaning my machinery,” says Donald about his 4 gpm, 3,000 psi pressure washer made by Northern Tool and Equipment.

Ray Levasseur, Oil Springs, Ontario: Ray’s pleased with his 1993 Agco Allis 8630 2-WD tractor. “It has a lot of power, is very fuel efficient, and handles like a dream. It has also been very reliable. My only problem in more than 1,100 hours was a gasket leak.

“My 1996 Sunflower 15-ft. no-till drill works like a dream. It lets me plant in everything from conventionally worked ground to corn stalks, without having to make any changes.”

Michael Yurek, Silver Lake, Minn.: “My worst buy is my Northland machine shed and shop which I had built in August, 1998. I wasn’t happy at all when it was done. The entire building is crooked. The tin was put on crooked and the rafters leaned to one side. The walls are also crooked and they made holes in the roof when nailing on the tin and didn’t plug them. Whenever it rains water seeps through the west wall and onto the electrical wires.

“I had two local builders look at the shed and they both told me that they wouldn’t know where to start fixing these problems because the entire building is crooked.”

William J. Oehlbeck, Jr., Mercer, Pa.: William likes his 1999 Steiner 430 hydrostatic 4-WD garden tractor with three quick hitch attachments. “The tractor is equipped with a hydrostatic transmission, auxiliary hydraulics, articulated frame, power steering, deluxe seat, 2-pt. quick hitch, and high-low range transaxle. You can also get a choice of engines ranging from 20 to 25 hp. It’s a well-engineered system. The operator can switch to any attachment in less than five minutes. You just drive forward until the hitch arms engage the attachment arm pins, release the spring-loaded lever with one hand, and then install the belt drive and go to work. I use this tractor to sweep, blow, grade, scoop, till, cut, aerate, and more. The lawn sweeper is the nicest one I’ve ever seen. It’s well-built, all metal, and has a steel-fingered rotating compressing shaft that compacts the material into a box. To empty it out, the whole back opens up.”

Marvin Henry, Maywood, Neb.: “My 10-year-old Makita 5-in. hand grinder works like new and is absolutely trouble-free. It’s small enough to maneuver in close quarters, yet it has enough power to remove material fast when necessary. It does a good job. I use it with a low-cost, softer wire cup brush to scrape or remove old paint. This type of brush works best because it tends to flatten out. I scraped an entire garage in only two hours.

“My best buy of all time was my 1945 Deere A tractor which I bought used in 1975.

heavy loads with it and haven’t had a load on it yet that it can’t handle. My Dad thought his old Ford truck was a good one but this Dodge is outstanding and he drives it all the time. It starts great on cold mornings and warms fairly quickly, too. He says it’s his best buy.”

Richard A. Jacobs, Beaver Dam, Wis.: “I’ve been buying Red Wing work boots for years. You could always count on a new pair lasting a year and a half. Now it’s difficult to get 6 months out of them. The last three pair I’ve bought have also developed very unpleasant odors after a couple months of wear. Whatever happened to Red Wing quality?”

Alex Sanderson, Mount Albert, Ontario: “My best buy is my 1976 Deere 1630 2-WD tractor. I have no idea how many hours are on it because the tachometer clock quit working 10 or 12 years ago. However, it must have at least 8,000 to 10,000 hours by now. It was originally bought as a loader tractor and was accidentally submerged in a pond when it was new. Fortunately there was no serious damage to the tractor. It still has the original clutch and engine and doesn’t use any oil. Over the years I’ve replaced tires, batteries, fuel injectors, and a tachometer.

“The power steering system on this tractor works better than the power steering on any car or tractor I’ve ever had. The engine needs some work done to it, but as long as it starts and runs I’ll keep using it. This 24-year-old tractor has more power than my