

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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Steven A. Foster, Menomonie, Wis.: “My 2004 **Kubota** BX1800 compact tractor, equipped with a 54-in. mower deck and front-end loader, is my best buy. We already have more than 350 hours on it. We’ve used this tractor for mowing, landscaping, backfilling a basement, building retaining walls, etc. We’ve purchased several 3-pt. implements for it including a box blade, grader blade, rototiller, and smoothing drag, and it handles all of them well. This tractor looks like a toy but it’s a real workhorse.”

Bill Mott, Fairview, N.C.: Bill likes his **Paslode** IMCT impulse cordless framing nailer. “I have a small hobby farm and work alone. This nailer allows me to fix, repair, and build, leaving me with one hand free to align boards and hold projects in place. One squeeze of the trigger drives the nail home. The nailer is reliable, trouble-free, and light. It speeds up my work, and saves frustration and busted thumbs.”

Pam Gill, Palatka, Fla.: A 1979 **Chevrolet** 1-ton dually pickup rates as Pam’s “best buy”. “It’s a good, dependable pickup and is always ready to go. It can tow anything.”

On the “worst buy” side, she lists her 2003

100,000 miles on a pickup and then trade it in for a new one. I’d recommend Dodge pickups to anyone.”

Marvin J. Smith, Roscommon, Mich.: “My 2005 **Farm Pro** is a great tractor, easy on fuel and reasonably priced. It’s inexpensive to operate. However, the followup service has not been very good.

“Our 2004 **Sears Kenmore** dishwasher doesn’t do a good job of either washing or rinsing dishes. It’s a worst buy.”

Robert and Bernardine Specht, Monmouth, Iowa: “Our 1999 **Agri-Fab** pull-behind ATV mower is a best buy (Agri-Fab, Sullivan, Ill. ph 217 728-8388; agri-fab.com; www.agri-fab.com). We have a hilly yard and this mower works well for rough cutting on slopes. I’ve even used it to cut Canadian thistles before I sprayed herbicides on them for weed control. It’ll cut up to 2-in. dia. brush.”

W. LeClair, Francestown, N.H.: “My **Kubota** BX 2200 tractor equipped with a 60-in. mower deck is my best buy. We’ve owned this machine for three cutting seasons. My wife loves to use it. It cuts smooth, is fuel efficient, and has a lot of power.

“Our **Beckermills, Inc.**, pond aeration windmill is our worst buy. The components are well-made, but the written assembly instructions are primitive and phone advice is practically nonexistent. I paid \$1,800 for this windmill but the company did nothing after the sale.”

Michael E. Everett, Canton, Texas: “My 2004 **Kubota** BX 15 4-WD tractor equipped with a belly-mounted mower deck and front-end loader is my best buy. It gets laughs from the big tractor boys, but I think this tractor is a real workhorse. It’ll handle tasks much greater than it’s rated to handle. It won’t lift a 1,000-lb. hay bale, but it’ll push it anywhere I want to go. This tractor just keeps going and never gets stuck.”

Gary Alford, Edwardsburg, Mich.: “**Honda** small engines are always reliable and worth the extra cost. I replace worn out motors with Hondas every chance I get and have never been disappointed.

“My 2001 **Chevrolet** S-10 Super Cab pickup equipped with a V-6 engine and automatic transmission is my worst buy. We own two of these pickups, and the fuel pump on each one had to be replaced twice. The pumps are very expensive at about \$1,000 each. One pickup has about 60,000 miles on it and the other 83,000 miles.”

Jim Lacey, Dell Rapids, S. Dak.: “We’re going on our third season with our **St. Croix** corn burning stove and it’s a best buy. However, I’ve made several changes to it. For example, I put an air filter on it to keep the warm air fan clean. I cut the grate out of the front to improve air flow, and I blocked more of the upper baffle to extract more heat. I set a 100-bu. bin outside that gravity-feeds the bin on the stove. Keeps it full so I never have to carry any corn in.”

Clifford White, Clearwater, Kansas: “My best buy is my **Makita** 4 1/2-in. hand-operated grinder. It’s light enough that it handles easy, and it’ll grind metal as fast as a larger model.

“Our 2002 **Dixon** riding mower is our worst buy. It doesn’t mow level, so after I’m done mowing the lawn looks like a sheet of corrugated metal. I do like the engine and the rig’s turning ability, but that’s all I like about this machine. I paid almost \$4,000 for it.”

George A. Johansen, Greenville, Mich.: “My **Ryobi** 18-volt cordless drill is my best buy. Dollar for dollar, it outperforms my 18-volt **DeWalt** model which cost twice as much. The Ryobi model is a bit lighter and certainly has been used hard, but it just keeps on going. Replacement batteries are less than half the price of **DeWalt** batteries.”

Everett Thompson, Quenemo, Kansas:

Dodge Ram 4-WD 1-ton dually equipped with a **Cummins** diesel engine. “This pickup went through seven different transmissions and two engines. It was the major cause of the failure of my daughter and her husband’s business. It was a lease and now Dodge won’t fix it any more. It was a lemon from day one.”

Ronald Mickle, Dousman, Wis.: Ronald’s impressed with his 2003 **DR** field and brush mower. “This 15 hp unit far exceeds the advertising claims. We have more than 200 hours on it yet it has required only routine maintenance. We’ve used it to clear brush that we couldn’t even crawl through. It was worth every penny we paid for it.”

Donald B. Hanko, Cazenovia, Wis.: Donald’s the satisfied owner of a 2005 **Vermeer** 605M round baler. “This baler is built stronger than any baler I’ve ever used. The drum platform that the bale rolls on does more to turn the bale than the rollers in other balers, which relieves stress on the belts and results in less leaf loss. It’s equipped with a unique net wrap system that gets more bales wrapped per roll than other balers. The company used bigger shafts and bearings in critical areas. The baler has a big intake capacity and can make a 2,400-lb. bale. It makes baling hay a much faster job.”

Bob Warner, Union Grove, N.C.: Bob likes his 2002 **Dodge** 1500 4-WD 1/2-ton pickup equipped with a 4.7-liter, V-8 gas engine and automatic transmission. It had 156,230 miles on it when he recently sold it to a neighbor. “This pickup looks and runs like new. No problems. I’ve changed the oil every 5,000 miles and the filter every 10,000 miles. The first time I changed the spark plugs was at about 100,000 miles.

“My 2006 **Dodge** pickup has 13,460 miles on it with no problems. Over the years I’ve owned three Dodge pickups and all were excellent performers. I usually put about