

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,
or E-mail your comments to:
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Chuck Borgmeier, Bicknell, Ind.: “We had heated out house with wood for many years when we switched to the **Amaizing** corn burning furnace (ph 570 748-6532; www.americasheat.com). We no longer have trouble heating our whole house as we did with wood, plus we heat our basement with radiant heat from the water lines and heat our domestic hot water. We have five women and two guys in our house and we never run out of hot water.”

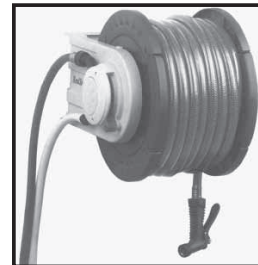
Roger DeHaan, Orange City, Iowa: “I feel like Andrea Johnson did readers a disservice in your last issue with her “dos and don’ts” report on corn-burning stoves. There are some corn-burning stoves that just don’t work and she appears to have one of those.

“Last fall I went to a show and looked at four different brands of stoves. We bought a St. Croix stove, which is so nice-looking that we put it in our family room.

“Corn stoves are easy to install as you only need a 3-in. vent to the outside. There’s little smoke or smell and it burns clean on the inside. It’s easy to light and service once a day. I shut it down once a day to let the clinkers drop down into the ash pan and relight it when heat is needed. I light it with a cup of wood

Without asking me, the dealer put in new plugs, an air filter, changed the oil and filter, and charged me \$211. I didn’t feel I should have had to pay that big service fee after only a few hours of use, especially when I don’t really know what was wrong. I contacted various company representatives but no one would ever get back to me. Husqvarna doesn’t seem to care about its customers after the sale is made.”

George & Pamela Johnson, New Market, Ala.: The Johnsons have high praise



for their new fangled **ReelSmart** rewinding hose reel, which they use in their horse and Boer goat farming business (www.hydroindustries.com). They own two of them.

The ReelSmart rewinds itself using water pressure that’s directed through a built-in 3-piston pump. To rewind the hose, you just lift the control lever on one side of the unit. The Johnsons say the ReelSmart lets them use a heavier hose than they might normally use.

James Hood, Utica, Miss.: “My 2004 **Ford F-350** pickup equipped with a PowerStroke engine is my worst buy. At just 3,100 miles the turbocharger failed, resulting in a long stay at the dealer. At 6,900 miles the turbocharger failed again. The dealer was uncooperative, and calls to the company produced no results. The pickup was in the shop for several weeks.”

Joseph Krasnicki, Sr., Seymour, Ct.: “My 1987 **Wheelhorse** garden tractor is my best buy. I bought it new and have yet to



spend anything on repairs. I use a lot of different attachments with it, including a front-mount leaf blower that I built out of an industrial air handler purchased at a local recycling center. My homemade blower moves a tremendous volume of air at low speeds. I equipped the unit with rudders so I can easily change the blower’s direction, and I also added a spring-loaded belt tensioner. I installed a winch and roller on back that’s used to skid small logs for firewood. I also use the winch and roller to lift a rear-mounted blade for pulling snow out of corners and for windrowing any snow missed by my front-mount blower. I also use a rake and garden plow with the tractor.”

Howard Birr, Albany, Minn.: “I like my **Sears Craftsman** 18-volt cordless tool set. It’s a 4-piece set with two batteries, and it didn’t cost much more than what I paid for a Skil reciprocating saw that came with only one battery. The Sears batteries hold their charge much longer, too.”

Joe Taylor, Corvallis, Oregon: “Our 1999 **Lucas** sawmill is our best buy. It has been to Alaska three times. We have a place on Prince of Wales Island that originally could be accessed only by boat. The mill components are easy to transport by boat and can be taken right to the logs on the island, which is really important to us because we were dealing with 7-ft. dia. cedar logs with no road access. This

pellets; just pushing the ‘on’ button and the control panel does the rest. It heats our 1,500 sq. ft. home on 50 to 60 lbs. of corn a day. If the outside temperature gets warmer than 20° we will open a window or two or else it gets too warm in the house.



“Last fall we harvested our corn at 14.5 percent moisture and ran it through a rotary screen which took the fines out. We ended up with very clean corn. I bag it and then stack it in the garage. I then pour the corn from the bags into a 5-gal. pail and carry it to the stove.

“My stove does not have a stirrer in the fire pot. The only tool I have is a used 1-in. paint brush to brush down the flyash on the inside of the fire chamber. I have never needed to clean out any holes in the firepot. I just rake the clinkers down into the ash pan under the fire pot.

“It’s very safe because corn is not combustible itself. It only burns because of air blowing into the firebox. The bottom of the stove doesn’t get hot at all.

“In my opinion, \$2.00 corn is the cheapest way to heat a house and this stove is fantastic.”

Stan Debus, Brunner, Ontario: “I bought a **Husqvarna** GTH2554XP lawn tractor powered by a commercial grade 25 hp Kawasaki engine. After mowing my 1/2-acre lawn eight times, the mower quit running.