

Farmers Nominate Best & Worst Buys

Home Depot is my worst buy. From the beginning it lacked power, and the battery wouldn't hold a charge. I could drive only about three 2-in. screws before the battery gave out. Then I had to put the battery on the charger for an hour just so that I could drive another three screws. It was very frustrating."

Max Black, Aurora, Mo.: "My 2004 **Mantis** rototiller is my best buy. It's so light I can pick it up with one hand and throw it in my pickup. It weighs about the same as a Weed Eater. But when it comes time to till, this rototiller is unbelievable. It digs like crazy. I've hit rocks with it that were almost as big as the tiller but didn't break anything. This is one tough machine."

W. Gray Abercrombie, Broad Run, Va.: "My **Toro** zero turn 62-in. riding mower equipped with a Kohler engine is my best buy. It's stable on steep hills and has a lot of power. It mows large lawns quickly, and it does a good job of spreading grass clippings even in tall grass. It turns in a tight circle around trees and virtually eliminates the need to use a weed trimmer. It's a fantastic machine."

"My 1994 **Dodge Ram** 2500 heavy duty 4-WD pickup equipped with a Cummins diesel engine is my worst buy. The engine is outstanding but that's all. The ball joints were replaced at about 30,000 miles, the front brakes at about 20,000 miles, and the exhaust at about 28,000 miles. It has also had problems with the front wheel bearing, wiper motor, and wiper switch. This pickup still looks great and has only about 40,000 miles on it. It has been well cared for. On the positive side, it's really powerful on hills and I like the 4-WD."

H.J. Trahan, Jennings, La.: "My **Ford** 3000 tractor has been the most reliable machine I've ever had. Neither the engine nor the diesel pump has ever been repaired. I've always changed the fuel filters and been careful about using clean fuel."

"I had a problem with the front axle on my **Sears Craftsman** riding mower. The axle was made by the Roper Co. I replaced the original axle with one made by Sears Craftsman, which I modified a little, and now I have a heavy duty axle."

James Moldenhauer, Ferndale, Wash.: James nominates his 12-volt **Ridgid** 1/2-in. drive cordless drill as his "best buy". "It charges quickly, has a lot of power, and the carbide chuck does a good job of gripping bits. This drill cost \$69, which was less than the cost of replacement batteries for my 9.6-volt Sears drill. Also, it has a better (3-year) warranty."

Richard Davis, Absarokee, Mont.: "My 1993 **New Holland** L785 skid loader is reliable and runs smooth. I also like my 2004 **New Holland** L180 skid loader. I use these machines in my concrete and excavation business and wouldn't want to be without them. They're the backbone of my business."

Freeman Wattam, Deseronto, Ontario: Freeman is disappointed with his 2004 **Genamaxx** portable diesel 7.5-kilowatt generator. "I use it to provide backup power for my house and also to provide power at a remote shop on my farm. I've had to return the generator for repair work seven times in nine months, with one motor blow-up. The rest of the problems had to do with the generator not producing enough power. At first the company made the repairs or gave me a new generator under warranty, but later I had to deliver my machine to their shop which is a 3-hour drive in one direction."

"Last April the company gave me a new generator part which I had to install myself. I was told there was no more warranty coverage on my machine even though it had less than 110 hours on it. They told me I was overloading the generator with the arc welder I

was using so I haven't used that welder since then, but four months later the power failed again. Now I have a generator that won't produce enough kilowatts. I gave up on it and recently purchased a new **Generac** generator from a different supplier."

Leonard Dannen, State Center, Iowa: "My 2001 **Dodge** 2500 pickup equipped with a V-10 engine has about 185,000 miles on it and is my best buy. I change the oil every 15,000 miles. It still has its original brakes on back."

Salon Sheldon, Blissfield, Mich.: "Our **Maytag Neptune** front load washer is easy on clothes and uses only about half as much water as a top load Maytag washer. But we've spent more on repairs and parts than for any other washer we've owned. We paid \$1,100 for the washer and have spent another \$127.95 for labor and \$202.48 for parts."

Richard Ellis, Pomona, Mo.: Richard likes his 1996 **Chevrolet Geo Metro** equipped with a 3-cyl. gas engine and 5-speed transmission. "I bought this car used and paid \$12,000 for it. It had a small dent on back and about 40,000 miles on it. Now it has about 90,000 miles. The best thing is that it's fuel efficient. It gets about 45 mpg in town and 60 mpg on the highway. Also, it doesn't use any oil and runs good. I've spent less than \$15 on repairs."

J. Harry Wright, Red Lodge, Mont.: "My worst buy is my **Avalon Olympic** wood stove equipped with an ash pan. This stove smokes every time I open the door to put wood in it. I've raised the chimney and done everything the dealer recommended. I wrote to the company and sent a copy to the dealer, but neither has bothered to answer. This was an expensive stove and I'm very dissatisfied with it. The ash pan is a real joke."

Ernest Amershek, McCune, Kansas: Ernest nominates his **Balzer** 8-ft., V-6 liquid manure pump as his "worst buy". "The first time we backed the tractor up to it we found we couldn't use a quick coupler to hook it up. When we put the pump into the pit we found the agitation nozzle was too long and had to be removed. Finally, the clamshell-style discharge valve tried to close on a large piece of gravel and bent the valve and the shaft it was mounted on. Our previous N-Tech pump ran good for years with just a sliding gate valve."

Don Holdeman, Elma, Iowa: "I like my 2005 **Chicago** pneumatic 1/2-in. drive air impact wrench. This wrench was advertised to have 625 ft.-lbs. I have a 3/4-in. impact wrench with 700 ft.-lbs. but this small 1/2-in. wrench will do just as much as the 3/4-in. one. I bought an adapter so that I can use my 3/4-in. sockets with the 1/2-in. impact wrench. It also has a handy torque setting on back of the gun with four settings. Small gun, big power."

A set of gear pullers from **Harbor Freight** rates as his "worst buy". "The first time I used it a bolt that holds the jaws together sheared off."

Robert (Fish) Pike, Hollandale, Minn.: "I bought my 1992 **Dodge** Dakota 2-WD pickup equipped with a 4-cyl. engine and 5-speed transmission used for \$900. The engine is fuel efficient. I put a utility box on back that I bought from a friend for \$160 and use it as a service truck. I work for a local International truck dealer so it comes in handy for service calls. I converted an air conditioning compressor into an engine-driven air compressor so it also has on-board air."

"My **Chicago** electric hammer drill is my worst buy. I was able to use it only once before the gears stripped out. Lesson learned. I think we should all stop being so cheap and buy good American-made tools as much as possible. Support your neighbors and you'll

be rewarded with quality."

Gerald Kropf, Jamesville, N.Y.: "My 1999 **Dodge Ram** 2500 pickup equipped with a 5.9-liter engine is my worst buy. I use it around our farm and also to tow a two-horse trailer. It gets only 6 to 7 mpg. Just after it was three years old, the entire wiring harness had to be replaced due to corrosion. The vehicle's warranty had expired one month

"After it was just three years old, the entire wiring harness had to be replaced due to corrosion."

earlier, even though the vehicle had only about 20,000 miles on it. Fortunately the dealer covered the cost."

"Another problem was the pickup kept slipping out of 4-WD. Also, some vacuum actuators had to be replaced as well as a bent linkage. When the pickup was less than four years old the inside of the doors started showing rust, and then the front end started going. Whenever I used the pickup to pull a trailer, the front end would wander all over the road. After I spent \$1,000 to replace the ball joints, tie rods, and a sway bar, the dealer wanted to try replacing the steering box. That's when we threw in the towel and traded this pickup in on a Ford 2500 diesel model, which so far has been outstanding."

"My 2000 **Kubota** 2500DT 4-WD, 25 hp loader tractor is my best buy. This machine has been impeccable. The only problem was with a short on the block heater which was quickly resolved. This tractor has about 550

hours on it and I've done all the maintenance myself. I use it for mowing, blowing and plowing snow, handling manure, dragging a riding arena, and digging fence post holes. Last summer I made a rear-mounted snow blower for it as well as a fixed front-mounted plow. I'm impressed with the power and reliability of this tractor. I'd buy another Kubota in a heartbeat."

John Leininger, Loudenville, Ohio: "My **New Holland** 1412 discbine is my worst buy. A gearbox went out twice in two years and was very expensive to fix. The dealer was helpful but it still cost me a lot of money and down time."

John R. Dorrel, Middletown, Ohio: "The mole trap I purchased from **Bob Bruno of Nuisance Wildlife Control Products** is my best buy (ph 888 778-7988; www.easymoletrap.com). Bob guaranteed it would catch moles or he would refund my money. I set it when I got home and within an hour or so, I caught the biggest mole I've ever seen. Five days later, I saw a new mole run in the yard. I set the trap and caught another huge mole within about three hours. This is an easy trap to set, and it really works. We've tried many other solutions to get rid of moles, but this is the only one that works."

Robert D. Perice, Hagerstown, Ind.: "Our little 2001 **Kubota** LA 211 tractor is our best buy. It came equipped with a front-end loader and a belly mower, and we've also bought a box blade, Bush Hog mower, and scraper blade for it. We use it for hauling trees, moving large rocks, burying dead animals, putting in drainage pipes, mowing, moving snow and dirt and various other jobs. It has about 800 hours on it. We had a couple of minor problems which the dealer promptly corrected. It's a fantastic small tractor. My wife enjoys using it almost as much as I do."

Have You Read Every Issue Of FARM SHOW?

If you want more of what you read about in every issue of FARM SHOW, we've got a treat for you. Our CD-Rom contains every issue we've ever published!

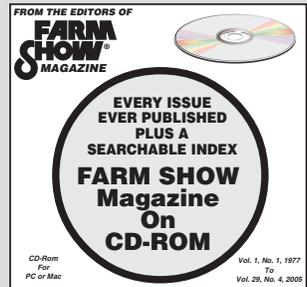
FARM SHOW on CD-Rom also includes a state-of-the-art "searchable" electronic index that makes it easy to find any invention or idea published over the past 29 years (through Vol. 29, No. 4).

Every story ever published in FARM SHOW is cross-referenced in one or more of 200 categories. You can search by key word, story title, manufacturer or farmer name, or by category.

Or you can simply browse through all 29 years of FARM SHOW at your leisure.

"FARM SHOW On CD-Rom" sells for \$39.95 (\$54.95 Canadian) plus S&H. Comes with a 100 percent money-back guarantee. If you're not happy with the CD-Rom for any reason, we'll refund all of your money, no questions asked.

This CD-Rom works on any personal computer (PC or Mac).



CD-Rom Order Form

Yes! Please rush me a copy of FARM SHOW Magazine on CD-Rom, which includes every issue of FARM SHOW ever published plus a "searchable" electronic index. Payment of \$39.95 plus \$2.95 S&H (\$54.95 Canadian plus \$2.95 S&H. Add 7% GST).

Your Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State/Prov. _____ Zip _____

Please make check payable to: FARM SHOW. Mail to: FARM SHOW Index, P.O. Box 1029, Lakeville, MN 55044 ph 1-800-834-9665. Visa, MC and Disc accepted.