

Farmers Nominate Best & Worst Buys

Allis Chalmers G tractor is my best buy. I bought it from my brother in 1980. I've used this little tractor to mow hay and brush, as well as to plow and cultivate. It has been used in some places where other 4-wheeled tractors couldn't go - up steep mountain sides to a garden, and down steep hills and banks to a small bottom land garden that required winching the tractor back up to the top again. It has the same rear tires my dad put on it in 1966. It's a dependable tractor."



Nina Helms, Cuba, N. Mex.: "I hadn't been able to drive over our entire ranch until I bought my 2001 **Polaris 6-wheeler**. It's a great work horse for hauling dirt, rocks, wood, and so on."

Arnold D. Ross, Webber, Kansas: Arnold nominates his 1999 **Case 110 tractor** equipped with a front-end loader as his "best buy." "It's a real joy to operate and doesn't use much fuel. Also, the loader is easy to take off and put on. It has a powershift transmission. We had to replace the power shift relays which the company paid for. I'd buy another one of these tractors in a minute."

David M. Welling, Ridgeway, Ohio: David's happy with his 1974 **Deere 70 lawn tractor** which he bought used 10 years ago. "With a little tender loving care we'll be using it for a long time to come."

David Karl, Montrose, Colo.: "My 1994 **Nissan Sentra** car equipped with a 1.6-liter engine and standard transmission, which I bought used with 109,000 miles on it, is my best buy. I'm retired and deliver papers as a part time job, and I drive about 600 miles per week so fuel is a big expense for me. Fortunately, this little car gets 48 mpg."

Charles Lipsett, Harmony, Maine: "My 1982 **Chevrolet 3/4-ton 4-WD pickup** equipped with a 6.2-liter diesel engine and automatic overdrive transmission is my worst buy. It went through many transmissions, four sets of heads, three injector pumps, and an untold number of starters and batteries. I'll never own another Chevy. I gave it away and now own a **Dodge pickup**."

Everett W. Gustafson, Brockway, Penn.: "My 1948 **Farmall Cub tractor** is my best buy. I still use it regularly. It has a nicer, smoother running engine than all my other small tractors. All I do is walk up to it, check the oil and gas, and maybe check the radiator once in a while. There's no hood to open. Then I just get on it and go to work."

T.E. Stradley, Overbrook, Okla.: "I use my 1980 **Ford 1900 tractor** to do everything from mowing brush to disking. It has required no major repairs. It's my best buy."

Randy Brooks, Peterstown, W. Va.: "It works fast and does a great job," says Randy, pleased with his 1980 **New Holland 1495 self-propelled haybine** equipped with a 12-ft. head. "I'm able to cut 15 acres with it in only two hours."

"My **New Holland L775 skid steer loader** is a best buy."

"My **Vermeer 605C round baler** is my worst buy. If the hay is a little green or wet, it clogs up in the baler's front corners."

Mike Talbott, Riverton, Wyo.: "My 1988 **Yanmar 27 hp, 4-WD tractor**, which I bought used, is my best buy. It has a 3-cyl. diesel engine and 4-speed pto, with nine forward speeds and three reverse. It has so much traction that in first gear and low gear it'll climb a tree. I've put 300 trouble-free hours on it."

John R. Carlson, Harrison, Maine: "Last February I bought a **Kiotti 40 hp front wheel assist tractor** and also a self-loading log trailer called the **Metavic**. Both the tractor and the log hauler are sold together as a unit called the **Forrester**, and it's my best buy (Payeur Distributions, Inc., Sherbrooke, Quebec, Canada ph 802-467-1055; www.payeur.com). "The company strips the Kiotti tractor down

and armor plates everything that could be affected by working in the woods. The tractor has an expanded metal grill on the front and sides, with steel plates protecting the underside. Both sides are hinged and secured with lynch pins, allowing me to swing them out for access to the engine. A small hydraulic-operated blade on front can be used to level off trails in the woods. The blade can be folded over the hood in wooded areas. A ROPS protects the operator, and there's a metal shelf on one side for storing my chain saw, fuel, etc. Tire chains can be used during the winter.

"The trailer is equipped with side stakes and can handle logs up to 12 ft. long. To operate the controls, the operator stands on an expanded metal stand that mounts on the hitch, so he doesn't have to get on the tractor to load a log. The boom supports a 360 degree rotating grapple and a hydraulic winch with 110 ft. of cable, which allows me to park on a road and drag trees out of the ditch for loading. If I want, I can use the grapple to hold a log up for cutting without even having to bend over. The company also offers several options for the Metavic, including a tilting platform for transporting your tractor, firewood or other items; a dumper bed; and a backhoe excavating arm.

"I paid \$36,950 for the entire unit, which was delivered to my farm. I bought it after watching other units operate in our area. I'm 78 years old and I hope this unit will let me work for many more years in the woods."

Walter Pinkowski, Jr., Argyle, N.Y.: "My **New Idea 5209 disc mower** is my best buy. The machine I have was the company's first prototype and was used for demonstrations. I use it to cut about 450 acres of hay every year. I replaced a long shaft that drives the discs, and I replaced the turtles and shields once. My only complaint is that the hitch should be built heavier.

"Our 1998 **Massey Ferguson 283 tractor** equipped with an **Alo front-end loader** is a best buy."

Phil Hawley, Carpinteria, Calif.: "My **Bosch 24-volt cordless drill** is my best buy. I can use it anywhere, and it takes only about one hour to recharge the battery. It's a powerful tool."

Edmund Fisk, Clyde, N.Y.: "My 1995 **Ford Genesis tractor** works great. The only repair it needed was a new wiper blade."

John Westerhoff, Alexandria, Neb.: John's unhappy with his 2004 **Polaris 700 Sportsman ATV**. "I bought it after I took my 1995 **Polaris 425 Magnum** in last December for some work and they made me a deal on a new Sportsman. The machine had only 39 hours on it last June when I was driving through the woods and was suddenly engulfed in smoke, with flames bursting out around my legs. Fortunately, I was only about a half mile from home so I drove as fast as I could up to a water hydrant and put the fire out.

"Then I loaded the machine on a trailer and took it to the dealer. He said the fire happened because the valve cover gasket had blown out and oil had run down on the exhaust manifold and caught fire. They replaced the gasket, but when they went to put water in the radiator it leaked out. Neither the dealer nor the company would stand behind the damaged radiator. The only item they would cover

under warranty was the gasket. I know the radiator wasn't damaged before the fire happened because a 4-wheeler simply wouldn't have run without water in the radiator.

"I had a bad feeling about my purchase after I read a **FARM SHOW** report about someone else who had a similar experience. I definitely wouldn't buy another **Polaris** again and am telling all my neighbors to stay away from them."

Ray Bulthuis, Ramona, Calif.: "I'm well satisfied with my 1985 **Massey Ferguson 1040 diesel tractor** equipped with a **Massey Ferguson 232 front-end loader**. And I like my 1998 **Deere 425 garden tractor** equipped with a 54-in. mower deck. Both tractors are well-built and have required only routine maintenance."

On the minus side, "The transmission on my 2001 **Ford Escape** failed at 51,000 miles. It happened when I was 250 miles from home and after the warranty had expired. The transmission cost \$3,300 to repair and was at the dealer for 2 1/2 weeks. I also had to spend \$400 on a rental car while the vehicle was in the shop. I immediately replaced the Ford with a 2003 **GM Envoy**, which I really like. However, just in case anything goes wrong I bought it with an extended 100,000-mile warranty."

Ed Gibson, Santa Cruz, Calif.: "The hydraulic log splitter I bought from **Northern Tool Co.** is a great machine, but the shipping and handling charge cost me about one third the total price of the machine. I should have bought it from a local dealer."

Randal Hatcher, Spanishburg, W. Va.: A 1990 **Yanmar 2220D 4-WD compact diesel tractor** rates as Randal's "best buy." "The diesel engine has a lot of power and is economical to operate. It starts as easy as a gas engine, even in winter. This tractor has been

trouble-free and is a good machine.

"My 2002 **MTD Yard Machine lawn tractor** equipped with an 18 1/2 hp engine is my worst buy. Five minutes after I first tried to use it, it started falling apart. The variable-drive unit has fallen off three times, the pulleys on the deck have fallen off twice, the differential came loose, the front axle wore out, and the cowl broke after it worked loose. This machine is described as a garden tractor, but in my opinion it doesn't even qualify as a lawn mower.

"My **Simplicity bandsaw mill** is a worst buy. It's designed better than a **Woodmizer** and has a solid frame, but the construction work on it is terrible. It's badly welded and the blade guides don't work. To fix the problem, the guide mounts will have to be cut off and new ones fabricated. Also the drive belt rubs the exhaust on the engine, causing premature wear. In my opinion, you'd be much better off building your own sawmill, or paying the extra money for a **Woodmizer** or **Norwood** model."

James A. Helleso, Las Vegas, Nevada: "I use my 1996 **Makita 4 1/2-in. grinder** hard for welding projects, but it never fails to keep going.

"My 2003 **Harbor Freight 9-in. grinder** is my worst buy. After the first few hours I used it, "white stuff" started coming out and it soon quit working. The warranty had expired so it wasn't worth fixing. I learned my lesson - always buy quality tools."

Sean Fink, Ridgway, Penn.: "My 2000 **DR trimmer mower** is my best buy (Country Home Products, Charlotte, Vermont ph 800 446-8746). It does everything the company said it would. Customer service has been great."

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