

## Farmers Nominate Best & Worst Buys

low range, which gives it six forward and two reverse gears."

**Roy David Fricker, DeValls Bluff, Ark.:** He likes his 1999 **Ford F-150** extended cab pickup equipped with a 4.6-liter, V-8 gas engine and automatic overdrive transmission. "It's roomy enough to carry four adults and gets a respectable 22 to 25 mpg."

"I bought an **International Harvester** 1466 tractor from a friend for \$4,500 and use it every day. I haven't had any major problems except I had to buy a new set of Taper-Loc spindles."

"I bought a **Case 2470 4-WD** tractor at an estate sale for \$4,500 and it's a best buy. It lets me work the ground a little sooner and also use bigger equipment. It's now my main tractor. It works great in mud."

"My 1986 **Honda** 3-wheel ATV is a best buy. I put about 600 miles a year on it. Other than gas, oil and filters, and a set of 6-ply mud tires I haven't spent a dime on it since it was new."

On the negative side, "The 12-speed drill press I bought from **Harbor Freight** is a piece of junk. You have to watch what you buy from them. From now on I'll buy only brand names."

**David K. Goering, Carthage, Mo.:** "I like my 1969 **International Harvester** 656 tractor. It's big enough to handle round bales, yet it also works great for small loader chores."

**Ben and Daniel Padgett, Kings Mountain, Ky.:** They like their two 2003 **Kubota** 4800 SU tractors. "These tractors are easy to operate and user friendly. They contain many big tractor features not found on other brands. We can't say enough good things about them. They're built simple and are a pleasure to use."

**Gildo Cronick, Osceola, Wis.:** "My 1974 **International Harvester** 1066 tractor is a best buy. Over the years I've spent only about \$2,600 on repairs. About \$1,000 of that was to tighten the front end and another \$1,000 to put a 50-cent O-ring in the transmission. And, I spent \$600 to fix the parking brake. This tractor always starts and doesn't use any oil. It still has the original clutch, brakes and transmission."

**Joe C. Drake, Hudson, Wyo.:** "The **Snap-per** weed trimmer I bought last year is my best buy. It starts easy and does a good job even in big weeds. It's also easy on the cutting string. I really like it."

**Gordon White, Orofino, Idaho:** "Thirty years ago I bought a used **Farmall** 560 diesel tractor. I rebuilt the engine 20 years ago and have used it ever since as my baling tractor. I haven't had any major problems with it."

"My 1992 **Ford Explorer** is my worst buy. Before it had 100,000 miles on it I had to replace the rear pinion bearing, transmission, engine, and air conditioning condenser."

**Glen Grice, Beechy, Sask.:** Glen says he's "generally satisfied" with his 1968 **Ford** 4000 flat deck row crop tractor. "It has power steering and a smooth shifting 4-speed standard transmission with high and low ranges."

**John and Peggy Milliman, Mechanicsville, Md.:** A 2000 **Deere** 6 by 4 Gator equipped with a diesel engine rates as their "best buy." "It's absolutely the 'most valuable player' on our farm," says Peggy. "We use it for everything from daily cleaning of our commercial boarding stable to maintenance of a 90-home upscale housing development, to taking care of our draft horses and a 17-acre commercial Christmas tree farm. The one constant to our success and sanity is our Gator."

"I've been a paraplegic for 21 years. Until we bought the Gator, I mostly did paperwork. Now I can get out to the fields and see all the places where my husband and daughter ride."

I can also buzz around the neighborhood to check on things and stop to chat with many folks. It's like riding around on your porch—people always stop us to talk."

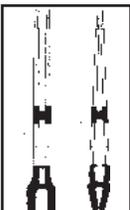
**Robert Bass, Morrisdale, Penn.:** "My **Drill Doctor** is my best buy (Dakota Sales, Wyndmere, N. Dak. ph 800 260-9944). It lets us pull all our old dull drill bits back into like-new condition. It comes with good instructions so anyone use it."

**Glen Grice, Beechy, Sask.:** "I'm generally satisfied with my 1994 **Deere** 8760 tractor."

"My 1974 **Deere** 4230 tractor has more than 11,000 hours on it but still works great. It has never needed a major repair."

**Vern and Bernice Clapp, Greenville, Fla.:** A **Ursus** 2812 tractor equipped with a **Bush Hog** front-end loader rates as Vern's "best buy." I just fuel it and use it. No problems of any kind."

**Kenneth R. Haskin, Waterloo, Iowa:** "My **Hole Deal** post hole digger is my best buy (Jeff Vaughter, Stevens Point, Wisconsin ph 715 341-4315). It's easy to use and makes neat straight-sided holes. When you use it you don't have to crack your knuckles together. Also, poles and posts set quicker because less dirt is disturbed."



**Harry Cliff, Bluff City, Tenn.:** "I like my **Amazablaze** 4100 corn stove fireplace insert (Snively Alternative Energy, McComb, Ohio 45858 ph 888 764-8359 or 419 293-2465). It's located in our basement and has reduced the heating bill in our log home from \$300 to \$600 per month down to less than \$100 per month. The company offers several different models."

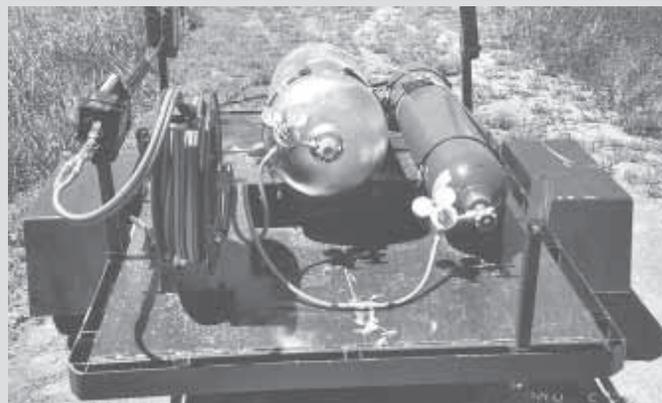
**Nick Kozicki, Kindersley, Sask.:** "We recently bought a new **Flexicoil** 6000 disk seeder and 340-bu. air tank as well as 120-ft., 1,200-gal. sprayer. We had to spend three days on each machine adjusting and replacing parts in order to get the machines out into the field. The sprayer caused the most problems because the solenoid valves were hooked up wrong. Five shut-off valves were broken and had to be replaced before we could even start using it."

"We met with the company and told them about the problems, but they insisted everything had been checked out prior to the sprayer leaving the factory. It cost us more than \$1,500 per year just to keep the machine running. The dealer who sold the machine to us is no longer in business. We'd have to look really hard before we'd buy another Flexicoil machine. We finally traded the sprayer in for a **Melroe** 4640 Spru Coupe. It's simple to operate and doesn't have as many electronics to malfunction."

"It's sad that after spending so much money on equipment the company gave such poor service and had such a poor attitude toward a customer. Our farm is located only 120 miles from their factory, so they could have come out and corrected the problems. This company needs to change their attitude regarding customer service."

"Our **Deere** 9300 tractor is an awesome piece of machinery. It has super hydraulics and is very user friendly. Deere equipment is well-tested and proven. It keeps its value well."

**Rodney Nixon, Amherst, Ohio:** "My **Deere** Gator 6 by 4 equipped with a gas engine is my worst buy. The back cylinder keeps 'loading up', causing it to run on only one cylinder. The dealer supposedly followed the factory's repair suggestions and charged me more than \$250, but it wasn't long before the problem reoccurred. We've found that the only



**Robert Binning, Atwood, Kansas ph 785 626-8047:** "My **Rodenator Pro**, which I bought last April, is my best buy (Meyer Industries, Midvale, Idaho ph 800 750-4553; www.rodenator.com). It's designed to destroy gophers and other destructive burrowing animals and consists of a 4 1/2-ft. long wand that mixes oxygen with propane. It uses an electronic solid state ignition system powered by two 9-volt batteries to develop a large controlled spark at the end of the wand, which ignites the gases in the tunnel system."

"I use it to kill gophers in alfalfa fields. One thing I wasn't as impressed with was the company's 2-wheeled cart that's designed to carry the wand and all the accessories. It's

small and built too light. So I paid \$1,000 to have a friend of mine build a trailer for me. "The trailer measures 5 ft. wide by 7 ft. long and rides on 16-in. wheels. It has a steel floor with metal brackets on front and back to contain the oxygen and acetylene tanks. Rubber and nylon straps hold the tanks down. A bracket on one side of the trailer supports the wand, which rests inside styrofoam holders to keep it from getting scratched up. An automatic hose reel bolts to the floor on back, as well as a shovel-holding bracket."

"I pull the trailer behind either my ATV or pickup and have a different hitch for each vehicle."

solution is to replace the spark plugs every four to six hours. The tractor has unresponsive steering, and there's not enough weight on the front end to assist in traction. The traction problem is even worse if there's any load on back. My other Gator - a 4 by 2 - runs fine."

**David Arnold, Meeker, Colo.:** A 1/2-in. drill from **Harbor Freight** rates as David's "best buy." "I've tried my best to break the darn thing but I can't. I've used it to build my log house and countless other projects."

"A creeper that I bought from **Harbor Freight** is my worst buy. The wheels broke off after only about a week of use."

**Roger Kathka, Springfield, Mo.:** "My 1960 **Minneapolis Moline** M5 tractor is my best buy. It has a lot of features that you wouldn't expect to find on an older model, and it has a great hydraulic system. However, the power steering system could be better. I use a **Farmhand** F-11 front-end loader on it, which works great for stacking round bales four high. I've been looking at new tractors but haven't found one as dependable as this one. Also, I haven't found a tractor with a pressure down 3-pt. hitch like the one on this tractor. It works great with a post hole auger."

**William H. Braymen, Coin, Iowa:** William's happy with his 1981 **Ford** 6700 tractor. "It just sips fuel compared to our other tractor. It has about 6,500 hours on it and is a pleasure to operate."

"My 1980 **Ford F-150 XLT** pickup has about 185,000 miles on it but still runs good and doesn't use any oil."

"My 1984 **Honda** 200 4-wheel ATV is a best buy. We use it to spray, seed crops, and check and feed our cattle. This machine is easy on fuel."

"My son has a **Snap-On** wire welder which is a worst buy. He can't get parts for it and the dealer is no help. It will be the last Snap-On tool on this farm."

**Allen Kimball, Dover, Ark.:** "My **Walker** zero turn riding mower is my best buy (Walker Mfg., Fort Collins, Colo.). I bought it used about two years ago, but I know it's at least five years old. It's a fabulous mower. My wife, who is well up into her 70's, likes

it so well that if a blade of grass dares to grow, you'll find her out on the machine mowing it down. We have a large yard filled with trees, but it's no problem for this zero turn mower."

**Dorothy Spear, Concordia, Kansas:** "It's a good and faithful tractor," says Dorothy about her **Deere** 4020. "We also have a Deere 3020 as well as two **International Harvesters**. However, we like the 4020 best for general farming. The 3020 works best for feeding cattle but I wish it was easier for older people to get on and off."

**William Turner, Quinton, Ala.:** "I received a **General Electric** 22-channel basic GMRS/Vox two-way radio as a gift and I'm not impressed with it. My wife bought it for me because I'm disabled. However, they didn't work right from day one. The send button was stuck, and the company wouldn't honor the warranty because I didn't have an original bill of sale."

**Roy Hardin, Colmesneil, Texas:** Roy nominates his 2001 **Stihl** chain saw as his "worst buy." "I've never been able to cold start this saw without having to remove the filter first and squirt starter fluid into the open throat of the carburetor, then pull to start the machine with the filter off the saw. The starting instructions say to place your right foot into the rear handle and press down. However, I wear a size 10 1/2 shoe and can't get any part of my shoe into the handle to hold it down due to the size of the handle. My 20-year-old **Pioneer** chain saw starts a lot easier than this one."

**Anthony and Philip Maus, Albany, Minn.:** "It's easy to operate, runs quiet, and is fuel efficient," says Anthony and Philip about their 1986 **White** 2-65 tractor. "It has only a 15-gal. fuel tank, but when we use it to bale hay we can go all day long and still have the tank one fourth full at the end of the day. It's easy to shift gears on this tractor. However, there should be more gears between 1 and 6 mph. Another problem is that almost all the silver paint has worn off the tractor."

**Bill Kulp, Aiken, S.C.:** A 2004 **Toyota** Tundra longbed pickup equipped with a 200

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