

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:
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Lakeville, Minn. 55044, or use
the survey form on our website at
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Robert Rottinghaus, Jesup, Iowa: Robert bought two strobe lights from **B Alert Inc.** at the National Farm Machinery Show in Louisville, Ky., and says they’re his “worst buys”. “The representative at the show told me these strobe lights would keep raccoons out of my sweet corn. However, the raccoons came anyway and ate everything but the lights. I believe they thought these flashing lights were like a K-Mart blue light special. I paid \$40 for the lights. When I returned them they charged me a whopping 25 percent restocking charge. If retail stores charged a 25 percent restocking fee, they’d all be broke before the end of the year.”

Daniel Knutson, Centerville, S. Dak.: “I’m well satisfied with my **Case-IH 7110** tractor equipped with a **Westendorf TA 46** front-end loader. It has almost 7,000 hours on it with very few problems, and the engine has never been touched. We also use this tractor to pull our sprayer. Until recently it was the main pulling tractor on our farm. It came equipped with a hydraulic-operated seat, but I think an air seat is far superior. We’ve had very few problems with the Westendorf loader, which is also a best buy.”

Allen Bjergo, Corvallis, Mont.: “It’s easy

Paul Price, Goldston, N.C.: Paul’s happy with his 1997 **Deere 7810 4-WD**. “It has more than 2,900 hours of trouble-free use. It has plenty of power to pull a 22-ft. disk even through wet places that we encounter every spring. It has a comfortable cab with great vision and keeps cool on hot summer days.”

Stan McCarthy, Columbia, Mo.: “I like the **Red Wing** steel-toe shoes I bought in 1999. I’ve worn them almost every day and they’ve held up better than any other shoes I’ve ever owned. I’ve read reports in **FARM SHOW** from other readers who are unhappy with Red Wings, but I’ll buy another pair of shoes when these wear out.”

George Mills, Port Byron, N.Y.: “My **Knight 8014** slinger manure spreader does a great job of spreading heavy or light manure or anything in between, and it transports on the road without leaking.”

T.J. Benner, Cascade, Mont.: “Our **Cat Challenger 65D** tractor is dependable, fuel efficient, and versatile. It’s the best large tractor we’ve ever owned. An excellent product.”

On the negative side, he lists his **Bourgault** sprayer. “It has been a nightmare. The company has not treated us well nor has it stood behind its product.”

Adam Bowen, West Alexandria, Ohio: “I like my **AGCO White 6045** front wheel assist tractor equipped with a front-end loader. This little tractor performs incredibly well with a loader and it starts right up no matter how cold the weather. I use the tractor to pull our 15-ft. Bush Hog and to move snow. I give it a ‘10’ in my book.

“My **AGCO White 6810** front wheel assist tractor has a lot of power and is comfortable to drive. However, mud packed up in around the fuel tank and broke the brackets. And to top it all off, the rear end went out at about 600 hours. The dealer wouldn’t stand behind this product and told me the warranty had expired seven days before I brought the tractor in, and so it wasn’t his problem. **AGCO** finally fixed the tractor at another dealer.”

Jeff Kilzer, Bentley, N. Dak.: “My 1999 **New Holland 688** round baler makes picture perfect bales every time. It has made more than 3,000 bales. The only problem is that the twine from one ball doesn’t always continue on to the next ball.”

W.C. Underwood, Calhoun, Ky.: “I like my **Troy Bilt 7 hp** tiller. It’s a good tool.”

Donald Hartman, Brutus, Mich.: “My 2000 **Drill Doctor** drill bit sharpener is my best buy. I haven’t used this tool very much yet, but it seems to do a good job of sharpening dull and broken bits. The only problem is that any bit smaller than 5/32 in. diameter is difficult to set up in the machine.

“My **DeWalt 12-volt** cordless drill is my worst buy. A replacement battery for it costs almost half as much as the entire kit costs new.”

Frank D. Boyd, Westminster, S.C.: Frank likes his 1989 **Deere 950 MFWD** tractor. “It does everything I ask of it and has never been back to the shop.”

Kyle Dobias, Verdigre, Neb.: “I like my brother’s 1957 **Oliver 77** tractor equipped with a diesel engine. It’s a strong running tractor and works great for mowing. My dad bought it from a friend for \$360. It had a crack in the side of the engine.

“I rented a 1987 **Case-IH 2394** and it always needed to have a battery charger to start. It had an electronic clutch that was run by a fuse that kept shorting out.”

Denis Seewald, Mustang, Okla.: Denis owns a 1998 **Poulan** “Wild Thing” chain saw.

to maintain, has a lot of power, and gets 20 mpg on the highway which I think is pretty good,” says Allen, pleased with his 1998 **Dodge Ram 2500** pickup equipped with a Cummins 24-valve diesel engine.

He says the original equipment **Goodyear** tires on the pickup were a “worst buy”. “Two of the tires simply blew when I went over a small rock. The company wouldn’t help at all.”

John F. Boake, Nesbitt, Manitoba: John’s impressed with his 1997 **Yamaha Big Bear 4-wheel** ATV. “I don’t know what we did before we bought this ATV. We use it for almost everything. We had a few minor problems with it, but the dealer promptly took care of them.

“Over the years I’ve bought three different **GM 3/4-ton 4-WD** pickups and they’ve all been best buys. They’ve all been reliable and needed only a few minor repairs.

“My 1997 **PMI 1511** round baler is my worst buy. The drive sprocket fell off and one end of the baler pickup fell off causing it to fold up like an accordion. The pickup had to be replaced and the company wouldn’t help at all. After I got it back the rollers started scraping, hydraulic cylinders broke, and some bearings gave out. I finally replaced it with a **New Holland 664** baler.”

Jim Revell, Thamesville, Ontario: “My 1996 **Deere 6400** is a good tractor with a surprising amount of power yet is easy on fuel. It easily pulls our 18-ft. tillage rig and packers. The only problem is that the air conditioning isn’t as good as on other tractors I’ve had.”