

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:
Editor@FARMSHOW.com**

Al Rens, Hull, Iowa: “I would like to add my 2 cents to the discussion about old IH freezers that was in the last couple issues. We bought one in 1955 and it’s still in use today. We have not spent a dime on it and it must not use much electricity because our total bill is around \$75 a month for a 6-room house with a dozen appliances, including a water pump and security light. Of course, our bill is much higher than when we first got electricity in 1936. Our bill was \$1 a month or less back then.”

Dale Bowen, Southington, Ohio: “To the fellow in your last issue with the 2015 Ford F-150 that gets poor fuel mileage with the Eco-Boost 2.7 liter engine, he might want to check his air cleaner box for a mouse nest. Out here in the country, every vehicle I own gets those. To stop the problem, I’ve fabricated wire screens for the air inlet holes. In fact, that was the first thing I did when I brought my new Ford F-150 home. I’m glad to say I get the advertised mileage with the truck.

“I did have a rattle in the truck when I would hit a pothole. It turned out to be the running boards. The top part rattles against its own mounting bracket. It appears there

a letter. Three weeks later I got a new pair in the mail, same type boots but a different style. And a nice letter of apology. That’s the big difference between boots made in China and boots made in the USA. Thanks Wolverine.”



Don Martin, Clayton, N.C.: “I bought my **Bready** walk-behind tractor from the grandson of the original owner, who bought it new in 1949. It’s still in its original condition. It came with a plow and snow blade, which I use to plow our gardens and to clear snow.

“I’m 15 years old and enjoy working on small engines. I currently have 2 antique garden tractors and plan to collect more.”

Roger Kohler, Dunnell, Minn.: “In early 2014 I bought a **DeWalt** 20-volt drill driver. The charger failed so I called the company, and all they asked for was my name and address. Three days later I received a new charger.”

Doug Clifton, Purdy, Mo.: “I bought a nice pair of **Maui Jim** sunglasses and was well pleased with them for about 2 years before I accidentally broke them. It was my fault (www.mauijim.com; ph 888 666-5905). I contacted the company and was told to send the glasses in for repair. I did, and the next thing I knew they sent me a new pair at no cost. Great customer service! If you’re looking for a pair of sunglasses, and a company that will stand behind its product, **Maui Jim** is the way to go.”

Chad Bautch, New Berlin, Wis.: “My 2002 **Honda** Rancher 350 4-wheeler equipped with a standard shift transmission has a lot of power and always starts right up. I use it to plow snow on my driveway. It has never had a breakdown and still has the original clutch.”

Ben Hoffman, Bradford, Maine: “I can’t say this 4-ft. **Kasco** Valu Drill is a ‘best buy’



because I didn’t buy it (www.kascomfg.com; ph 800 458-9129). But, as a member of the **Maine Grain Alliance**, I’ve borrowed the drill to use on 4 different grain plots. It has a simple design and is exceptionally well-built. Works beautifully on our rough terrain and is perfect for small fields.

“The drill was a bit heavy for my **Deere** 18 hp loader tractor, but adding some concrete weights in the bucket allowed me to raise the drill off the ground and still keep the tractor’s front wheels down. The drill sells for about \$6,300, which is more than I can justify for a few acres of grain.”

Fred Bolton, Willow, Alaska: “My father bought my **Simplicity** tractor new in 1966.



should be another piece welded to this bracket to secure it but it was left off, leaving a gap. This was probably some dumb cost-reduction idea made by some upper management guy who should have kept his nose out of the engineering department. I fixed the problem by shoving some thin wooden wedges into the gap.”

Fred Hale, Watkinsville, Georgia: “Seven years ago I bought a 460 **Yard Machine** wood chipper/shredder to grind ear corn for my small herd of cows. I store the ear corn on the concrete floor in my barn.

“To grind corn, I simply back a 16-ft. trailer into the bay. It has plywood sides and top, with a hole in the back. I removed the downspout on the chipper so the corn exits in a straight line as it’s being ground, right into the hole in the back of the trailer. It blows corn all the way to the front of the trailer, and will completely fill the trailer. I can grind about a ton of corn in a half hour on less than a gallon of gas. I have to repair or replace the screen regularly and, occasionally, a flail blade. The engine starts right up every time. For less than \$700, I’ve had 7 years of use so far. It’s been an excellent buy.”

Havah Gordon, Tulsa, Okla.: “I read with interest the story in your last issue about the **FARM SHOW** writer who had the sole come off a new pair of boots. I had the same issue with a pair of **Wolverine** extreme weather boots. I was on a second story roof, knocking off 3 ft. of snow that had fallen. I slipped and fell but thankfully there was enough snow to keep me from falling off the roof. I looked down at my feet and saw that one boot was missing the sole. I didn’t slip on ice. The sole came off the boot because the rubber had disintegrated.

“I was past the warranty period but, hey, they were \$250 boots that had been worn just 3 times. I sent them back to **Wolverine** with