

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:
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Connor Bishop, Guilford, Ct.: “A neighbor gave me a **Deere** MC crawler-dozer, which I find to be an awesome machine. It’s nimble, built strong, compact, and easy to transport. I’ve used it to dig out several tree stumps and to plow a lot of snow. Starts great and is easy to operate.”

James Kundinger, Auburn, Ill.: “My 2014 **Kubota** L3800 loader tractor works great for plowing our garden, and the loader is handy for moving heavy loads and hauling debris away from our yard.”

Harlan Martin, Orrville, Ohio: “I bought my **Deere** 455 diesel all-wheel-steer tractor used, equipped with a 60-in. mower deck and with about 70 hrs. on it. Now it has about 1,300 hrs., and I’ve replaced only the battery and mower blades. This tractor is easy on fuel and has a lot of power. The differential lock works great for getting around tight corners.”

Tom St. Hilaire, Kennewick, Wash.: “I think I’d have to retire if we didn’t have our **Honda** Rancher 4-wheelers. They’re handy to use in orchards where

late and a dollar short’ in terms of the warranty. They said if I brought the tractor in they’d look it over, at \$79 per hour. In an effort to solve the problem I’ve already replaced 2 fuel filters, a timer behind the dash, and a fuel solenoid in the injector pump. I also checked to see if there was a special fuse but couldn’t find one.

“Otherwise, this seems to be a good tractor. Can anyone help?”

Larry Koerber, Ravenna, Ohio: “I like my **Oregon** 40-volt cordless chainsaw equipped with a 14-in. bar (www.oregoncordless.com; ph 888 313-8665). “It works great for small jobs. It runs quiet and doesn’t require gas or a pull cord to start – just pull the trigger. I also like the self-sharpening chain, and the battery lasts about as long as one tank of gas would. It recharges in just an hour.”

Carrol Jones, Louisa, Va.: Carrol’s impressed with his 1986 **Farmi** JL500 3-pt. mounted logging winch (North East Implement, Spencer, N.Y. www.northeastimplement.com; ph 888 589-6160). “The salesman said we’d be able to hand this winch down to our grandkids some day, and he was right. After 29 years of hard work it has required only minimal repairs, most of them due to



operator error. It has a very unique clutch. I love this logging winch and have recommended it to many folks over the years.”

Lloyd Rogers, Logan, Ohio: “I was satisfied with my 2009 **Cub Cadet** zero turn riding mower until last spring, when the drive belt broke. The store where I bought the mower doesn’t stock these mowers anymore and had to special order the belt. It took about a week to arrive, which I think is way too long. I ended up making 3 trips to the store totaling 108 miles, and because the belt was special ordered they charged a 25 percent restocking fee. If you want a Cub Cadet mower I recommend going to Tractor Supply Company. They sell Cub Cadets and stock parts for about half what the company charges.”

Steve Nelson, Edward, Neb.: “My 2015 **Ford** F-250 crew cab longbed pickup equipped with a 6.7-liter diesel engine works great. Its power and fuel efficiency have exceeded my expectations. It rides like a luxury car. In fact, I’d rather drive this pickup than some of the cars I’ve owned.”

On the “worst buy” side, “After we bought our 2012 **Polaris** 800 Ranger SXS utility vehicle we had to take it to the dealer every year to get the belt and clutch reworked. I liked the machine’s power and interior room, but during the irrigation season the vehicle would often be in the shop for up to 12 weeks at a time. Then I’d have to use my old 1997 Honda 400 4-wheeler as a standby, and it worked well enough to convince me to buy a new Honda Pioneer. The Pioneer doesn’t have as much power, but overall it beats the Ranger hands down.”

Jim Beatty, Conway, Ark.: “During the fall of 2014 I bought a **Deere** 5075E tractor equipped with a cab, but after 12 hours the air conditioning line broke at

a pickup can’t go and make it easy to get around fast. They’re well-built and should keep going for many years.”

Howard Ashlock, Center Point, Iowa: Howard’s impressed with **Pyola** insect spray from Gurney’s Seed & Nursery Company (www.gurneys.com; ph 513 354-1492). “Striped Japanese potato beetles have been eating my young potato plants for the last 4 years, and the problem was getting worse every year. I tried all the readily available sprays and powders, but nothing worked. Then I ordered this spray from the Gurney’s seed catalog. Two doses of the spray and goodbye potato beetles. Now I can raise good-tasting, home-grown potatoes again.”

Troy Ketrin, Abingdon, Va. troy1112@yahoo.com: “My 2013 **Stihl** MS250 is a great chainsaw. This is my third Stihl saw in 25 years, and I still use all of them.

“My **Wilton** wood maul weighs only 6 lbs. and has a nice 36-in. long handle. It feels good when I use it (ph 800 274-6848; www.wiltontools.com).”

He’s had a problem with his 2010 **Deere** 3005 4-WD compact utility tractor equipped with a Yanmar 3-cyl. diesel engine and 8-speed transmission. “The tractor came with a 3-year or 2,000-hr. warranty. It had 150 hrs. on it when I noticed something was wrong, 3 days after the warranty had expired.

“The tractor starts good and runs for about 45 min. but then shuts down. If I let it sit for about 2 min. I can then run it for another 45 min., but then it shuts down again. Now it runs for only about 10 min. before it shuts down. It has about 300 hrs. on it.

“The company told me I was ‘3 days