Farmers Nominate Best & Worst Buys

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hard to start and keep running. They haven't been reliable."

Eugene Lochhead, Kamloops, B.C., Canada: "I really like my Deer Shield motion sensor and speakers. After seeing a story on it in FARM SHOW, I ordered a unit (www.deershieldtech.com); ph 888-332-2328).



"We have lots of deer around us, and they like the rose bushes in our yard. Nothing could stop them until I got the Deer Shield with its random blasts of a deer sounding an alarm.

"If I turn it on, the deer stay away. Turn it off, and they are right back eating the roses. It works great."

Karry Goodwin, Laurenceburg, Tenn.: "I paid \$1,500 for my 2009 Sears Kenmore Elite refrigerator made by LG and have already spent about \$400 on repairs. This refrigerator is the sorriest appliance we've ever plugged into a wall outlet. No more LG's for me.

Kim Reed, Salem, N. Mex.: "If anyone needs parts for an old tractor and has trouble finding them, I suggest they contact Yesterday's Tractor Co. at www. yesterdaystractors.com; ph 800 853-2651."

Larry Willmarth, Holcombe, Wis.: "My 2000 Toyota Tundra pickup still runs great. The body doesn't show any rust and the pickup has only been in the shop once, for a cracked manifold. My next pickup will be a Tovota Tacoma."

Steven Edwards, Granbury, Texas: "I bought a carbide-tipped chainsaw blade from Rapco Industries last July for my Stihl 18-in. chainsaw (www.rapcoindustries. com; ph 800 959-6130). Although the price seemed a bit high at the time, the company rep promised that this chain would outlast 10 of the competitor's chains and this was no idle boast. The money I spent was well worth it. My chainsaw rips through hardwood

"My chainsaw rips through hardwood trees like a beaver on steroids."

trees like a beaver on steroids, and it always reminds me why chainsaws need kick-back guards. The blade has stretched very little, and I haven't had to spend much time adjusting blade tension. The blade was shipped quickly and arrived on time as promised."

Bob Ross, Sioux City, Iowa: "My 1992 Deere 322 garden tractor equipped with a water-cooled Yanmar 3-cyl. engine has 3,300 hrs. on it but still doesn't use any oil, even though I've used this tractor hard. I bought Ford F-150 Super Cab pickup equipped

another used 322 model with 642 hrs on it as a spare 2 years ago, and now use both tractors nearly every day.

Amanda Quince, Calif.: Amanda's happy with her Rvobi 40511 40-volt cordless chainsaw. "I wouldn't have liked this saw in my youth, but I love it now. The ethanol gas that's sold in California ruins small engines. but to avoid using it you have to buy fuel that costs anywhere from \$10 to \$24 per gal.

"This saw works great for cutting brush and is delightful in many ways. First is the bonus of working in the woods quietly. Second, the battery lasts long enough to accomplish something but not long enough for an older person to overdo things physically. The battery recharges in a little more than an hour. I still own a backup saw that runs on gas, but hardly ever use it. I used the Ryobi to cut all my firewood this year.

My Berkey water filter works beautifully and doesn't need a power source (ph 877 992-3753; www.bigberkeywaterfilters.com). I hauled plastic jugs for years so I can't say enough about this filter as a solution to the problem of 'iffy' drinking water. The company says the filter is powerful enough to purify stagnant pond water."

H. Watson, Drayton Valley, Alberta: He likes Worx, an all-natural hand cleaner (www.worx.ca; ph 800 424-9679). It works quickly without leaving any residue behind, and it won't dry or crack your hands."

Will Patterson, Kansas City, Mo.: "My Maxxtow 70238 hitch-mounted pickup crane can be removed easily when not in use (www.maxworks.us; ph 855 629-9869). Unfortunately, I overloaded the crane and bent the post right where it rotates. I called the company but found it difficult to get anyone to help. When I finally found someone and told them I needed to replace the post, I was told they'd have to research the cost and then call me back. They never did call back."

Bradley Scott, Greene, N.Y.: "I use my 2001 Kubota BX 2200 compact utility tractor with a 50-in. deck during the summer and a 50-in. snowblower during the winter. Everything on it works fine. It's a great tractor.'

Tracy Kell, Paulina, La.: "My Maytag washing machine was less than a year old when the timer on it went bad and had to be replaced. I don't like the machine's automatic water fill feature, because if you need to add a piece of clothing the machine automatically adds more water.

Chuck Thomas, Liberty, Neb.: "I own three 1968 to 1970 Oliver 1650 diesel tractors, and the engine blew on every one. I can't find any replacements for them so now all these tractors just sit. They look great, but we can't use them."

Kenneth Donley, Salem, Ala.: "We use our 2013 Deere 3038 utility loader tractor on our 30-acre farmstead to haul wood, mow pastures, and grade our driveway. It's fairly fuel efficient and has front wheel drive so it works well for logging work. It's a great tractor for small farms and woodlot chores. It replaced a 1952 Ford 8N that was still in running condition when we parked it."

Bob Perchal, Omaha, Neb.: "I like mv Masterbuilt backvard smoker (www. masterbuilt.com; ph 800 489-1581). The door started leaking smoke so I called the company, and 2 days later they sent a new door. The company offers electric analog, propane and charcoal models.

"The O'Reilly battery I bought for my 2005 Ford Mustang lasted only one year. I paid \$129 for it and it had no warranty. Worst battery I've ever owned."

William Lobeck, Viola, Wis.: A 2014



Jeremiah Evans, Somerset, Manitoba, Canada: "I'm really impressed with my Garford Robocrop in-row cultivator (Vol. 34, No. 1). I've only used it for one season, but it really cleaned up all the weeds in the rows.

"I solid-seeded wheat, rye, barley, flax, peas and beans. Our drill was set for 6 1/2-in, rows, and the Robocrop has 4-in. shovels. It works well and doesn't take out any of the crop. The pattern recognition software activates the weeding rotor to take

with a 5.0-liter V-8 engine rates as William's 'best buy". "It has been trouble-free and dependable. I didn't buy this pickup for its fuel efficiency, but I was pleased and surprised to get 22.7 mpg on the highway and 19 to 20 mpg with general use.

Bobby Rea: "My 2003 Chevrolet pickup got about 19 mpg empty, but only 6 mpg when pulling a fifth wheel travel trailer. Also, it wouldn't shift out of second gear on

"The only problem is it's a gas hog."

the slightest hill. I had been a Chevy man all my life, but in 2007 I bought my wife a new Toyota Tundra. It does a great job pulling the travel trailer. The only problem is that it's a gas hog even when empty, but my wife really likes the pickup anyway.

"This year she suggested I get a new truck so I bought a 2015 Dodge 3/4-ton 4-WD pickup equipped with a diesel engine. It now has almost 10,000 miles on it and is a pleasure to drive. It gets 19 to 21 1/2 mpg empty and about 10 mpg pulling the travel trailer."

David Mertell, Independence, Mo.: 'After reading about this company in FARM SHOW, I bought replacement parts from Stevens Ag Parts and used them to restore my 1938 Allis Chalmers B tractor. The company offers high quality replacement parts for Allis Chalmers, Deere, Ford, International, Massey Ferguson, Long and Zetor tractors. They offer friendly, helpful service.'

Cullen Loveless, Booneville, Miss.: "I never buy a lawn mower, garden tiller or any other small equipment unless it's equipped with a Briggs & Stratton engine. I've always found these engines to be reliable. I have a 1985 riding mower equipped with a Briggs & Stratton that never fails to start and has required very few repairs. I did have to install a new switch on it recently, but parts are readily available and reasonably priced. Wal-Mart even sells some Briggs & Stratton parts.

Jerome Webb, Harrold, S. Dak .: "I like my 2 Rockwell cordless drill-drivers - a 2010 RK2812K2 18-volt Lithium model and a 2013 RK1700K2 16-volt model. Both are lightweight, durable and recharge quickly, and the company offers free battery replacement for life. We have 4 sets of batteries and over the years have only had to Organic farmer Jeremiah Evans likes his Garford Robocrop in-row cultivator. "I've only used it for one season, but it really cleaned up all the weeds between the rows and in the rows," he says.

out weeds between the plants in the row. I can cultivate about 11 acres an hour with the 22-ft. machine.

"As an organic producer, I had no way to control wild oats, thistles and quack grass in-crop. It was a constant battle. The only control was tillage before seeding and again in the fall. I used to try in-crop harrowing, but that was never effective.

"The Robocrop worked so well that we may take a look at adding some other crops to our rotation."

replace one. The company's new brushless model should work even better. We use these drill-drivers daily and they just keep on going."

On the negative side, he lists his 2014 and 2015 Stinger model BK110 outdoor 'zapper' insect killers. "I've had to return 5 different Stinger units, all of them still under warranty. Some never worked right out of the box, while others worked just one day up to a week. The best one lasted most of the season and did a good job of controlling mosquitoes.'

Greg Powell, Powell Lawn Care, Bethany, Ill.: "I'm extremely impressed with my Scag Cheetah commercial grade zero turn riding mower (Scag Power Equipment, www.scag.com). I trade these mowers every 2 years after putting about 600 hrs. on them. They hold up well, and if I do have a problem my dealer promptly handles it. We do a lot of commercial mowing so I don't have time for breakdowns."

Kyle Kroll, Enid, Okla.: "My 1998 Case IH 8930 is the most reliable tractor I've ever owned. I really like the roomy, comfortable cab

"My 2006 Case IH MXM 155 tractor was a lemon from day one. It was an electrical

"The day this tractor left our farm was the happiest day of my life."

nightmare. The transmission would spray fluid all over, and the engine was a gutless wonder. The day this tractor left our farm was the happiest day of my life."

Roger Jones, Johnsburg, N.Y.: "My 2013 Stihl chainsaw is lightweight, easy to start, and cuts fast. I'm 85 years old so I can't crank some of the bigger saws. If a company ever came out with an electric start, high production saw they'd have a winner. The all-electric chainsaws I've seen work good, but they aren't meant for high production.

"Two years after I bought my 2010 Kia Sportage compact sport utility vehicle the company had a recall on the brake switch, so I had it fixed. Some time later I tried to use the vehicle's brake pedal to shut off the cruise control, when all of a sudden the car took off and accelerated from 55 mph to 85 mph or higher in just a few seconds. The harder I