

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**

Milan Larson, Jenera, Ohio: “It has been trouble-free and is built as rugged as any mower I’ve ever used,” says Milan about his 2016 **Ferris IS 500Z** zero-turn riding mower (www.ferrismowers.com; ph 800 933-6175). “This mower is a beast and mows high grass and tall weeds with ease. It’s expensive but worth the money.”

On the minus side, “I own a 2015 **Ford F-150** pickup equipped with a 3.5-liter Eco Boost engine. The engine is a gas hog, and the Ford SYNC voice-activated technology is a nightmare to use. I find the navigation system to be confusing and complicated. It often provides incorrect directions, and on occasion tells me that ‘no such address exists’ when I know different.”

Bud Allaman, Wallace, Kansas: “My 2012 **Grasshopper 729** zero-turn riding mower has plenty of power and runs great. It hasn’t been back to the dealer yet.

“My **Lawn Boy** push mower always starts on the first pull and runs great, but the bagging system on it is terrible.”

Raymond Zimmerman, Versailles, Mo.: “My 2008 **Deere 4120** compact tractor is easy on fuel, starts good, and is generally reliable. By making a small fuel adjustment and

on the vehicle’s braking action. I spray both sides of the rotor.”

Jim Ruen, La Crescent, Minn.: “Using steel wool to clean car and truck windows seems crazy, but it works. When **FARM SHOW** editor Mark Newhall told me about a video he had seen about using steel wool on windows, I decided to check it out (www.thervgeeks.com).

“The concept is simple. Rub away any bug splatter, bird droppings or other dirt, including water marks, with 0000 steel wool. It’s important to use only the finest steel wool.

“I started on a lower corner of the windshield and worked out from there. It worked well for me. Everything wiped away, even pine tar from my shade trees. When I was finished, it was as smooth as...well, glass. It had a polished feel. A couple spots I had missed stood out and were quickly eliminated.

“The one thing the video doesn’t mention is the secret ingredient needed...elbow grease. Lots and lots of elbow grease. That said, I could have rubbed all day with window cleaners and not cleared away that pine tar.

“One comment on the video that got my attention was from a woman who once owned a body shop. She advised using compressed air to blow away any steel wool fibers on the car body as they begin to rust immediately when wet. I used a leaf blower.”

Keith Ambrose, Charleston, Ill.: “It’s a real workhorse and easily handles all our farm chores,” says Keith about his 2007 **Kubota 3130** loader tractor. “We use it for moving manure, bush hogging, plowing snow, doing tillage work, and so forth.

“All four of my **Stihl** chainsaws start easy and run great. One is 15 years old.

“I own several **Ridgid** power tools and they all run great. They’re built tough and last a long time.”

Dyke Davis, Paris, Ill.: “I’m the proud owner of a 2012 **Deere 72-in.** diesel riding mower. It’s fuel efficient and does a great mowing job.”

Michael Crawford, Bradford, Penn.: A 2016 **Dodge Ram** pickup equipped with a 5.7-liter Hemi engine and 8-speed automatic transmission rates as Michael’s “best buy”. “I’ve discovered over the years that for performance and economy you should give your vehicles all the air they can use, so I usually make modifications. I was really surprised to find this pickup averaged 20.7 mpg without any aftermarket air induction. The 8-speed automatic transmission sounds and shifts like my old 1969 Plymouth Roadrunner.

“This isn’t ‘pretty’ any more. Three days after delivery I put a big dent and a gouge in the tailgate while hauling scrap steel. Hey, it’s a truck!”

He’s disappointed with his 2016 **Heartland Fairfield Park** model RV. “Describing what did not go wrong with this RV wouldn’t take as long as describing what did go wrong. The fascia fell off when the dealer delivered it, the cabinets and floor were damaged, there was no screen on the sliding glass door, and the furnace vibrated like a dryer full of marbles. Some windows fractured one cold night, and other windows will hardly open.

“I paid extra to have the unit detailed, but still had to vacuum up more than a half gallon of sawdust and construction leftovers. Now wall panels are separating from the studs, and some slides leak when closed. The dealer’s response to our warranty questions is that we live outside his service area. Well then, he shouldn’t have taken my \$40,000 check.”

Paul Moore, Batavia, Ohio: Paul’s impressed with his 1996 **GM** extended cab, 3/4-ton longbed pickup equipped with a 454 cu. in. engine and automatic transmission. “It has about 150,000 miles on it but doesn’t show any rust or use any oil, and the interior

adding a higher performance turbocharger, I was able to boost engine horsepower up to 70. I’d recommend this tractor to anyone.”

Dan Raber, Conewango Valley, N.Y.: “I like my **Fiskars X25** splitting axe (www.fiskars.com). I never thought I’d pay \$43 for an axe, but this one was worth every penny.”

Ken Rikke, Echo, Minn.: Ken’s impressed with the **Garmin 52 LM** GPS navigation system in his pickup (www.walmart.com). We use it whenever we travel, and also to zero in on the location of local garage sales.

“Our old **Garmin 52L** GPS system had quit working, so I called the company and got amazing help. The person I talked to said I could get a rebuilt GPS like the one I had for a small price if I sent mine in. Then, he emailed me twice explaining how to use it so it’s easier to locate places. I’ll continue to buy this company’s products.”

Terry Totsch, Liberty, Ill.: “On every **Deere** riding mower I’ve owned the seat cushion fails where it’s glued to the seat frame, or cracks develop in the seat’s plastic vinyl cover. My current mower is now on its second seat. I paid about \$180 for it, but already it’s cracking real bad even though I always apply **Armorall** whenever I wash the mower. My neighbor has a 30-year-old **Yardman** mower with a black vinyl seat that’s still in perfect shape. **Deere** needs to do a quality control check on their seat materials. However, I think the mower itself is still the best on the market.”

Bruce Avery, Thetford Center, Vt.: “Whenever a car or truck sits for a period of time, the brake rotors rust. That’s when I spray them with **Fluid Film** (ph 650 761-3536; www.fluid-film.com). I drive the vehicle ahead far enough to move the rotor underneath the brake pad. **Fluid Film** stops rust and dries to a dull black, with no effect