## Farmers Nominate Best & Worst Buys

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alterations to the grain cleaner and slowing its flow rate down to 400 to 500 bu. per hour, and by setting the machine at the maximum angle, I was able to reduce the dockage to below one percent with no discount."

James Taylor, Athens, N.Y.: "I replaced my 35-year-old flail mower with a 2017 Reese 2400 drum mower that's equipped with an optional spreader/tedder attachment. I'm well-pleased with the simple and robust design of this machine. It cuts through heavy hay in a fraction of the time I spent with the flail mower."

He bought his **Pat's Easy Change** quick hitch system after reading about it in FARM SHOW (www.greenwellmfg.com). "It makes changing attachments an easy job. I bought it because I had shoulder surgery and was having trouble hooking up attachments such as a rotary mower, grader blade, and counterweight on my utility tractor."

**Don Charleboix, Pahrump, Nevada:** "I like my **Ridgid** 18-volt cordless drill, saw, and hammer drill. The batteries are the most dependable I've ever used."

John Donovan, Rochester, Minn.: "Our 1963 Deere 4010 tractor worked fine for 27 years. It had a great design for the time."

David Blackford, Verona, Mo.: "This is a great truck – the best I've ever owned," says David about his 2012 Dodge 2500 4-WD pickup equipped with a Cummins diesel engine. "It has a lot of power and runs smooth and quiet. No problems."

Tom Sees, Marshfield, Mo.: Tom's impressed with his 2016 Massey Ferguson 1363 9-ft. discbine. "It's easy to hook up, pulls great, and doesn't require a lot of power to operate. It cuts clean and fast."

On the worst buy side, "My 2015 **Dodge** Ram 3500 4-WD diesel pickup equipped with a flatbed seemed like a good truck at first, but within 2 years the diesel exhaust fluid (D.E.F.) emissions control system started having problems. Then at less than 75,000 miles the pickup needed new axle U-joints, and at about 80,000 miles the head gasket went bad. I figure I should be able to operate a new pickup for 3 or 4 years without problems, but not this one."

Mark Layman, Berrien Center, Mich.: "My 2002 Kubota MX5000 4-WD loader tractor has had no major problems.

"The 1977 **Case** 1150C bulldozer I bought used 5 years ago always starts right up. It's an awesome machine.

"In 2006 I bought a used **EZ-Go** golf cart equipped with a lift kit and a cargo box with tailgate. It's a fantastic machine. No problems."

William Watner, Holston Creek Welding, St. Marys, Kansas: "I like the two Chicago Pneumatic needle scalers I bought for my commercial welding shop (www.cp.com).



They've held up better than Harbor Freight's needle scalers and don't cost much more. They work almost like a mini sandblaster and are great for removing slag, rust, mill scale, and paint from metal surfaces."

Jack Davis, Winlock, Wash.: "I bought a used 1996 Toyota Camry equipped with a standard transmission. It gets excellent mileage and has required only routine maintenance

"I've used my 1989 **Kubota** 2250 loader tractor to lift logs, load fertilizer, pull a pasture harrow and a bush hog, and operate a log splitter. This tractor does everything I want it to do."

Fred Ridenour, Houston, Texas: "My 1997 Honda Harmony push mower is a phenomenal machine and always starts on the first pull. Over the years I've replaced three sets of wheels and one spring. I was afraid at first that the plastic deck on it wouldn't last, but it's still just like new.

## "I'd rather spend \$100 on a good hand saw than buy a cheap chainsaw."

"My **Sears** chainsaw equipped with a 16-in. bar is hard to start and has a defective chain oiler. The fuel lines on it are leaking, even though I drain the fuel after each use. I'd rather spend \$100 on a good hand saw than buy a cheap chainsaw."

Kelly S. Myers, Brookline, Mo.: "I own a 2010 Ford F-150 pickup equipped with a 4.6-liter, V-8 engine and automatic transmission, as well as a tow package. I use this pickup to pull a tandem axle trailer loaded with my Farmall Super M and Deere D tractors to tractor shows and pulls. Sometimes I also use it to pull a dump trailer loaded with up to 10,000 lbs. It has more than 149,000 miles on it with no problems at all. This is my fifth F-150 equipped with the 4.6-liter V-8 engine. I usually trade them off at about 200,000 miles. No problems with any of them."

Bill Kropelin, Cambridge, Vt.: A 2013 Norse 350 logging winch rates as Bill's "best buy" (www.labonville.com; ph 800 764-9969). "This winch is powerful and dependable. Coupled with my Kubota L4400 tractor, it makes a great team for moving firewood and logs."

David Novotny, West Fargo, N. Dak.: David's impressed with his D&R Pro stump grinder equipped with a 14 1/2 hp manual-start engine. "I bought it after our power company cut down some trees in my yard that were too close to overhead lines. I used the machine to grind out 26 stumps last year and more than 20 this year. It has a lot of power and is easy to handle. I rake up the wood chips and fill in the holes with dirt. It's nice not having to mow around trees any more.

"I mounted an on-off kill switch on the handlebars so I don't have to use the factory safety switch any more. It was hard to hold the safety switch, hold the throttle lever, and pull the rope all at the same time. I used an old lawn mower wheel and a couple of 2 by 4's to make a nose wheel that bolts on front of the machine. It keeps the grinder's carbide teeth from hitting the cement floor whenever I push it around my garage. The nose wheel comes off with a big wing nut when I'm ready to grind stumps."

**Bob Peabody, Willits, Calif.:** "I bought a used **Satoh** Beaver 370D tractor equipped with a 2-cyl., 17 hp. engine (www.satohparts. com). The tractor had been sitting idle for several years but started right up after I

## **Ecotrap Caught Thousands Of Flies**

By Dee Goerge, Contributing Editor

After about a month, the Ecotrap® flycatcher bag that I hung outside my home office window is filled with flies. It worked great and was simple to use – just fill it with water. Though I'm not going to count them, I believe that one bag really can hold up to 40,000 flies. It's packed, and when the season is over, I can just throw away the bag.

The attractant in the bag has a very foul smell, which I only notice when the wind is in the right direction. Instructions with the bags suggest hanging the bags around the perimeter of outdoor living spaces to draw flies away from the area. It definitely works.

I asked Bertha, Minn., dairy farmer John Blashack to test a couple of bags in his barn, and they didn't work quite as well there.

"The smells in the barn are about as strong as what's in the bag, so they didn't fill up real fast," he reported after the bags were up a few weeks. "But I'm not ready to write them off."

He added that flies seemed to be down this summer, possibly due in part to his freeranging chickens that love to eat maggots.

For folks who want to reduce flies in their backyard, I think the Ecotrap works great and I was impressed with the company's

installed a new battery. Now we use it on our farm every day and it runs great. It has about 1,000 hrs. on it with no problems. It's a great little tractor."

James Sherbert, Bartow, Fla.: This June James bought a used 2012 Ford Flex car equipped with a 3.5-liter, V-6 engine. "It handles nice, rides great and has a lot of power. I paid \$15,850 for it. It has about 58,000 miles on it.

"My 2003 **Toyota** Tacoma pickup has more than 115,000 miles on it but still looks and drives like new. I use it to pull our pop-up camper and 3,000-lb. boat and cargo trailer. I drive it every day."

Keith Larsen, Spangle, Wash.: "I'm satisfied with the Hathorn work boots and Elk Guide pac boots I bought from White's Boots in Spokane, Wash. (www.whitesboots.com; ph 800 541-3786). I'm a shop and field heavy equipment mechanic so I'm often wearing boots 12 to 14 hrs. a day. These heavy-duty, all-leather, American-made boots are long wearing and comfortable, and well worth the money."

Tim Ryan, Marshall, Minn.: "My Bad Boy side-by-side electric utility vehicle wouldn't keep a charge and had a running time of only 20 min. I had it worked on three different times and replaced all the batteries, but nothing helped. I finally gave it away."

Ryan Schrock, Goshen, Ind.: "We use our 2008 Kubota RTV 900 utility vehicle every day in our livestock grazing operation and it performs wonderfully. It's built solid, and the diesel engine starts easy and runs smooth. Every feature on this vehicle is well thought out and conveneient to use. It's a quality-built machine."

**James Minix, Morrison, Tenn.:** "I like my 2015 **Hustler** Super Z 60-in. zero-turn

"I've never operated a mower that could cut so fast and look so good."

riding mower equipped with a Kawasaki FX1000V engine. It handles our large acreage with ease and has tremendous speed. I've



Dee Goerge had success hanging this Ecotrap fly-catcher bag outside her home office window.

service. The birds around my house didn't like them, though. They could see flies inside the bag but couldn't get at them.

Ecotrap Jumbo bags (www.ecotrapguard. com) sell for \$5.86 each at Amazon.com and other retailers, with discounts for multiple orders.

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Joey McLennan, Edna, Texas: "I'm rebuilding an old Cushman truckster once used as a golf course utility vehicle. It's equipped with a 27 hp., 3-cyl. engine that purrs like a kitten. The company builds a high-belly dump box for it which I mounted on the rig's flat box. A single hydraulic cylinder raises and lowers the box and can handle loads up to 500 lbs.

"The vehicle is equipped with a pto shaft, a roof, a radio and a bench seat that lifts up to access the engine. I mounted 24-in. tires on back to gain traction and kept the original tires on front. It works great for small jobs, such as operating a pto-driven brush mower that I use to mow trails on my property."

Johnny R. Garrett, Percy, Ill.: "I own a 1996 Dodge 1500 pickup equipped with a 318 cu. in. engine. I use it to pull boats and also trailers loaded with cars and tractors, and it's always ready to go. No problems. I had never wanted to own a Dodge, but this one has been outstanding."

**Rex Ballard, Waynetown, Ind.:** "My **Deere** Gator 825i utility vehicle has plenty of power and a top speed of 44 mph."

Al Robbins, Friendswood, Texas: "I like my 16-gal., 12-volt battery-operated NorthStar high pressure ATV spot sprayer (www.northerntool.com; ph 800 221-0516). It has a capacity of 2 gpm at 200 psi and can spray out to 30 ft. I've used it for 3 years to spray my 25 pecan trees."

Robert Hughley, Superior, Wis.: "When I bought my 2013 Kubota B3200 loader tractor, I told my wife that it probably wouldn't snow for 5 years because I also