

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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Tom Brown, Jerome, Mich.: “I recently had the pleasant experience of dealing with an individual I read about in FARM SHOW who did everything he claimed he could do. **Mike Finch** rebuilt the carburetor on my International Cub 184 to better-than-new performance. And he did it in a precise and timely fashion for a very reasonable fee. It brought my tractor back to life after it had been sitting unused for many years. Thank you, Mike.” (Fixitmike1@aol.com; ph 248 684-4029).

Ken Ladd, Kenladd@comcast.net: “I’ve seen several complaints in recent issues about new front-loading washing machines without the normal agitator. We bought one, too, and we also didn’t like it at first. I finally had to break down and read the manual!

“There are 11 cycle choices and each one is for a specific use. Naturally, I found out I had been loading it incorrectly and using the wrong cycle. If you do not load it evenly, it will shake so much it moves across the floor. After we started paying attention to the details, the machine does a nice job, all while using less water and detergent.”

Dave Worden, White Lake, Wis.: “I hate cleaning window screens on the house every

for \$300.”

Vernon Bistran, Siren, Wis.: “I advertised for a late model used **Deere 4020** tractor in good condition and ended up buying one that was made in 1972 and has a cab. One owner, with about 6,700 hours on it. Very nice.”

Glen Dubbels, Farmington, Minn.: “The transmission warning light activated on my 2010 **Buick Lucerne** so I took it to a dealer. They had to pull the engine and transmission out and fix it at a cost of \$1,740. The car only had about 75,000 miles on it. I sent the bill to GM hoping they would reimburse me for part of the cost. Finally after spending three months trying to get an answer, I did. Someone with a foreign sounding voice told me the warranty had expired.”

Roger Van Horn, Dalton, Minn.: “I put about 300,000 miles on my 1990 **Ford F-150 4-WD** pickup equipped with a 300 cu. in., 6-cyl. engine, without ever touching the engine. When the odometer reached 100,000 miles the front seal started dripping about a quart of oil every 3,500 miles, but the leak never got any worse. I sold the pickup to someone who has put another 100,000 miles on it, again without touching the engine.”

Delbert Bauersachs, Pinckneyville, Ill.: “In 2012 I bought a new **New Holland 35-ft.** auger head for my **New Holland CR7090** combine, but the new head wouldn’t float like my old head did. The dealer worked on it for two years but could never get it to work right. I called the company but got no help. I finally solved the problem by trading this auger head in for a new **MacDon** draper head. Now my **New Holland** combine will out cut any green or red machine. Our family has three **New Holland** combines, all equipped with **MacDon** heads.”

Roger Jones, Johnsburg, N.Y.: “One of my best buys ever was a 1971 **Case 580CK** tractor loader backhoe, which I still own. It probably has at least 30,000 hours on it but still doesn’t use any oil. It has been used and abused a lot over the years, but now I use it just to plow snow. I’m 86 years old so I guess this machine and I will go out together.”

Alton Eliason, Northford, Conn.: “If you want to see an amazing improvement in the health of your fruit trees, vegetable gardens and even your flowers, apply **SEA-90**. It’s a concentration of all the minerals washed into the sea since time immemorial.

“The virtues of **SEA-90** were brought home to me when I ordered replacements for

spring. We have a lot of pollen and spider webs. The garden hose sprayer always left streaks and so did compressed air or the shop vac. I finally hit on the idea of using a loosely balled-up ‘tack rag’. It left the screens perfectly clean with no streaks. I have 15 screens to clean and it takes about 20 min. to do them all. I use **Crystal Tack Cloths**, available in hardware stores or online at www.amazon.com. They have good tack to them and one rag will do a lot of screens.”

Editor’s note: After receiving this report in the mail, we bought some tack rags and tried them on our own window screens. It’s never been so easy! Works great and very fast. Highly recommended.

Darrel Alford, Brownsville, Ky.: “My 1996 **Chevrolet Silverado** pickup has about 219,000 mostly trouble-free miles on it but still doesn’t use any oil. I’ve spent less money on it than on any other vehicle I’ve owned.”

Edwin Oberholtzer, Mifflinburg, Penn.: A 2011 **Metzler Machines** egg packer rates as Edwin’s “best buy” (www.metzler-machines-llc; ph 717 626-2686). “This egg packer has been very reliable with only one breakdown, and that was due to overloading the denester with plastic egg flats. The machine can pack 23,400 eggs per hour so it has no trouble packing the eggs from our 17,500 **Brown** laying hens.”

John Walsh, Fredericktown, Mo.: “Our 1984 **Allis Chalmers 5015 4-WD** compact tractor equipped with a 3-cyl. diesel engine is a real workhorse. It’s actually an imported Japanese-built **Hinamoto** tractor that we bought used. The company manufactured under their own brand as well as for international companies including **Allis Chalmers**. The only problem is that parts are very scarce and, if available, extremely expensive. For example, a single piston sells



At 99 years of age, Alton Eliason is still on the lookout for new gardening ideas.

2 peach trees. I had applied **SEA-90** to them, but they looked near their demise. By the time the replacements arrived, the originals were flourishing with fruit beyond their usual size. Now my heirs have 2 more peach trees.

“My interest in sea minerals was prompted by **Dr. Maynard Murray’s** book **Sea Minerals**. I gave a copy to each of my children so they could garden organically as I have for 75 years.

“Another product deserving possibly even more attention is the use of potassium bicarbonate or baking powder. It is less toxic than the air we breathe, but spraying just one tablespoon of it mixed in a gallon of water