

## Farmers Nominate Best & Worst Buys

**Richard J. Noel, Highgate Center, Vt.:** "It's an excellent, reliable tractor with about 7,200 hrs. on it with no problems," says Richard about his 2000 **Case IH MX120** 4-WD tractor equipped with a cab and 650 front-end loader. "The 5.9-liter Cummins diesel engine starts good in cold weather and is fuel efficient. Some of these tractors in northwestern Vermont have 12,000 to 14,000 hrs. on them."

**Tom Warren, Trumansburg, N.Y.:** Tom's impressed with **Bar's Leaks head gasket fix** ([www.barsleaks.com](http://www.barsleaks.com); ph 800 345-6572). It contains a combination of antifreeze-compatible sodium silicate sealing liquid and various size gasket-sealing particles, which penetrate gaps and cracks and harden to permanently stop leaks.

"When the head gasket on my 1997 Chevy pickup started leaking, I took a \$27 gamble on this one-step product. There's no need to drain the radiator. I followed the directions on the bottle, and after 3 months I haven't had any more problems."

**Brent Dyer, Toronto, Kansas:** "In 2014 we bought a bank-repossessed 2005 **Kubota M105S** 4-WD loader tractor with about 3,500 hrs. on it. We use this tractor to bale hay, spray, plant, bush hog, load dirt and rocks, plow terraces, and other jobs. It's the heart of our operation, dependable and economical. I'd buy another one in a heartbeat."

**Jeff Anderson, Oregon City, Oregon:** Jeff likes his **Arc Pig** high frequency arc stabilizer/starter ([www.arcpig.com](http://www.arcpig.com); ph 409 234-2652). The Arc Pig lets you ignite a welding arc without touching the electrode to the work piece. While you weld, it monitors weld voltage in real time and fires as needed to re-ignite the arc every AC half-cycle.

"It makes arc welding a true joy. It was designed mainly to assist in TIG welding with an arc welder power source, but it also helps us amateur welders keep the welding rod from sticking. It's powered by the welder leads and is built in the U.S."



**Randall Beard, Pickford, Mich.:** "My 2015 **Husqvarna 334T** chainsaw is equipped with a 14-in. bar and is well balanced for ease of use. I have two other chainsaws but always choose this one first. No problems."

**Lewis O. Galloway, Susquehanna, Penn.:** "I use my **Honda GX25** water pump to irrigate my garden and to wash my truck and other equipment. It works great and never fails to start. It's worth every cent I paid for it."

**Carl Bodinka, Spencerville, Ind.:** "Our **Rainsoft** water softener produced orange, moldy-smelling water from day one. The dealer replaced this 'top-of-the-line' unit, but the new one didn't work any better. Then the dealer went out of business. The company said the water was fine and wouldn't give us a refund. Fortunately, Good Housekeeping magazine refunded our money due to their advertised products guarantee."

**Eli W. Hochstetler, Lagrange, Ind.:** "In 1993 I bought a used **Stihl 038** chainsaw that's still going strong. I did a lot of logging with it using either a 24 or 28-in. bar. It's a great saw."

**Bill Allan, White Cloud, Mich.:** Bill's impressed with his **Duluth Trading Post** fire hose jacket ([www.duluthtrading.com](http://www.duluthtrading.com); ph 866 300-9719). "It's well designed and built

sturdy with plenty of pockets and room to move your body around. I had a slight issue with the zipper a year after I bought it, but the company offers an unconditional guarantee and replaced the jacket right away. Superb customer service."

**Andrew Herold, Beltsville, Md.:** Bill's impressed with **Xtreme Green** oil stabilizer engine treatment ([www.xgglobal.com](http://www.xgglobal.com)). "It's designed to provide extra protection for vehicles with diesel engines and older gas engines that are burning or leaking oil, smoking, have worn seals, or are running rough."

"I gave this product to a friend with a 1999 Ford Explorer that had about 250,000 miles on it. The Explorer left a blue cloud of smoke behind on the highway and leaked a half quart of oil per day. We put Xtreme Green in the engine, and in 20 min. the vehicle stopped smoking. Now the engine leaks only a few drops a day. I've been using this product in all my vehicles that have more than 100,000 miles on them."

**Pat Lovera, Tom Bean, Texas:** Pat likes their **Lock 'n Lube** grease gun coupler ([www.locknlube.com](http://www.locknlube.com); ph 603 795-2298). "It comes with a unique sliding sleeve that's activated by a thumb lever. The unit's 4 spring-steel jaws lock onto the grease zerk to create a leak-proof seal, preventing the coupler from coming loose. Activating the trigger releases the coupler from the zerk."

**Dennis Schmenk, Ottawa, Ohio:** Dennis likes **Opti-2** 2-cycle engine oil lubricant ([www.opti2-4.com](http://www.opti2-4.com); ph 800 332-5851). It's designed for use in all 2-cycle engines regardless of brand, model, or mix ratio.

"I've used this product for more than 20 years and it keeps my 2-cycle engines running great. I like having one mix that works for all 2-cycle engines no matter the fuel ratio, and it also has a fuel stabilizer built into it. My chainsaw and weedeater are both more than 20 years old, but they've never needed repairs to the carburetor or engine."

**Frank Meredith, Silver Lake, Ind.:** "I use a **Kubota 161-3** excavator in my business, along with an old **Case 310** dozer and a **Case 1840** skid loader. These small machines can do an impressive amount of work."

**Clint Converse, Pillager, Minn.:** "I like my 2015 **Muck Boot** chore boots ([www.muckbootsandshoes.com](http://www.muckbootsandshoes.com); ph 817 326-5470). This is the third pair I've purchased and they're my dress boots for going to town and visiting friends and neighbors. The oldest pair of these boots I own are at least 5 years old and I still use them for chores every day of the year. That's unless we have deep snow, mud or water, in which case I use the other pair. There isn't a day in the year that I don't use Muck boots for chores of some kind."

**Dan Weber, Pine City, Minn.:** "The 1999 **Honda Foreman 450** ATV I bought used in 2004 has been an invaluable machine. I use it for hunting, ice fishing, hauling wood and plowing snow. It always starts right up and the engine hasn't needed any major repairs."

**Klaas Rinsma, Quinte West, Ontario:** "I operate a grass cutting business and have used my **Simplicity** Broadmore riding mower to cut lawns for 12 customers, as well as my own, for many years with no problems."

**Kirk Moore, Devers, Texas:** "My 2012 **Dodge Avenger** has less than 100,000 miles on it but is already on its fifth set of tires. The problem is the vehicle has fixed cambers that can't be adjusted to prevent wear. I contacted the company but they say there's nothing wrong. I bought this car so my wife could drive her mother to a medical center in Houston. We've actually started renting a vehicle so that we can safely transport her. I can't wait to get rid of this car."



**Clint Dixon says his 1947 Dodge WDX 4-WD, 1-ton Power Wagon is a "best buy." It has both front and rear pto and can be equipped with a hydraulic lift. Dixon pulls a 3-bottom plow and runs several pto-driven attachments, including a buzz saw and a wood splitter.**

**Clint Dixon, Reynolds, Ill.:** "My 1947 **Dodge WDX** Power Wagon was a great buy and still is. I bought it in 1980 and have used it ever since. I also have a 1951 Power Wagon with a flatbed, but the '47 has more options and is my main hauler."

"I recall my grandfather pointing out a Power Wagon to me when I was riding along in his truck as a boy. I always wanted one."

"It's an underpowered truck, but it has a lot of torque. Initially, Dodge pushed the 4-WD, 1-ton Power Wagon as good for everything. It has a 6-cylinder engine and front and rear pto, and can be equipped with a hydraulic lift. Some owners used it to pull a 3-bottom plow. It has a pto hp rating of 43.3, drawbar rating of 40.5, and engine hp rating of 94."

"It was advertised as a portable power plant and had more power than most tractors at the time. The problem was that it was expensive, with the 1948 selling for more than \$2,000. There were about 80,000 sold from 1946 until they were discontinued in 1968, although they hardly changed from 1948 to the end."

"Good Roads Machinery Corp. manufactured a Dodge Special snowplow



that I mount on my '47. I've got several pto-driven attachments, like a buzz saw and wood splitter, which I use at home and at shows. I also have a pto-powered post hole auger that mounts to the 3-pt. Monroe lift."

"When I bought it, \$1,000 was quite a bit for a Power Wagon. Recently, I've seen some like mine sell for as much as \$30,000. Collectors are buying them as investments and fixing them up. I like mine with its original paint and a few dents and scratches. They are beauty marks that tell its story. It's a working truck."

"When I bought my truck, information was hard to come by. That's no longer the case. Readers interested in a Power Wagon should visit the website [www.T137.com](http://www.T137.com). It has lots of information and photos of my truck and others."

**James White, Wilkie, Sask.:** "I wanted a Canadian-built trailer that would stand up to gravel roads and salted highways. **Norbert's Mfg.** in Glenboro, Manitoba, builds a tough trailer for tough conditions ([www.norberts.com](http://www.norberts.com); ph 204 827-2015). Their trailers are sandblasted, epoxy-primed, and top-coated with industrial urethane. Certain components, such as the tongue and rock guard/bulkhead, have an epoxy automotive coating. All the wiring is encased in hydraulic hoses, making it virtually impenetrable by the elements. The stand-up ramps on it are extremely durable, yet easy for one person to handle, and the wood deck should last a lifetime."

"I bought my trailer with rub rails, a 12,000-lb. drop leg jack, and heavy duty fenders. It also came with heavy wheel rims and brand name tires. I'm happy with the trailer's overall quality and highly recommend it."

**Wayne LeClair, Francistown, N.H.:** "I recently bought a new **Kawasaki Mule Pro-FXT** utility vehicle to replace my 19-year-old **Kawasaki Mule**, which worked fantastic on our grass-fed beef farm. However, I like the Pro-FXT even better. It has more power and a smoother ride and is a very solid machine."

On the negative side, "I recently bought a **Milwaukee** commercial vacuum cleaner through Acme Tool. I paid more than \$500 for it, but right from the start it didn't work and I had to make two trips to a Milwaukee repair center more than an hour away. They discovered the problem - a wire pinched during assembly was causing ground fault outlets to switch off the vacuum. "I'm disappointed the company didn't offer to send me a new vacuum. Also, to my surprise, I discovered the vacuum comes without the hose or attachments which cost an additional \$260. Nowhere in the catalog product

description does it say the hose doesn't come with this expensive vacuum."

**Darrell L. Avery, Coldwater, Mich.:** "I'm 87 years old and my wife of 65 years is 84. We've always kept our cars for many years and have owned many different brands. But our 2013 **Buick Lacrosse** is the best ever."



**Dave Svenvold, Glendive, Mont.:** "Putting a Cummins engine in my F-350 seemed like a good idea but when I talked to a guy who had done a conversion, and asked if he would do it again, he said no. I ordered a kit anyway from **Diesel Conversions** in Kalispell, Mont. ([www.dieselconversion.com](http://www.dieselconversion.com); ph 406 755-8878). They provide a manual and a certain amount of stuff needed for the conversion. You're supposed to source everything else yourself."

"I quickly found out that everything wasn't quite as represented. The initial booklet and description candy-coated the project. Nothing about it was easy. Every turn I came to required thought and special tools. I called their support line many times for technical help."

"I worked on it for about a year and am finally done. Part of my goal was to make it look like a factory job, and it does. I recently took it on an 800-mile trip pulling a 25,000-lb. gross vehicle weight trailer. It worked well, but like the fellow I talked to before I started, if I had it to do over again, I wouldn't."