

## Farmers Nominate Best & Worst Buys

with a Cummins diesel engine just turned over 10,000 hrs. I've spent little money on this tractor, mainly for oil and tires."

He's had problems with his 2017 **Sears Craftsman** chainsaw equipped with an 18-in. bar. "The engine won't idle whenever I set it down. The store where I bought the saw finally gave me a voucher card, but I used it to buy tools instead of another saw."



**David Moore, Hagerstown, Md.:** "My **DeWalt** 18-volt cordless metal cutting shears works great to cut long runs of metal roofing and sheet metal. It's portable, quiet, and easy to control, and unlike nibblers or saws it doesn't leave small metal shards."

**Gary Oen, Wapakoneta, Ohio:** "My best small tractor ever is my **Kioti CK30** equipped with a shuttle shift transmission. It's easy to operate, fun to drive, and the transmission is geared well. Also, I like the orange color."

**Kevin Brown, Bellevue, Iowa:** "The 2016 **Predator** gas-powered earth auger I bought at Harbor Freight always starts right up. It has impressive power."

**James R. Spalding, Campbellsville, Ky.:** "I like my **Ferris IS1500ZX** zero-turn riding mower equipped with a 61-in. deck ([www.ferrismowers.com](http://www.ferrismowers.com); ph 800 933-6175). Rides smooth and mows well."

"My **Cub Cadet BC 280** weed trimmer equipped with a 2-cycle engine wouldn't start so I took it in for repairs. The store somehow lost the trimmer but did replace it free of charge. The new one works a little better."

**Dale R. Reimold, Fredonia, Penn.:** "I wish I had bought my **E-Z Trail** self-loading bale baskets 20 years ago ([www.e-ztrail.com](http://www.e-ztrail.com); ph 800 677-2802). I bought them because I often can't find help to bale hay. With these baskets I can dump 3 or 4 loads, and then put 2 more loads on until I can find help to stack them."

"I've used my **Aldi Workzone** cordless drill a lot over the last couple years ([www.aldi.us](http://www.aldi.us); ph 800 505-8211). It's a better drill than my Milwaukee and cost much less."



**Gary Eichhorn, Parkersburg, W. Va.:** Gary's impressed with his 2012 **Scag** walk-behind mower equipped with a 16 hp. Briggs & Stratton engine and 48-in. deck. "My neighbor and I start mowing our 2-plus acre fields at the same time. I walk, and he uses a riding mower. He goes faster up and down the field, but I get done a half hour sooner because of the big deck."

"With multiple passes this mower will turn a hayfield into a lawn. By adjusting the position of four pins I can easily raise or lower the deck. The mower varies in speed from 2 to 6 mph. An optional attachment

allows the operator to stand on a platform and ride behind the mower, allowing you to mow at 6 mph in the right conditions."

**Trixie Meunier, Fairfax, Vt.:** "It's the best vehicle I've ever owned," says Trixie about the 2007 **Toyota FJ Cruiser** SUV she bought used in 2016. "It rides smooth and quiet, is built tough, and is fun to drive. It has about 121,000 miles on it. My only expense has been for snow tires and a new lug nut. I wouldn't hesitate to buy another one."

**Elmer Hoover, Bethel, Penn.:** "Our **Kubota SSV65** skid loader is a real beast. We put more than 2,800 hrs. on it in just one year."

"The **New Holland L220** skid loader we bought used turned out to be a lemon. We put about 1,100 hrs. on it and then it went up in smoke."

**Nathan Burkholder, Mifflintown, Penn.:** "I think **Aero Kroil** is by far the best penetrating oil on the market. Works great to loosen up rusty parts ([www.kanolabs.com](http://www.kanolabs.com); ph 866 487-7245).

"Our 2017 **H & S 2-star** hay tedder didn't last long, and parts were hard to find."



**Wallace Browning, Buckingham, Va.:** "I call it my **Ikea farm Jeep** because many of the accessories are salvaged Ikea store items, including the bed frames. I have a good source for such items because I maintain local apartment buildings used by college students. When they move out, I check for anything metal that's left behind."

"A futon bed frame rail serves as a bumper and oversized radiator guard; add-on headlights are protected by the metal armrest off a porch swing; and a pair of light chains (also off the swing) protect the windshield. On the roof, a spare tire sets on another bed frame rail and a fog light designed for off-road use mounts on a curtain rod."

"To boost the Jeep's hauling capacity, I added oversized tires and a beefed-up suspension system that includes coil-over-shock absorbers off a junked-out Dodge Dakota pickup. They can support loads up to 1,600 lbs."

"I wanted something that I could use around my farm like a utility vehicle, without spending the money for one. My grandfather taught me that if you aren't rich enough to buy it, then learn how to make it. I already had the Jeep, which I bought used about 4 years ago. I paid \$1,200 for it and spent about another \$500 on the lights, tires and suspension system."

**Joel Summers, West College Corner, Ind.:** "I didn't expect much when I bought my **Milwaukee** 12-volt cordless compact

inflator, but now it's one of my most-used tools. Just attach the hose to a tire, set the inflation pressure, and turn it on. Once the target pressure is reached, it shuts off. Takes anywhere from a few seconds for a bike tire to a few minutes for a larger tire, but I can do something else while the machine is working without fear of overinflation. Sure beats dragging a hose around."



**John Moellering** built this self-propelled loader from scratch back in 1979 and has put about 5,000 hrs. on it, adding some improvements along the way.

**John R. Moellering, Grinnell, Kan.:** "My **Duz-All**, self-propelled loader does everything from lifting and stacking big round bales 3 high to rooting out yucca plants and entire trees out of the ground. I've put 5,000 hrs. on it since I built it in 1979, and it still works great."

"I started by building a heavy-duty frame and mounting an IH M with a reversed drive and controls. I made a cab for it with a heater for winter use. It was previously written up in *FARM SHOW* (Vol. 4, No. 6), but I've made some improvements, including replacing band brakes with disk brakes."

"I replaced the 283 Chevy V8 with a 350 V8 with aluminum glide transmission to give it more power. That required building a new frame. A short driveshaft connects the automatic transmission to the M&W Gear Co. 9-speed transmission."

"It still has the original Farmhand loader on it with the mounts I built to attach it to the back of the tractor. However, I've added quick attach fixtures to the loader and all the attachments. I've also rebuilt the hydraulic cylinders."

"I started with a 5-ft. bucket and a 12-ft. hay bucket with grapple fork. I've added



Bucket-mounted "yucca blade" works great to root out trees, yucca plants, and old concrete foundations.

an 8-ft. bucket for snow and bales with 2 different grapple forks for it. I also added a grapple fork to the 5-ft. bucket, as well as adding a dozer blade and a blade built to root out yucca plants."

"For the yucca blade, I used a piece of soap stone to draw teeth on a 3/4-in. thick, 5-ft. long piece of steel. After I cut them out, I used the scrap Vs to reinforce the edges of the teeth."

"I can jam the teeth into a tree and pull it out of the ground, roots and all. I've also rooted out old concrete foundations. With the hydraulic pressure and the automatic transmission, I can roll a pretty big piece of concrete out of the ground."

**Larry Shepler, Reynoldsville, Penn.:** Larry likes his 2013 **Meyer 2636** V-type manure spreader ([www.meyermfg.com](http://www.meyermfg.com); ph 800 325-9103). It's a rear discharge model with 2 shaft-driven vertical expellers fed by augers.

"We previously owned the same model for 11 years before trading it in. It performed well and had a very good resale value. The newer model has some minor improvements."

**Robert Snider, New Norway, Alberta:** "I like my **Kubota M135GX** tractor except that the shuttle lever is located too close to the steering wheel. As a result a large hand, or one with gloves on, can accidentally catch on the lever and suddenly shift the tractor into reverse."

**Gary Burmeister, Lost Nation, Iowa:** "I've used **Gorilla Tape** to patch up tarps as well as the curtain on my New Idea 5209 disc mower ([www.gorillatough.com](http://www.gorillatough.com)). I had to fix a tear on the curtain a couple years ago, and the patch is still holding after going through about 200 acres of hay. I used 3-in. wide tape on the tear. I always keep a couple rolls of this tape in my truck. The rolls work good as coffee cup holders, too."

**John W. Orndoff, Waynesburg, Penn.:** "I use my 2012 **Swisher** 60-in. pull-type, finish cut trail mower to cut about 2 acres of grass ([www.swisherinc.com](http://www.swisherinc.com); ph 800 222-8183). It's powered by a 14 hp. electric start engine that always starts and runs quiet. All I've had to replace is the battery."

"I bought my **DR** tow-behind string trimmer to trim around buildings and under fences, but returned it after only one week. The company says this mower is designed for rough, off-lawn areas. It might work on a golf course or an estate farm, but it's very impractical for a farm."

**Roman Yoder, Hutchinson, Kansas.:** "I bought a used 2016 **Vermeer 504** Pro silage baler late in 2017 and used it this year to bale triticale, alfalfa, sudan balage, dry alfalfa, grass, and millet hay. It does a good job in wet or dry hay and makes a nice, dense bale. It has a huge appetite, and it's easy to service."

"My 2003 **Supreme 300** vertical feed mixer does a good job and has been trouble-free ([www.supremeinternational.com](http://www.supremeinternational.com); ph 800 563-2038)."

**Nicholas Stanchak, Newburgh, N.Y.:** "I think **Harbor Freight** products are just as good or better than the big box store branded products being offered these days. The company catalog uses a 5-star customer rating system for any particular tool, and in my experience it has been spot-on accurate."

**Fred E. Foster, Valley Grove, W. Va.:** "My 2003 **Dodge Ram 3500 1-ton, 4-WD** extended cab diesel pickup has more than 252,000 miles on it but is still going strong."

**David Lubbock, Shellsburg, Iowa:** "My **Hustler** zero-turn riding mower is easy to start and very comfortable to operate ([www.hustlerturf.com](http://www.hustlerturf.com)). An absolutely great mower."