Farmers Nominate Best & Worst Buys

from roaming until a friend told us about this collar. I called the company, and the rep I talked to was very knowledgeable and courteous. I ordered the collar and followed the directions on how to use it. Now our dog stays home and is easy to take on walks."



Bob Payne, Coldwater, Miss.: "One product at **Harbor Freight** that ranks as a best buy for me is their industrial rolling toolbox with ball bearing drawer slides. The key is the ball bearings. The 56-in. cabinet has 11 drawers and holds up to 3,458 lbs. of tools. Sells for \$749.99. There's also a 44-in. model.

"Another **Harbor Freight** product that worked out well is a Pittsburgh Master Ball Joint Adapter kit that's very handy if you have to change out a U-joint. It presses cups out and back in. So much easier with this tool than trying to use a socket and hammer."



William Herschberger, Midwest Fencing, Rockville, Ind.: "I am an agricultural fencing contractor. We use and sell the Stockade ST-400 cordless fencing stapler. We use our staplers 5 days a week and they work very well. They're expensive but our production has increased so much they have paid for themselves many times. They work just like a Paslode framing nailer and come with 2 batteries. However, we have found that one battery seems to last all day."

John Higginbotham, Iola, Kansas: "My 2015 Branson 5220C tractor has been trouble-free. The only problem I have is that the nearest dealer is more than 100 miles away."

Richard Keeney, Cuyler, N.Y.: "My Anbo loader-mounted grapple rake is an excellent piece of equipment. I find a lot of uses for it (www.anbomanufacturing.com)."

Thomas P. Graser, Fennimore, Wis.: He's happy with his 2012 **Toyota** Tundra extended cab longbed pickup equipped with a 384 hp., 5.7-liter engine and 6-speed automatic. "It has a lot of power and a smooth transmission. The rear end has a 4.33 gear ratio with a 10 1/2-in. ring gear, with drop-in carrier assembly and greaseable U-joints. The engine components are visible and accessible. It averages 16 to 20 mpg and has great road manners. I've never met a Tundra owner who wasn't pleased with his pickup."

Jerry Barr, Dahlgren, III.: "I'm well satisfied with my Deere 5420 tractor equipped with a Deere H-240 front-end loader. It has a lot of power and starts and runs great. Handles like a car, has convenient controls, and a good air conditioner and heater. This tractor is a dream to drive. I added an LED light bar on front for better visibility."

Alan D. Boggs, Walhalla, S.C.: "My 2008 Kubota 2160 21 hp. zero-turn riding mower has 1,060 hrs. on it with no big problems. It's equipped with power steering and hydraulic deck lift. I wouldn't hesitate to buy another one."

Dave Hoyt, Leiter, Wyo.: Dave nominates his 2015 **Toro** TimeCutter 42-in. zero-turn riding mower as his "best buy". "Absolutely no problems. Starts good, is easy to service, and user friendly. Truly a time saver."

Douglas Price, Meadville, Penn.: "My 1998 **Massey Ferguson** 1240 4-WD tractor equipped with a front-end loader and backhoe has about 1,500 hrs. on it with no problems. Works great."

Delmar R. Cornett, Independence, Va.: Delmar owns a 1995 **Massey Ferguson** turbocharged 53 hp. tractor with more than 3,600 hrs. on it. "I use this tractor almost every day. It has a lot of power and always starts. No problems."

Darrell Carrender, Centertown, Mo.: "My 2016 Echo trimmer/brush cutter works good. It has plenty of power and torque and cuts through thick fescue and watergrass without wrapping up like my Echo 260 did. Also, I like how easy it is to feed the string. However, this trimmer doesn't work quite as well for light trimming work because it has too much power.

"My 2009 **Bush Hog** ES2352 zero-turn mower equipped with a Briggs & Stratton engine has almost 700 trouble-free hours on it"

Allen Andrews, Gillett, Penn.: "Our 2017 Kuhn rotary hay rake does a great job on all kinds of hay. We used it last year on 300 acres without breaking any teeth. A different rake brand we had been using broke several teeth throughout the season, and a broken tooth going through a square baler is not good."

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Greg Price, Osage, Minn.: "I'm happy with my Deere 2012 825I utility vehicle equipped with a hydraulic dump bed. We use it more than any other tool on our farm."

Alvin H. Bornbach, Stratford, Wis.: "Our Amana refrigerator and electric stove are both 44 years old but we're still using them. We raised 4 kids with them. The refrigerator makes a little noise, but we've never had anyone out to fix it."

Wayne Swarey, Mayslick, Ky.: "I like my 2004 Mustang MTL.25 compact track loader equipped with a 97 hp. Yanmar engine. If you need a powerful skid loader to work in mud, this is the one to get. Ours gets a lot of hard use loading logs.

"Our 2004 **Mustang** 2054 skid loader equipped with a Yanmar 49 hp. engine has about 5,100 hrs. on it but is still going strong."

Ron and Janet Hanlin, Georgetown, Ontario: "We've found that Evapo-Rust rust remover works great (www.evaporust. ca)."

Leon Yoder, Quenemo, Kansas: Leon owns a 2005 Dodge Grand Caravan equipped with a 3.3-liter engine that has more than 400,000 miles on it. "All I've done to the engine is change the spark plugs at 390,000 miles. I use two additives - Lucas Transmission Fix (www.lucasoil.com) and Dura Lube Advanced Engine Treatment (www.duralube.com). I only have to change the oil every 7,000 miles."

Rick Rice, Kutztown, Penn.: A Cub Cadet Z-Force zero-turn riding mower equipped with a 54-in. deck rates as Rick's "best buy". "We use it to maintain about

"Best Buy" Freeze Dryer

Willard and Lisa Arbour, Suches, Georgia: "We love everything about our Harvest Right freeze dryer," says Lisa. "We have a large garden and often end up with more than we can eat fresh. I used to do canning, but the freeze-dried foods take up less space and will keep for up to 25 years."

"When we have more eggs than we can use, we prepare them like we would for scrambled eggs, but we freeze dry them instead of cooking," says Willard. "They come out like a cake which can be broken into pieces or turned into powder in a food processor. When you want to use it, just add one part water to one part freeze dried eggs and cook like you would with fresh. They retain over 90 percent of their nutrients and look and taste like fresh scrambled eggs."

"We freeze dry all kinds of fruits, vegetables, herbs and meats," says Lisa. "It is so convenient. I just cut them up like I would to use them in a recipe, freeze dry them, and put them in a jar or Mylar bag with an oxygen absorber. When I want to use them, I put them in a dish and cover with water for about 35 min. before using."

"We've had our Harvest Right for about 2 years, and we use it constantly in the summer and fall as we harvest our garden," says Willard. "The only drawback is the machine is kind of loud and it does take quite a bit of electricity to freeze dry the food, but it is worth it.

"Customer service from Harvest Right is great," he adds. "We had a couple of issues with it, and they responded right away."

"I really appreciate that what we freeze dry will keep for 25 years," says Lisa. "I go through our pantry once a year and throw out food I canned more than a year earlier. I can end up throwing out 30 to 40 percent, which is a terrible waste. With the Harvest Right, we are no longer wasting good food."

Harvest Right makes 3 sizes of freeze dryers, priced from \$1,995 to \$2,995.

15 acres on our farm. I'm not crazy about the styling on this machine, but it works amazingly well, especially on hillsides. It has plenty of power and never stalls. It pushes over weeds taller than me and cuts off stems thicker than my thumb. It has a tough fabricated steel deck and a switch-onthe-fly reserve fuel tank. Even though this machine gets abused, it has required very little maintenance."

Amos Brubaker, Ina, Ill.: "I like my 1972 Deere 4000 diesel tractor. The later model 4000 to 4020 tractors were some of the best tractors ever made. They're simple, powerful and dependable.

"I'm happy with my **Deere** 1025R subcompact utility tractor equipped with a frontend loader and mower."

Dale Orman, Jerseyville, Ill.: "My 2002, 2006, and 2007 **Chevrolet** Duramax pickups are all best buys. Totally trouble-free."

Jon Gaciala, Harrodsburg, Ky.: "I bought a 2011 Case-IH Farmall D40 loader tractor for my small hay fields, which are only 3 to 5 acres each. I wanted a tractor small enough to be maneuverable, but powerful enough to operate my baler and mower, and this was an excellent choice. It's efficient, reliable, and perfect for my needs. It has almost 500 hrs. on it.

"The only problem is the hood and fenders are made of plastic. Six months after the warranty expired, the right fender began to develop stress cracks. It couldn't be repaired so I had to buy a new fender for \$800. Now the left fender is beginning to show cracks, too"



Willard and Lisa Arbour say their Harvest Right freeze dryer works great to freeze dry many different items, including herbs (above) and fruit.



The price includes everything needed to freeze dry and package food. To see the Harvest Right freeze dryer (Vol. 38, No. 6) in action, visit FARMSHOW.com. youtube link: https://www.youtube.com/ watch?v=d5LB61kS_RU

Ron Byelich, Higgins Lake, Mich.: Ron's impressed with Black Star rust converter (www.mrochem.com; ph 800 788-9195). "I've used a lot of different kinds of rust killers and corrosion barrier-type products, but this one works the best. It stops existing rust and prevents future corrosion by forming a durable protective barrier. There's no need for sandblasting, grinding or scraping.

"The product is available in an aerosol can or a 1-gal. jug. It's not cheap, but it goes a long way if used correctly."

Ray Doutrich, Lebanon, Penn.: "After reading about them in FARM SHOW, I bought Gensco tires more than 10 years ago and they're still a best buy (www.genscotire. com; ph 800 828-3350). The company provides amazing service. I ordered the tires with sealant as recommended by the company. However, about 5 years after I bought the tires I found that when I left a wagon loaded overnight, the next morning the tire was flat. While pumping it up, I heard air leaking out around the sidewall through some small holes that looked like they were meant to be there.

"I called the company and learned that the holes had been used to control pressure in their first life as aircraft tires, and that's why they put sealant in them. I said that if I had known this, I'd have opted for tubes (the tires could be ordered with either sealant or tubes at the same price). Then, the company rep sent me freight-paid new tubes for all eight wheels, at no charge.

"My worst buy was a new Leon 425 Silver Continued on next page