

Farmers Nominate Best & Worst Buys

shipping both ways, and I paid for the parts. That's what I call service.

"My **Makita** 120V AC 7 1/4-in. circular saw and 3/8-in. **Nicad** cordless driver drill both work great.

"My 2015 **Jayco** Pinnacle 5th wheel RV is a worst buy. The microwave couldn't even pop a bag of popcorn on the first trip. On our next trip the furnace failed, and I had to go back to the dealer 4 times to get it fixed under warranty. Three of the rig's original tires failed within 2 years. Both air conditioners failed after the warranty expired and the dealer would only replace them, not repair them. The clean water toilet valve leaked, and we had to replace the whole toilet. Now the fireplace, landing and leveling system, and LED light strips are broken."

John Hoss, Stephens, Ark.: "I loved my 2015 **Nissan** Rogue SUV until the transmission went out and couldn't be repaired. I checked with local mechanics and they all said Nissan transmissions are horrible. It would've cost too much to install a new transmission so I sold the vehicle to a salvage company."



Wayne Troyer, Canastota, N.Y.: "I've put more than 30,000 lbs. of meat through my 2012 **LEM** 25-lb. sausage stuffer and it's still going strong (www.lemproducts.com; ph 877 336-5895). The handle is positioned conveniently, which makes it easy for one person to operate. I recommend the company's meat grinders, too.

"My **Cabelas** Big Bite 1 1/2 hp. meat grinder worked so slow that it wasn't practical to use. My smaller 1 hp. **LEM** grinder easily outperforms it."

Bob Lassila, Great Falls, Mont.: "I'm impressed with my **EGO** cordless string trimmer and blower kit (www.egopowerplus.com). A single battery charge will last for as long as I want to work.

"Several years ago we bought a **Morris** 8900 floating hitch field cultivator which works like a nice, heavy chisel plow. However, the shanks on it started breaking. The factory rep came out but didn't know what to do. Almost all the shanks had to be replaced, some of them multiple times, and the warranty covered the cost. But after the warranty expired the company wouldn't help at all. Also, some of the new shanks sent to me were cracked."



Bobby Milam, Altoona, Ala.: "About 3 years ago we received a **Roomba** robot floor vacuum as a Christmas present, and it's an

awesome product. The little floor mop that comes with it works great, too.

"I've been a **FARM SHOW** subscriber for about 22 years and I don't remember anyone ever complaining about **Milwaukee** shop tools. I think they're the best on the market."

Gary D. Berschauer, Whitewater, Colo.: Gary's impressed with his 2009 **GM** Sierra 2500 heavy-duty pickup equipped with a 6.6-liter turbo diesel engine and an Allison automatic transmission. "It performs great and has plenty of torque and power to pull our 9,000-lb. fifth wheel trailer through Colorado mountains with ease.

"At about 33,000 miles we were driving on a 2-lane highway when we heard a very loud noise. The vehicle suddenly lost all power, and I had to stop and pull over to the side of the road. It was a scary moment because at the time I was trying to pass someone. The engine still idled but I could only creep along at about 15 mph.

"Then I looked under the hood and found that a rubber hose had blown off the turbo. I put the hose back on and then drove to the dealer, who saw that the turbo was dirty and greasy and replaced it under warranty."

David H. King, Phoenix, Ariz.: "I bought a 1941 **Farmall** A equipped with a belly-mounted mower for my wife's birthday. She loves it and uses it to mow 3 acres, which she

"It's good to see that these old tractors still have what it takes."

says is her 'happy time'. It's good to see that these old tractors still have what it takes."

Rex Coulter, Tyler, Texas: Rex nominates his **Vermeer** TM1410 trailed 20-ft. mower as his "best buy". "It's easy to operate, hook up to, and maintain, and changing blades on it is an easy job. How fast we can go and how much we can cut in a day depends on the hay, ground condition, and tractor size. We can usually cut 12 to 13 acres per hour when using our 110 hp. tractor, but with a 120 hp. tractor it cuts even better. This is our third Vermeer mower. The first two worked great, but the 1410 cuts 2 1/2 ft. wider and is easier to service. If you ever use one of these, I doubt you will run anything else."

On the negative side, "Our 3-pt. mounted **Junior Burrow Builder** comes with a hopper that holds 5 gal. of poison bait for pocket gopher control. It has a big depth control wheel on back. It seems to be well-built but it won't operate as advertised. When we tried using it on a 100 plus hp. tractor, the poison only dropped about 70 percent of the time.

"We switched to an 85 hp. tractor and it built the burrows fine, but it dropped poison only about 10 percent of the time. We adjusted the wheel as low as it would go, but it didn't help. We also added more than 200 lbs. of weight, which helped a little. Then we drilled holes and moved the wheel down 1 1/2 in., which resulted in about an 85 percent poison drop in sandy soil. We plan to wrap part of a 4-wheeler tire on top of the press wheel so it'll work better. I hate to buy anything that I have to work on the first time I use it."

Darrell Davis, Pall Mall, Tenn.: A mid 1970's **Deutz** 3006 tractor rates as Darrell's "best buy". "I'm well-pleased with the Deutz brand overall. Their tractors are easy on fuel, require few repairs and less maintenance, are very durable, and are a good value when you buy them used. I'll put Deutz tractors up against any brand."



Hydraulic trench attachment digs a trench 48 in. deep and 6 in. wide or more with extensions.

Thumbs-Up For Front-Digging Trencher

Purchasing a Bainter Boom Trencher was definitely a great move, says Chuck Anderson. It works better than larger trenchers he's used in the past and mounts on front of his Bobcat T770 skid loader.

The U.S.-made trencher, patented in 2006 and featured in Vol. 27, No. 4, was developed by Wes Bainter, as the first forward trencher on the market. In 2018, Duane Wenté, a long-time employee purchased the Hoxie, Kansas, company.

Wenté notes that the original design, with its boom that angles almost straight down, hasn't changed much. As skid loaders have gotten bigger, the trencher is built stronger and heavier, weighing in at 1,640 lbs.

Equipment to operate the trencher requires a minimum lift capacity of 1,800 lbs. and 15 gpm hydraulic flow. High-flow hydraulics boost its ability to cut up to 16-in. wide trenches.

The trencher chain easily digs a trench 48 in. deep as required by power companies. (Bainter has extensions that go down to 6 ft., 6 in. deep).

"I like its versatility on a skid loader, and you move forward so you can see where you're going. I've used it on a range of soils

from sandy loam to clay type and some rock. In good soils I can do about 10 ft. per minute," Anderson says.

His 92-hp. Bobcat is adequate to handle the hydraulic-powered trencher. The horizontal augers on each side kick the dirt beyond the tracks so he's not driving on a dirt pile.

The basic model digs a 6-in. trench, and Anderson recently added a spreader to dig a 10-in. wide trench. In addition to using it for construction, he is a rancher and plans to use it for jobs such as digging trenches for stock water lines. About 75 percent of Bainter trenchers are sold for agricultural uses.

"I've been surprised how maintenance-free it is. I would never go back to the old style," Anderson says, adding that Wenté's personal customer service has been outstanding.

Prices may change due to rising steel costs, but in early 2021, the Bainter Boom Trencher retailed for about \$8,650. Videos of how it works can be seen at the company website, www.bainterboomtrenchers.com.

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'56 Massey A "Best Buy"

Roy Hagan, Cleveland, Tenn., sent us a photo of his 1956 Massey that he still uses on his farm.

"The photo was taken as we finished up some hay work for the day. It's been in our family for 3 generations and I learned how to farm on that tractor. The engine has been rebuilt at least twice. We use it now for hay and bushhogging. I am hoping it holds together for us until we can replace it with a newer machine.

"My son is now learning on it on our recently purchased 17 acre farm," notes Hagan.



Jim Ruen, La Crescent, Minn.: "With no cell service in the valley where our farm is located, getting a set of walkie talkies seemed like a good insurance policy if something went wrong outside.

"Our **Midland GXT 1000** two-way radios have more features than I will ever use or want to use. That includes the ability to use either the Family Radio Service (FRS) or the General Mobile Radio Service (GMRS) with 50 channels and 387 privacy codes providing 5,964 options. Given that most people use cell phones, I have yet to find any of the 50 channels being used by anyone else.

"The GXT 1000 radios are clear as a bell

anyplace on our 75 acres. I also like the size at only 4.8 oz., the ability to operate on rechargeable or AA batteries, voice activation, and the SOS alert. Another positive is hands-free use. I figure if I've got myself into a sticky situation, voice activation, hitting the SOS alert button, or hands-free might give me options. I also like the simple belt clip.

"Prices for two-way radios range from \$30 to \$179. We spent about \$70.

"Now all I have to do is to remember to take my radio with me and make sure my wife has hers with her when I head to the woods with my chainsaw."