Farmers Nominate Best & Worst Buys



Bradley Bruhn, Palermo, N.D.: "Someone in FARM SHOW recommended Blue Devil Hydraulic Stop Leak (www.gobdp.com; ph 888-863-0426). I ordered some just to see if it worked. I was a firm believer that they don't make 'fix-it in a can'. I was proven wrong. The power steering on my van was leaking so I added some Blue Devil, and it hasn't leaked since. The hydraulic cylinder was leaking on the Bobcat, so I added Blue Devil, and it hasn't leaked to this day. Thanks to the gentleman who recommended it and also to FARM SHOW for the great information."

Linda Nooner, McAlester, Okla.: "My 2019 **Ford** F-150 FX4 is a great all-around truck. It pulls anything and is easy on fuel.

"I like buying American-made but it's sure hard to find anything made here. Saw blades, nuts and bolts, wire fencing, screws, and even nails are all foreign-made. Tools, electrical equipment, welding rods, and household appliances are all junk unless made in the good old USA."

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Jim Dilday, Rockwood, Ill.: "We bought two Deere 6200 tractors (one with a cab and one without) and they are the best investments we've ever made. They are reliable workhorses and if they were still available, we'd buy two new ones tomorrow, even if we had to borrow every penny to do it.

"We haven't been happy with our 2015 Deere 6105M tractor. It's a shame that Deere made a tractor with such a good engine and transmission yet is still a total lemon due to electrical and radiator design issues. There is a different warning flashing on the dash of this tractor every time we get in it and only one ever turned out to be legitimate. The owner's manual doesn't even list a majority of the codes so we can't even check on what it's reporting."

James Tilson, Peoria, Ill.: "I bought a Cub Cadet walk-behind string trimmer about 3 years ago. I used this trimmer to knock down overgrowth on about 1 acre. I also use it to trim around the pond and clean up fence lines on about five acres. It's great to use on steep hills. It takes one or two pulls to start."

Anthony Love, Claremont, N.H.: "My 2022 Toyota Tundra Limited is a nice ride. The gas mileage at 22 mpg highway is not bad for a full-size pickup. It has plenty of power to pull my 10,000-lb. loaded dump trailer."

Kurt Wilson, Orting, Wash.: "My DR walk-behind string trimmer is lightweight and easy to use. The Briggs & Stratton engine starts on the first or second pull every time. It's so easy to use that my wife can handle it no problem."

Del Griffith, Rockwall, Texas: "We suffer

from chronic power outages. Our **Generac** dual-fuel 7500-watt generator has been a lifesaver. I bought the dual-fuel because it was in stock at the time. We had an outage that necessitated using all the gas we had but luckily, I had two 20-lb. propane bottles on hand that got us through. This generator starts every time on the first attempt and is efficient. Ten gals. of gas and 20 lbs. of propane got us through 2 1/2 days.

"I used my Scag Liberty 52 zero-turn mower for 2 hrs. and sold it. It was a \$5,500 mower that wouldn't cut grass. Any grass areas higher than 4-in. and the mower would just struggle to cut it, causing the mower to stall out every time. My Deere X320 was down because I needed a part. When I put the X320 back in service it mowed the same areas with ease. Scag offers a lot of hype, but they don't live up to it when it comes to consumer products."

Wayne Spencer, Carman, Manitoba: "My 2020 Milwaukee electric weed eater is very quick and quiet. The batteries last a long time."

Howard Uiterdyk, Belding, Mich.: "My best buy is a Deere 2038R compact utility tractor I purchased new in late 2017. It has plenty of power and is large enough to be able to safely do many different tasks yet is small enough to be very maneuverable with the auto-connect mower, loader or 3-pt. attachments. It's fun and comfortable to operate and has many neat features. I highly recommend this tractor."

Richard Johnson, Gleason, Tenn.: "My Milwaukee Fuel 1/2-in. 18-volt impact purchased in 2000 is very powerful and the battery lasts a long time. It was a little costly, but I have no complaints."

Dave Arko, Fort Collins, Colo.: "Our two Nissan LEAF electric cars are wonderful, especially with the high gas prices. Our 2015 has enough range (70 miles) for daily trips to work. Our 2022 model has a 220-mile range and a lot of power. They are maintenance-free other than tires. We've had no problems with either car."

Kevin V. Cox, Tioga, La.: "Since June 2021, I've been driving a 2021 GMC Sierra X31 4x4 pickup truck with the Duramax diesel engine. It's a 3.0 liter, straight e-cylinder engine. I have 50,000 miles on it and have had zero issues with it. It has plenty of power and pep. Plus, I regularly get over 30 mpg on it. With a good tailwind and driving at 55 mph, I averaged 54.9 mpg over a 25-mile period. That's my best mileage to date. I recommend it to anyone.

"I recently bought a walk-behind, rearwheel drive **Craftsman** 21-in. lawn mower. I average close to 5 hrs. a week pushing a lawn mower. My previous mowers were very similar to the one I recently bought, but they were front-wheel drive. I like the rear-wheel drive version much better."

Don Johnson, Murphy, N.C.: "I have a **Kubota** F2100 4x4 front deck mower that I bought used with 2,100 hrs. This mower is great on hills, far better than any zero-turn. It's easy on gas and reliable. It's odd looking - like a backward tractor - but gets the job done."

Jim Holt, Cincinnati, Ohio: "My worst buy was a brand-new Braxton Creek camper. We got it in September 2021, towed it home and parked it next to my basement garage. Less than a month later, I discovered the roof leaking into the living space. I towed it back to the dealer and left it there for a couple of months while they 'fixed' it. I got it back and checked for leaks during the first heavy rain or two and it was dry inside. I let it sit there until May 2022 when I found yellow puddle stains on the floor and walls. I towed

Best Buy Media Blaster

Matt Kopitscke, Claire, Ark.: "I do car repair work for friends and on my own vehicles. There are always a few rust spots that need to be dealt with.

"I've used a **Zendex** mini sand blaster on several jobs, and it works great. It's easy to fill with the small portable funnel that comes with the kit. The adjustable discharge valve lets me control the sand flow to whatever level I need to get out tough rust or remove small spots.

"The Speed Blaster is small enough to use in tight areas and mobile enough to use under and around a rusty frame spot. It's ideal for smaller jobs, including a brake drum or a wheel rim, but I wouldn't use it on a full chassis or full-car restoration. It has a Hot Spot attachment that works well to clean out stone chips or pings without taking out an area the size of your hand. Four different rubber tips can be fitted on the Hot Spot to clean different areas without a lot of dust.

"A variety of blasting media can be used up to 14 grit. I use mostly Quartz sand, which is very abrasive and does a great job. The only downside I find is that if you point the gun up and away toward a spot and the hopper is less than half full, the sand doesn't feed in because the intake is in the front of the hopper toward the tip of the gun.

"A friend of mine uses his Zendex to clean carburetors with bicarbonate soda and then uses an ultrasonic cleaner and it does a



Zendex mini sand blaster is small enough to use in tight areas and mobile enough to use under and around a rusty frame spot.

great job. This tool is more effective than removing rust with gritty sandpaper, a wire brush, or a grinding tool.

"The gun has a replaceable hardened steel mixing chamber and a ceramic nozzle. It operates at 60 to 100 psi and can easily be powered by a 3-hp. compressor.

"If you check online sellers such as Amazon or eBay, you'll see many excellent reviews. The Auto Body Tool Mart had 25 positive ratings for the product and not a single neutral or negative in the past 6 mos. You may never spend a better 60 bucks for a handy tool in your lifetime."

Makita Tool Kit A Best Buy

Jim Ruen, La Crescent, Minn.: "I really like the 18V LXT Couple Power Shaft from Makita. I got the kit with string trimmer and hedge trimmer attachments, as well as the pole saw. The charger and 4Ah battery were included.

"The attachments slip into the female receiving shaft on the power head. A lever on the shaft locks them in place, no tools needed.

"The variable speed trigger gives infinite control over power usage. The high/low-speed button makes it easy to power up for heavier loads or back off for lighter loads and gives a longer run time on a battery.

"The 13-in. string trimmer is ideal for light work. It's the best-balanced trimmer that I've used and was easy to work with, even without hooking it to the shoulder harness included with the kit.

"The 10-in. bar pole saw did a good job on a dozen pine tree branches overhanging a road through my woods. The branch hook was handy for pulling trimmed branches away, and the 7-ft. length worked well for me, but a 42-in. shaft extension is available.

"Without a doubt, my favorite of the three attachments was the articulating hedge trimmer with its 20-in. double-sided blade. I've used other shaft-mounted hedge trimmers, but this one is the easiest to adjust. When not in use, it rides along the shaft. To

it back to the dealer and they insisted I leave it with them for more work. It's been months since I dropped it off. Soon the camper will be a full year old, and we are yet to have an opportunity to use it and the dealer won't buy it back. I think we deserve a new camper, or our money refunded."

Richard "Olly" Larson, Fayetteville, Ga.: "I bought a Kubota BX23 compact tractor with quick-attach loader and backhoe. It's the 'Swiss Army Knife' of tractors. I'm always amazed at what I can do with it, and to nly burns about a gal./hour. It's been very dependable and only been in the shop for basic maintenance."



Makita has an assortment of attachments for its LXT Couple Power Shaft.

use it, just pull down on the locking sleeve on the shaft and swing the blade into one of 13 positions for vertical or horizontal cuts and everything in between.

"The double-sided sickle blade even works great on tall grass. It takes a 20-in. swath with each swing. The only thing that I can imagine working better is a walk behind sickle bar

"When I shared it with a family friend, she couldn't wait to put it to work under the electric fence in her horse pasture."

Paul Holbert, Dandridge, Tenn.: "My 2020 Deere mower-conditioner was a good purchase. I bought it new, and it had a cracked gearbox when it was delivered. Deere put a new one on with no questions asked. The mower performs really well.

"My worst buy has to be a Claas Lexion 760 combine. These machines are generally great, but the dealer misrepresented the machine and then wouldn't make it right. The machine was sold as being field-ready. When it was delivered, it had oil running out of it and loose parts that had fallen into the machine. The computer was throwing many error codes."