

Farmers Nominate Best & Worst Buys

as sharpened and polished, at no charge. I'm very happy with their quality and service."

Howard Ashlock, Center Point, Iowa: "My **Deere X300** lawn tractor has a good engine, a Kawasaki 2-cyl., that starts easily, has power and works fine. The 48-in. mower does okay. The problem is that the hydrostat transmission slips, and the tractor won't go up the hill in my yard. I have tried filling up the transmission, but that didn't fix the problem. After checking on the internet, I discovered others having trouble with their rider mowers with the Tuff Torq hydrostatic transmissions. It's too bad that Deere made a good mowing machine and then put a dud of a transmission in it."

Rudy Valen, Camp Verde, Ariz.: "Although the bottom freezer was okay, the top two-door cooling unit went out on my **LG** refrigerator when it was less than two years old. I asked the repairman about LG refrigerators, and he said that they're not good. No more foreign stuff for me; the parts are expensive. Buy American."

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Ben Martin: Ben is impressed with his **Leatherman** Sidekick multi-tool, which he purchased five years ago. "Life's a lot easier with one of these in your pocket. I've saved countless hours by having what I needed without having to fetch a tool. If you're a farmer, construction worker, mechanic or simply a DIY guy, get yourself a multi-tool. You'll wonder how you got along without one."

Mary Alice Schuller, Norwalk, Ohio:

"**OxiClean** Max Force laundry stain remover is the best. Be sure to follow the directions. It removed a stain that would've been impossible to get out otherwise. I left the product on the garment for one week—miraculous."

"I very much enjoy shopping at **Menards**. They have quality products, except for refrigerators. The staff is courteous and helpful if needed. The 11% rebate is so helpful and appreciated."

"When my 40-year-old refrigerator gave out and parts weren't available, I regrettably shopped for a new one in a hurry. I purchased a **Criterion** refrigerator as a replacement. I need to wrap a dish towel around some of the vegetables, as the temperatures are unpredictable even at the second-lowest temperature. There are only two shelves and no drawer for lunch meats, etc. The dairy nook on the door only holds one stick of butter on top of a package of cream cheese. One outstanding feature is that there are no handles on the door. I hope others are heard regarding this ill-designed appliance."

Donald Catron, Pleasanton, Texas: "**Hustler** builds an excellent zero-turn mower. A 60-in. mowing deck and 38-hp engine make mowing a 10-acre property a snap. This mower is a replacement for my

first Hustler, which I still have and have used for 18 years."

James Spalding, Finley, Ky.: "My **Kobalt** battery products are very good."

"My **Ferris** 61-in. cut riding mower has a smooth ride and cuts well, but the sump seal in the motor goes out every four or five years."

Martha Downing, Livingston, Mont.: Martha's best buy is a 1921 **Singer** model 66 treadle sewing machine. "My husband noticed an ad on Facebook Marketplace for a treadle sewing machine for sale less than a mile from our house. The seller said it had belonged to his grandmother. A new belt, a little sewing machine oil and the thing sews beautifully. It's a real workhorse."

Dean Powell, Kent, Wash.: "My **Deere X350R** riding mower does an excellent job, is easy to operate and is better than older riding mowers."

"We continue to buy **Milwaukee** power tools. There's none better than those and **Stihl**."

"My 2022 **Ford F-150 XL** twin turbo has been trouble-free. I really like to drive it."

"Fifty percent of all Chinese products are no good, even small items like nuts and bolts. What a shame for stores to stock them. They're no bargain when you can't use them or they cause extra work."

Charlie McDermott, Cassadaga, N.Y.: "My best buy is my 1963 **International** Scout. Growing up on a dairy farm in western New York, all we ever had were IH pickups and Scouts. We worked 'em hard. But this one is retired like me. When you take your Scout top off, all the gals want to go for a ride."

"Any appliance that says high-efficiency (HE) is a complete lie. Our washing machine takes twice as long as the old one and doesn't get the clothes as clean."

Jerry Dunn, Wickliffe, Ky.: Jerry's pleased with his cab model **Kubota RTV-1100C**. It's 1 1/2 years old with 650 hrs. "We use it to feed and check cattle every day. The heat in the cab is nice in the winter."

"We purchased a **Kubota M8200** tractor with a loader in 2000. Twenty-five years and 4,000 hrs. later, it's had only one minor repair. It still uses no oil and runs great."

"I love **FARM SHOW** and have learned a lot from it. Please keep it in the paper form. I'm 78 years old and not very happy with today's electronics."

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"We were in the construction business for 27 years. We purchased a **Gehl** extended boom loader that had an 80-hp **Deere** engine. At 1,300 hrs., the engine literally exploded. A rebuilt used replacement engine cost \$13,000. The one that exploded had been serviced regularly."

Terry Homberger, Oak Grove, Minn.: "After my **DeWalt** drill battery gave out and seeing the price of a new one, I decided to give the **Menards** Master Force drill a try. That was three years ago. It's been the best drill I've ever owned. I've since added a chainsaw, impact wrench and circular saw to my Master Force collection. They all use the same batteries and charger. All of these tools are best buys and purchased at a great price."

Kelly Dawson, Almont, N.D.: "My **Milwaukee M18** 3/8-in. drive impact tool



Manthey is happy with his 27-year-old air-cooled Yamaha Kodiak 400, known as "Ol' Red."

'Flawless Performer' For Over 25 Years

L. Manthey, Kenyon, Minn.: "Thirty years ago, I bought a three-year-old 250 cc Yamaha Timberwolf based on the dealer's recommendation. It started and ran well for a couple of months, driving on our up, down and around acreage trails. Then it sputtered and spit at higher rpm, and eventually didn't want to start at all. I emptied the fuel tank, cleaned the carb, and put in new gas, along with a good dose of Seafoam. That brought it to life for about a week, then it just plain quit."

"I hauled it back to the dealer and told him about the issues. He responded, 'Guess you got a guinea pig model.' I replied, 'And that's another word for lemon, right?' He shrugged it off with a grin and said, 'Those early 250s had some problems; some people even called them guinea pigs. How about driving a nice used 4-WD 1998 Kodiak 400 that just came in?'"

"I took it for a spin, traded in the lemon, and to this day consider it one of my favorite best buys. My 27-year-old air-cooled Yamaha Kodiak 400, known as 'Ol' Red,' has an electric start, push-button 4-WD, adequate headlights and a comfortable seat. With the Ultramatic transmission, it's great on trails,

pulls a half-ton capacity trailer and starts easily, even in cold weather. In fact, riding through 6 in. of fresh snow is more fun than on dusty trails."

"The strong tubular steel frame is supported by MacPherson struts on the front and a rear swingarm/monocross suspension. For more than 25 years, 'Ol' Red' has been a flawless performer. I've replaced a short fuel line, shocks, tires and a couple of batteries."

"The front and rear utility racks are handy for carrying yard tools, a cooler, or young grandkids riding in a strapped-on kid jumper seat. The \$2,000 I paid in trade for 'Ol' Red' was a real bargain."

"A few years ago, I saw a faded relative of my 'Ol' Red' in the back of a muddy South Dakota hunter's pickup, tucked between two large mule deer. I asked him about the wheeler."

"He smiled and said, 'Ol' Red' here's my deer buggy, my fencin' buggy, my calf gettin' buggy and my grandkid ridin' buggy. I'm never gettin' rid of it 'cuz there's none better out there."

"I'll second that endorsement any day."

has plenty of power and speed. The ease of use is a real time saver."

Dean E. Stevens, Wentworth, N.H.: "I just got a **Hyper Tough** electric lawn mower at Walmart. It's lightweight, cuts well, and the battery lasts longer than I do."

"I bought my **Chevy S10** pickup new in 1988. It's been super reliable, with only normal maintenance needed."

Richard McFadden, Adel, Ga.: Richard nominates his **Harbor Freight** Portland electric pole saw and **Craftsman** 10-in. electric chainsaw as best buys. "I've been clearing a brush pile from the recent hurricane and cutting 12-in. limbs with no problems."

"The battery on my **Black & Decker** 20-volt weed eater (LST201) only lasts about 20 min. It's been doing this since I bought it new. It's aggravating."

Edwin Hawley, Freeport, Ill.: "One of the best investments I've made in a long time is **Leaf Filter**. No more climbing ladders to clean gutters."

Murray Wells, Fullerton, Calif.: "My best buy ever has been **FARM SHOW Magazine**. I read it from cover to cover and learn a lot of good information and get great new ideas."

Jon DeGroot, Otisville, Mich.: "Our best buy from two years ago is an **Agri-Fab** lawn sweeper (www.agri-fab.com; ph 800-448-9282). The handle to empty the bag is a big plus over using a rope when the leaves are wet."

"The only modification we made was to add a 1/8-in. screw-type actuator (12V). It's connected to a switch on the tractor that enables one to raise and lower the height of

the sweepers. It saves wear and tear on the plastic gears. I found out how to make the modification on YouTube."

"Another best buy is our 1972 (or so) **Massey Ferguson** 14 garden tractor. We bought it for \$250 and rebuilt the engine for \$100. We use it for mowing, plowing and pulling (lawn sweeper). They certainly don't build them like that anymore."

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Lon Stretesky, Big Springs, Neb.: "I use my **Case IH** 55 with a loader and 3-point more than my larger loader. It's easy to use with a pedal for forward and one for reverse, and a 3-speed gearbox."

"My **DeWalt** chainsaw with a 12-in. bar is very handy and uses the same battery as my other tools. However, the chain oil does leak out, so you need to be careful where you leave it."

Stephen Krumm, Owatonna, Minn.: "I've been happy with a scaffold system made from various manufacturers' parts. I purchased six leg sets, four wheels, four level-adjusting legs, aluminum platforms, and a top safety cage. One never realizes how many places it can be used until you have it. Roofing, soffits, ceiling installs, and lighting are all now safely and effectively done. No upkeep, easy to store and nothing to break."