

Farmers Nominate Best & Worst Buys

"I also consider **FARM SHOW** to be a best buy as it has many shop ideas.

"I purchased a poorly made grapple at auction. It bends easily, and one hydraulic cylinder had to be replaced. I replaced it with a **Land Pride**, which works well."

Delbert Smith, Oakley, Kan.: "We had a gallon a day leak on a final drive on a TD25E crawler, which would've taken several days to dismantle and fix. The leak was totally stopped by using one gallon of **SealLube**. It's lasted for months."



Marc Wodnick, DeFuniak Springs, Fla.: Marc is impressed with his **Craftsman V20 1/2-in. drive impact wrench** he bought this year. "Since getting it, I haven't used an air or corded electric impact wrench. It's powerful, as well as smaller and lighter. The battery lasts a long time before needing a charge.

"My **Milwaukee M18** cordless grease gun has made greasing tractors, implements, and vehicles quicker and easier. I haven't used a handheld lever or pistol grip grease gun since getting the M18. The battery also lasts a long time."

Marc is disappointed with his Alabama-built **Turf Pride G-157** finish mower. A local Kubota dealer sold it. "The mower was purchased new. The belt would crack badly after mowing two to four acres. It came with a Gates industrial V-belt. It had mowed only the grass in the yard. The dealer was of no help in correcting the problem. I fixed it by installing a deck belt for a Skag mower and a softer spring on the idler pulley. Before I fixed it, it had several of the Gates belts."



Harlan Nonhof, Phillipsburg, Kan.: "I have a couple of best buys that I can pick up at my local Ace Hardware. I've had great success with both of these products.

"**Shoe Goo** is a great repair for shoe soles when the original glue no longer holds (www.eclecticproducts.com; ph 800-349-4667). I open the gap a little and use a toothpick to work the Shoe Goo in deeper.

"**Tear Mender** has become a replacement for sewing to make fabric repairs (Vol. 46, No. 5; www.tearmender.com; ph 800-552-8252). I use wax paper to protect areas where I don't want the glue. I also use it to glue leather."

Alan F. Shea, Alpena, Mich.: "My 2022 **Kubota RTV520** side-by-side performs very well with the 4-WD high and low range transmission with interlock on all four wheels. We use it while working in the woods year-round. It has 800 hrs. on it with no problems.

"The aftermarket **Curtis** cab on the RTV wasn't a good buy. The cab squeaks and rattles loudly and leaks in a rainstorm. You might want to consider carrying a raincoat

and earplugs if you buy an RTV with this after-market cab."

Ken Campbell, Deer Park, Wash.: "A little less than a year ago, I believed **EdenPURE's** advertising and bought two of their GEN40 heaters. They brag about how superior they are to most any other 110-volt heater. I never dreamed a heater wouldn't have a thermostat control. Most heaters have them, even the cheap ones. I can't set them and leave them. Thus, they're useless to me. Of course, they're made in China."

James Rundus, Munden, Kan.: "My 2023 **Deere 835R Gator** is the best. If I had to give this machine up, I'd be lost. My dealer provides excellent service. I use it every day, and on most days, I don't even start my pickup anymore. I bought the extended warranty, but with almost 6,000 miles now, it seems I won't need to use it. Yes, they're expensive, but they really do replace a pickup truck. I even took it to the Colorado mountains for trail riding. It performed perfectly at high altitudes of 10,000 ft. or more.

"I bought a 2000 **Mitsubishi** mini truck, thinking it would be a good replacement for a side-by-side UTV on the farm. They're not. Mine had about 50,000 km (31,069 miles) when I bought it, and I think it was already worn out, or maybe I wore it out. They absolutely won't stand up to farm use or country roads. They don't have a good enough air cleaner system.

"I brought it back to the dealer twice to have it overhauled. The dealer stood behind it, but I think he realized it was hopeless, as they aren't made for this kind of use. The parts are expensive and hard to come by. I finally gave up and sold it on auction, then bought a **Deere Gator**."

Virgil Lawrence, Crawfordsville, Ind.: "I paid \$3,300 for my pair of **Starkey** hearing aids. I lost one in the first month, which cost me an additional \$300. They're nowhere worth that money. They whistle, and one has very little volume. I suggest someone with limited hearing start at Amazon or Best Buy."

Mike Brose, Valley Falls, Kan.: "My **Can-Am** Defender side-by-side is a well-made machine.

"I've had my **Ryobi** tools for 30 years and they're still reliable.

"**FARM SHOW Magazine** has been my best buy for years."

On the negative side, Mike's unhappy with his **Whirlpool** top-load washer. "It won't clean clothes and leaves a soap film because the autofill sensor doesn't allow enough water to be used."



Bill Snyder, Nauvoo, Ill.: "I bought a small **Masterforce** kit of small sockets with metric and SAE sizes at Menards. The SAE



"20-in. wheels provide plenty of clearance over uneven field roads and pastures on Dakota hunting trips," says Montey.

Best Buy Pickup

Al Montey, Dennison, Minn.: "After owning seven different Ford pickups over the past 28 years, I switched brands and bought a nice used 2023 **GMC Sierra Denali Ultimate** with under 20K miles.

"Before choosing the Denali, I test drove a 2024 Ford King Ranch, a 2023 Dodge Ram, a GMC Sierra AT4, and a 2023 Chevy Silverado High Country. They're all solid options, especially for those committed to one brand.

"The GMC stood out for several reasons, including a quieter cab, better ride, plenty of pulling power, excellent gas mileage, easier controls, better sound system, nicer dash layout, user-friendly tailgate, high-definition backup camera, and improved design of the deployable running boards.

"The interior trim and color are more to my liking. The Denali, like the other pickups,

offers plenty of storage compartments, comfortable front seats, and flip-up rear seats for extra cargo space. The floor in the back isn't as flat as Ford's, but I can deal with this minor inconvenience.

"The 20-in. wheels provide plenty of clearance over uneven field roads and pastures on Dakota hunting trips. The high-hood design took some getting used to compared to the Ford's, but I'll manage.

"With repair costs rising these days, I opted for the extended warranty up to 100,000 miles offered on this GM-certified used vehicle. It's a big savings if major repairs are needed.

"I thought this ultra-clean used Denali with under 20K miles was an excellent buy at \$17K less than a new one. Good, clean, low-mileage used pickups are out there if you look long enough."

goes up to 9/16 in., so with 3/8, 1/2 and 9/16 in. sizes, the kit covers 80% of what I might work on. I've learned to grab this kit first. There are other Masterforce kits available, and I'd trust the quality of these as well."

Vincent Serinese, Robbinsville, N.J.: "My **Kubota RTV** is quiet, and the cab has A/C and heat.

"My **Deere 4075R** is a nice upgrade from a 3046R. It has more power and a smoother ride."

Glenn Manning, Rochester, Ill.: "Any and all **Milwaukee** power tools, corded or cordless, are best buys."

Roy Benjamin, Shelby, Mt.: "We love our **Case IH 7088** combine. Where we farm, it's not high-yielding, prosperous country, and the new million-dollar machines don't have an adequate return on investment. The 7088 has several improvements over the 1680/2388 generation machines without sacrificing the simplicity and ease of repair of those earlier models.

"We use a 45-ft. draper header on our 7088 in 20 to 30-bushel wheat at a comfortable ground speed of 4.5 to 5.5 mph. We use large wire concaves for all crops with filler plates in the first module. The combine requires almost no adjustment between crops when equipped this way.

"The cab is large and comfortable, and we use aftermarket auto steer. I don't see how we could be any happier with a newer, bigger model, and the best part is we understand this machine and can do almost all repairs ourselves. With no DEF and minimal computers, but with plenty of capacity, all for \$50,000 to \$70,000, we're really pleased with this purchase.

"Our cost of maintenance and repairs over the past few years has averaged less than \$3 per acre.



"I've looked at and tried dozens of farm recordkeeping software programs over the years. While they all have their good points and something to offer, I've really enjoyed getting acquainted with **Traction** ag software (www.tractionag.com; ph 888-466-6080). Finally, I have all my important records in one place—from planting, tillage and field operations through harvest and inventory, as well as check writing and accounting.

"It has an old-fashioned feel, but with modern power and capability. It's been relatively easy to learn to use, saving me several hours of office work each month. Moreover, our farm is organic, which adds a layer of record-keeping that this software has proven capable of handling.

"The people at Traction are farmers themselves, and have been good at answering the phone when I have questions as I learn how to use it.

"The other day, I ran short on bin space while harvesting, and with a quick glance at my phone, I was able to see the quantities of various bins and identify which ones could be consolidated. Although I had entered the information at home on my desktop, I was able to log on from my phone and view that information.

"Another time, my bank called and needed to verify a certain loan balance. Again, from the seat of my tractor, I was able to look up

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