## Farmers Nominate Best & Worst Buys

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that information quickly and accurately.

"Finally, I can press a few buttons and pull up a Schedule F tax form that's pre-filled with all of my pertinent data. Although this doesn't replace a tax professional's advice, it does streamline the process and save time and money that you would otherwise pay to a CPA to sort through things.

"I'm extremely happy with Traction ag software, and feel like it's been a good return on investment."

John Daugherty, Milledgeville, Ga.: "My dad and I are pleased with everything we buy from Hoss Tools (www.growhoss.com; ph 888-672-5536). Their tools are well-built and made to last. Their gardening supplies have made gardening easier, especially their irrigation system."

Craig McGuire, Dover, Ark.: "I purchased a grapple from Everything Attachments for my Deere 5075, and it turned out to be the best labor saver I've ever bought (www. everythingattachments.com; ph 866-581-5818). It attaches in minutes. No more loading limbs and brush in a trailer when cutting wood or cleaning up the trees in my yard. I should've bought it 40 years ago."

Craig didn't have the same kind of experience with his **GE** front-loading washing machine. "This was an 'energy saver' model, which means it doesn't use enough water to clean anything. Our clothing always had a musty smell. I modified the water level switch, which helped a little. We were happy when the controls died after four years, and we could replace it with a top loader."

Bill Priddy, Stephenville, Texas: "Any tool that I ever bought from Harbor Freight turned out to be a piece of crap. I finally learned my lesson about products made in China."



Edward Libke, Edgewood, Texas: Edward is pleased with the Primeweld plasma cutter he uses on his ranch (www. primeweld.com; ph 856-500-2000). "Price and performance—this product does everything they said it would do. It works very well, and I would recommend it."

On the negative side is Edward's 3-pt. fertilizer and seed cone spreader. "The gate doesn't close off enough to use it for grass seed. It just spills out before you can spread it."

**Dylan Berger, Wasilla, Alaska:** "My **Great Stuff** Pro 14 foam gun is much better than using the spray foam cans alone (www. greatstuff.dupont.com; ph 866-583-2583). The cans last a long time, and you can use the same can for up to a month. Two tricks I've learned are to use the tip of a utility knife to

make sure the tip of the gun is clear, and to always keep the gun connected to a can of foam or cleaner. If you run out of foam, put a new can on right away.



"My **Makita** 18-volt oscillating multitool has endless uses, such as cleaning off urethane on studs, cutting electrical box holes in drywall, and cutting roots wrapped around a tiller. It's so handy."

Tommy Sanson, Red Wing, Minn.: "My Craftsman 3-ton jack is a good product and will lift a 1-ton truck front end. However, the valve is faulty, and after a year of use, it starts to bleed while in use. They could use grease points.

"Fram \$4 oil filters and Walmart brand oil filters are of poor quality. The oil appears to have been used without a filter after 1,500 miles in my gas truck. They're the worst product line and need to be improved."

Michael B. Rexrode, Brandywine, W.Va.: "We prefer to bale hay at 10% to 15% moisture, and we store it all in barns. The pickup on our 2024 McHale V6740 round hay baler is 7 ft. wide and gets all the hay (www.mchale.net). It's the fastest baler we've ever used. You can start a bale in the gear you intend to finish it in. We haven't ever plugged it up. It's very heavily built and weighs nearly 10,000 lbs."

Jack Sullivan, Leitchfield, Ky.: "I like my Ryobi power tools. The parts to fix them are cheap and easy to get. The warranty is great."

John was disappointed in his **Cub Cadet** XLT mower. "I had to replace the carb twice. The pulley and belt had to be replaced four or five times per season. I only had it for six years, mowing one acre."

Terry Hill, Ceresco, Mich.: "We replaced the windows in our farmhouse two years ago. We looked at Renewal by Andersen, but they were \$40,000 for 14 windows. We went with Wallside in the Detroit area for \$13,000. Their crew installed them in five hours, was very professional, and did a great job. These windows are easy to operate and have significantly reduced our energy use, in both winter and summer. We highly recommend them."

John Rochester, Charlotte, N.C.: "Amazon sells a rechargeable flashlight called TORCHSTAR. It's water-resistant, has an adjustable locking base on one end, has multiple magnets and hooks, and can be positioned almost anywhere. It has a really good battery life. Best of all, you can attach the end magnet to a vise grip or a piece of scrap metal and take it under the sink, aiming it where needed. We've used it to see into the dark car."

G. Ripps, San Antonio, Texas: "I'm pleased with my 5-speed 1988 Dodge with a 12-valve Cummins. It has a simple design—just change the oil and occasionally add a can of Freon.

"I wasn't happy with the **Firestone** SUV tires I paid for locally at Walmart, but were then ordered online. They said it would take over a week to deliver to the store. The tires came from several states, and it turned out they were three to five years old. The tires



Voyles tested the sample and found it would work very well.

## **GutterBrush Easy To Install**

Jim Voyles, Ava, Mo.: "I ordered Gutter-Brush for my gutters this past year (Vol. 48, No. 6; www.gutterbrush.com; ph 888-397-9433). Pretty great service all around. I called the number and talked to an agent. They sent me a 6-ft. sample, maybe 5 1/2 in. diameter. I was told it's the most common product."

Voyles tested the sample and determined it would work very well.

"The team helped me with dimensions when I called back. I ordered 165 ft., and all the product came fast."

He estimates he spent a total of \$250. "Installation took an hour, tops. Most of my time was spent moving the ladder around. The GutterBrush slid in very easily."

Voyle's positive service experience continued after installation.

"I found I was sent 6 ft. less than their estimate. After calling, they sent me the extra piece with an apology, at no extra cost. They're a really good team to work with.

"I've had some great windstorms, and nothing has budged. Even though I have big oak trees that always cover my gutters, I'm very confident that GutterBrush will take care of that problem."

## **Best Buy Hand Warmers**

Scott Geyer, Lakeville, Minn.: "As I get older, I don't enjoy the cold much anymore. Living in Minnesota means experiencing numerous cold days. I received a set of Ocoopa electric hand warmers as a gift last year (www.ocoopa.com). At the time, I didn't think much of them, but once I tried them out, I was sold.

"The rechargeable warmers are available on Amazon and other retailers for around \$20. They have three heat settings and warm up quickly. They're magnetic and can be used together as a double-sided warmer or separately. They fit comfortably in the hand and can be slipped into a pocket when you need to use one hand.

"They have small wrist straps that won't get in the way, but keep them handy when needed.

"Sometimes wearing gloves just gets in the way, but these work well for all outdoor activities, like working in a shop or field, hunting, watching sports, or any other coldweather activities.

Rechargeable hand warmers work well and heat up quickly.

"I find myself using these more than I expected. If I want them to last for hours, I use one and switch hands, leaving another warmer charged if the first needs recharging."

were worse than most, being out of round, likely due to sitting on the rack for so long.

"I remounted each of them multiple times to minimize imbalance. They did deliver good wear and service, better than the Michelin X they replaced.

"From now on, if tires aren't available in two days, I won't take them from Walmart. I've had good luck with name-brand tires from Amazon."



George W. Shaiffer, Colorado Springs, Colo.: "About three to four years ago, I

bought a Canadian product called **The Extractigator** after reading about it in FARM SHOW (Vol. 46, No. 1; www.extractigator. com). It works great for small saplings, big weeds, and even pulling rebar stakes. I also recommend purchasing the 'BigFoot' adapter, which is sold as an accessory. I'm very happy that I bought it as it helps spread the force across the ground."

Wayne H. Blunier, Roanoke, Ill.: "I was happy with my J&M Manufacturing auger wagon (www.jm-inc.com; ph 419-375-2376). I used it for 16 years with no repairs. I only got rid of it because I wanted a larger size."

Kevin Cox, Tioga, La.: Kevin has had a great experience with his 4-door GMC Sierra 2500 HD AT4 3/4-ton 4-WD pickups. "I drive a lot of miles, and in the past 10 years, I've owned five of these trucks. The power is wonderful. Even with an extremely heavy load, I'm able to accelerate at what would be considered normal. The dependability couldn't be better. You pay more upfront for