

Farmers Nominate Best & Worst Buys

Bud Watts, Spencer, Iowa: “I’m really happy with my **New Holland Workmaster 40** tractor. It’s 40 hp but on a smaller frame for acreages or a yard tractor. It has amazing pulling power with FWA and a locking rear axle. A recent derecho windstorm gave us plenty to challenge it. Easy starter all year round, and the diesel is easy on fuel. I highly recommend this tractor.”

Mike Green, Los Osos, Calif.: “Los Osos has a lot of woodrats because of our semi-rural setting by the ocean and mountains. I found chewed wires in both our cars. Some trail mix was left inside our Fusion, so the woodrats not only chewed the wires in the engine compartment but also ate through the steering grommet to get into the car’s interior for the trail mix. They chewed through numerous wires under the dash and elsewhere, causing unseen damage to the loom.

“I ordered **Rataway Fragrance** directly from the company, and it has kept those darn woodrats from causing any more trouble in our vehicles (www.rataway.com; ph 805-646-2177). Rick is a great guy to talk to about how to stop rodents from damaging your home and belongings. I highly recommend his products; they truly work as advertised.”

Joe Cheney, Presque Isle, Maine: “My 2019 **Dodge Ram 1500 V8** has great power—more than a Chevy 1500. Everything works well. It’s mainly used to haul an antique tractor to pulling events.”

George Vonderheide, La Farge, Wis.: “My four-year-old **Polaris 4x4 Ranger** always starts when needed and can travel through snow and mud easily. It’s completely trouble-free.

“My **Hustler Raptor 42** zero-turn lawn mower can also be relied on to start. It easily cuts long grass and is easy to drive.”

Richard Keeney, Truxton, N.Y.: “I’ve been pleased with my **Kubota F2880** front mower. It’s a tough machine for mowing the lawn and along the electric fence line. The 4-WD rear steer turns short. I like that it has a steering wheel instead of lever steering, and I appreciate the power steering.

“My rechargeable **EGO 650 cfm** leaf blower is great for clearing off my baler and batwing mower. It’s powerful and has a long-lasting battery.

“**FARM SHOW** has good jokes that make me laugh.

“**Harbor Freight** 1/4-in. drill bits are only good for one or two uses.”

Darwin Reyne, Luverne, Minn.: “My 2023 **Chevy Equinox** with a 4-cyl. turbo is a nice 5-passenger vehicle. It gets 30 to 32 mpg every time I put gas in.”

Donald Seitz, Milwaukie, Ore.: “I like my **Ryobi 18-volt** battery-powered tools, especially my pole saw. I’ve cut limbs larger than the chain bar is long. It keeps me off ladders as I get older and more clumsy—I’ll be 80 in May. When the batteries go dead, I’m ready for a break.”

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John Christensen, Stephens City, Va.: “My **Toro TimeCutter** zero-turn 34-in. mower has lots of power for tall, clumped grass. It starts easily and is very maneuverable around obstacles. It could use rear-drive tires with better grip when on soft terrain.”

Russell Studenski, Sauk Rapids, Minn.: “**FARM SHOW Magazine** is my best buy. It helps me find products and parts for my various equipment.”

Wayne Durham, Pacolet, S.C.: “I’ve owned several **Ryobi** battery-powered tools over the years, and I’ve never had one fail. They’re good tools at a lower cost.”

Tom Borer, Clearwater, Neb.: “I’m glad I bought an adapter that lets a Milwaukee battery power a Peg Perego ride-on tractor. It cost about \$10 on Amazon. Just slide in an M18 battery, and away they go. The grandkids can ride their toy tractor longer, and it performs better.

“We bought a **Maytag** washer (MVW7232HW) and dryer (MED7230HW) in May 2021. We’ve had nothing but problems since the warranty expired. After less than four years, I threw both into the iron pile. There’s just the two of us, so they got very little use.”

Scott Geyer, Lakeville, Minn.: “I purchased a Bissell Steam Shot steamer after reading that it could clean front-loading washer door gaskets and shower and tile grout. It takes a while to heat up, has a small water tank, and I never got it to clean any better than old-fashioned scrubbing. I gave it away.”

Thomas Finch, Mt. Sterling, Ky.: Thomas has two best buy tractors. One is a 1989 **Ford 5610 Series II** with a Bush Hog quick-attach loader. The other is a 1998 **New Holland 5610S** with a quick-attach loader. “Both tractors are easy to operate and have done every job I’ve wanted to do.”

Lareth May, Timberville, Va.: “I recently switched to **Milwaukee 18-volt** hand tools with 5Ah batteries. I have the 1/2-in. drill driver, 1/2-in. impact wrench, pole saw, and leaf and dust blower. All the tools have performed well.

“I am, however, disappointed in the blower. I bought it on sale to replace a corded blower, but even with a fully charged battery, I only get 10 to 15 min. of continuous use before it discharges the battery. Now, I only use it to blow off tractors and equipment. I had to buy another corded blower to use for longer jobs. I don’t see how you could blow many leaves with it.”

Fred J. Hall, Monmouth, Ill.: “My **Forney 275 AC-DC** welder is a best buy. After about 30 years, it still works great.

“My **Ingersol 2-stage** air compressor with an 80-gal. tank has been so trouble-free that I purchased a second one.

“I’m disappointed with the **Pocket Hose Copper Bullet** garden hose. It’s about 45 ft. from the hydrant in my wife’s horse barn to the last bucket. I bought the 75-ft. hose for reserve length. By 45 ft., the flow is reduced by about 50%. I can water the horses faster with a bucket from the hydrant.

“I replaced the Kohler motor in our Load King lawboy with a **Harbor Freight 15.8-hp** motor. It required a lot of time and machine work for mounting. It made one trip before filling the crank case with gas and locking it up. They replaced the motor, but our downtime wasn’t good.”

“**Charles R. White, Belvue, Kan.:** “My **Polaris** vehicles (2023 Ranger NorthStar side-by-side, 4-WD and an older Ranger) always perform well. We use them for chores and fixing fence. All they’ve needed is regular maintenance.

“My **Cub Cadet** has been used in my garden as a mower and tiller since I bought it new in 1978.

“My 1983 **Ford 4600** tractor has been used for many years. It always starts and runs great.

“On the negative side, my **Lincoln** battery grease gun worked for less than 6 mos. It quit



Olhausen had his SUV in and out of the dealer 18 times between 2022 and 2025 with parking camera issues.

SUV Repair Update

Vaun Olhausen, Burnsville, Minn.: Olhausen recently sent an update on his “most frustrating worst buy,” published in **FARM SHOW** (Vol. 49, No. 4).

“Since I told you about taking my 2022 **Chevy Traverse** to the dealer nine times over nine months to repair the backup camera, I’ve had to take it back to the dealer eight more times between April and November 2025,” Olhausen says.

Friends and family can’t believe he has that much patience, but they credit him with perseverance.

“Everyone at the dealership sees me coming in the door and disappears,” Olhausen says with a laugh. “It seems like they’re doing their best to solve the problem, but it keeps coming back. And so do I. They’ve analyzed it with every electronic tool possible, probed every electrical connection, replaced the camera, the fuses, and just about everything but the valve stems. I’ve talked to friends who are mechanics, called a GM service center, and done online searches. Nobody seems to have an answer, so I went back to the dealer again.

“The service manager, whom I now know

pumping grease, and the 12-volt charger and battery also quit.”

Tommy Sanson II, Red Wing, Minn.: “**Kelly Edge** tires have the best tire life. I got 85,000 miles with no flats out of one set of 10-ply tires.

“My **Curt** trailer hitch has lasted 10 years and is still used to pull my car hauler and other trailers.

“I wouldn’t use the \$4.95 **Fram** oil filters in any diesel engine. There aren’t enough pleats in the filter. I’ve hardly made it to 2,500 miles before black oil; other filters make it to 5,000 miles.”

Vernon Nolt, Barnett, Mo.: “One of my best buys was a 2007 **Deere 4320** compact PowrReverser tractor. I tuned it to 72 hp; it had 48 hp eight years ago. It’s got over 3,000 hard hours, and I’ve never replaced anything other than a water pump and the usual front wheel seals. I just got a **Deere Z994R** 60-in. cut diesel zero-turn. I love that thing.”

On the worst buy side is a 2024 **DeWalt** cordless weed trimmer. “I bought it a year

very well, told me their regional tech guy was in the shop today. ‘Maybe he’s a wizard and can figure out the problem,’ I said.”

Olhausen waited patiently (again), and, miracle upon miracle, in 45 min., the car was in the “service complete” lane, washed and vacuumed, with a working backup camera.

“The regional tech guy found the problem right away,” the service manager said. “We’re very sorry, and we hope you have a nice day. Now, we want to make sure the problem is fixed, so please call us every two days and let us know it’s working.”

Within the hour, Olhausen called.

“What’s the image on my screen when I drive into a parking space? I’ve never seen that before,” he asked. The service manager replied, “It’s the front camera, left side.”

Olhausen says, “I couldn’t believe that showed up after the 18th visit for the rear camera. I told the manager, ‘I just hope it’s not going to act like the backup camera.’”

Three weeks and several hundred miles later, Olhausen says both cameras are still working.

ago, and the head kept discharging all the string. I couldn’t figure out the problem, so I bought a new head. After a couple of uses, I had the same problem. There doesn’t seem to be a solution to this issue. There’s just too much plastic from China.”

Tim Ojala, New Ipswich, N.H.: “In 2005, I bought a used 2000 **Kubota M9000** utility tractor with 180 hrs. It now has 1,400 hrs., and there hasn’t been a bit of trouble. I put sealant in the front tires, which stopped slow leaks. It should go another 25 years, long after I’m gone.”

Merrill Smith, Deer Park, Wash.: “All of my **Echo** ranch tools (chainsaw, weed whacker, hedge trimmer and more) are best buys. They always start and run flawlessly. The chain stays sharp for a long time, and the trimmers are easy to use.”

Cletus Dreiling, Victoria, Kan.: “My **Ryobi** tools all use the same battery and have good run time. The 1/2-in. impact has as much power as my best air impact. The 3/8-in. ratchet works exceptionally well.”

Submit A “Best or Worst Buy”

To submit a “Best or Worst Buy,” or other information, send a note along with photos and literature, if available. We’ll get back to you later if we need more details. Send to: Editor, **FARM SHOW**, P.O. Box 1029, Lakeville, Minn. 55044 (ph 800-834-9665; fax 952-469-5575; editor@farmshow.com). You can also submit information at our website: www.farmshow.com or text from your cellphone to: 952-465-5019.