

Lawrance Krantz, Moran, Mich.: “I bought a new **Kubota BX1500** with a bucket and tiller in 2005. It was used a lot and has 3,609 hrs. It’s been a great tractor.”

Martin Rudd, Mannsville, N.Y.: “I have several **Ryobi 18V** tools, and they all perform excellently with no problems. My favorite tool is the handheld inflator. Most farms have dozens of tires, and there are always a couple of soft ones. This tool can go anywhere and go straight to the tire.

“I also have a 40V string trimmer and a 40V chainsaw, both excellent. The chainsaw is another favorite. It’s handy for cutting brush, fence posts, and Christmas trees because we run a retail Christmas tree business.

“I’m 73 years old now and a little bit old-fashioned. When I first heard about battery-powered chainsaws, I laughed and asked, ‘What are you going to do with that?’ I’m not laughing anymore.”

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Allan Von Werder, Morgan City, La.: “My **Midea 12,000 Btu** window air conditioner heats and cools, is whisper-quiet, and has been trouble-free. The included remote is handy. This unit is an inverter model. Electricity use is about half that of a traditional 12,000 Btu unit.”

Allan has been frustrated with manual can openers. “I’ve tried virtually every one, and they’ve failed spectacularly, sometimes within a few days. After exhausting the local options (about five brands), I finally found a winner on Amazon.”

Jesse Barley, Tyrone, Pa.: “My worst buy is a rust converter I read about in the best and worst buys. The company says ‘satisfaction guaranteed,’ but then tries to weasel out of it.

“My wife spent days painting our farm gates with the rust converter, then with oil-based paint, only to see the rust come through again.

“I called the company and told them what had happened. The rep said they’d send me a gallon and a quart in a week. After a month, nothing had arrived, so I called again. They said they’d send only a quart. So much for satisfaction guaranteed.”



Leo Murgia, Pelham, N.H.: “I purchased a **Craftsman** mechanic’s creeper from Sears more than 30 years ago, way before Sears began shuttering its stores. Overall, it was well-made and even folded in half for storage. The big issue I had with it was that when I used it under a vehicle and leaned to one side to reach something underneath, it would always tip over, and the opposite side would come up. I’d then need to reposition my body so it wouldn’t happen again, but it always did. I always meant to toss it out and buy something better, but never did.

“I recently replaced the casters on my workbench with **Dicasal 3-in.** heavy-duty

casters I purchased on Amazon and wondered whether the same casters would work on my mechanic’s creeper, so I bought another set of four. The creeper’s casters were 2 in. in diameter and very narrow. The new ones are not only an inch larger in diameter but also much wider. The downside was that, although they were stem casters like the ones I replaced, the stems weren’t long enough to go completely through the frame, so I had to weld the mounting nuts that came with them to the bottom of the creeper. I was absolutely floored by the improvement this made—no more tilting over, and it moves so much easier now.”

Steven Stodden, Marcus, Iowa: “I have several **Milwaukee** battery-powered tools, including a drill, an impact driver, a trimmer and a chainsaw. They’ve all worked well, though I’ve had a couple of batteries go bad.”

Steven’s worst buys are a **Maytag** washer and dryer purchased at Lowe’s. “They both failed within a year. Within a month, the washer broke. I had it repaired three times in the first year. The next time it failed, along with the dryer, was after the warranty had expired. They both ended up in the iron pile. I’ll never buy anything that says ‘Maytag’ again.”

John Burgett, Alliance, Neb.: John’s best buy is a 2020 **Deere AC-3615RB-G** Road Box. “I bought this Road Box for my mobile repair business, and it hasn’t failed me yet. The drawers still open and close like the day I bought it. It was definitely worth the money.

“My worst buy is a 2023 **Power Torque 3/8-in.** ratchet with a blue handle. I barely got a week’s use out of it before it stripped the teeth in the head. I have a **K Tool 3/8-in.** Pro ratchet I’ve had for 14 years that has never given me a problem, even though I use it every day.”



D.C. Briggs, Addison, Vt.: “My best product of late has been the **Lely A-5** milkers, an update from the A-4s installed in 2024. They use less electricity, are easier to maintain, and it’s easier and faster to start new cows. Both models have been extremely reliable—I’d never go back to parlors.

“Any bearings from China have a high failure rate.”

Dan Tobbe, Horseheads, N.Y.: “I bought a new 1991 **Gravelly** lawn and garden tractor in 1992. I’ve brought it back to the dealer only four times. I wish they still made them.”

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Warren McKnight, Calais, Maine: Warren’s pleased with his **Stihl MS 261** chainsaw that he purchased new. “What a workhorse. It does everything flawlessly, from in the woods to sharpening fence posts.”

Ron Williams, Eatonville, Wash.: “My 2019 **Deere 1023E** with backhoe is a very good tractor, but the factory brake recall notice made me wish I’d bought a Kubota.



Brown and Johnson are both happy with their concaves from Kuchar.

Replacement Concave Best Buys

David Brown, Central Illinois: “We put in new concaves from **Kuchar High Performance Combine Parts** (www.kucharcombineparts.com; ph 217-854-9838 or 217-999-8180), and they’ve been performing just like George said they would.

“We’ve been growing a lot of seed beans and are now getting into food-grade beans, so we wanted to see if these concaves would give us cleaner, higher-quality beans with less seed grinding.”

“George explained that the concaves would give us better performance in tough conditions where the stems are green. We’ve been getting the seed knocked out very well in those conditions. In more ideal conditions, we’re definitely seeing better-quality seed than with our previous concaves.

“When George was helping us install the concaves, he probably got six or more calls from customers asking various questions. He stopped what he was doing with us and answered every one of those people to make

sure they were getting personal service and answers to their questions. He called me after we were running to ask how things were going. I appreciated that very much; that’s someone I can trust.”

Dennis Johnson, Pipestone, Minn.: “I put Kuchar concaves and rotor parts in my 9870 several years ago and got 20 to 30% more capacity, less grain on the ground, and cleaner grain in the tank, with no grinding like with the OEM parts.

“When I traded for an S690, I tried BrandX concaves for comparison. They were hard to put in, and it was difficult to set the machine properly. I replaced the parts with Kuchar’s, which were easier to install and worked much better. I had more capacity, cleaner grain and more in the tank. Kuchar parts definitely helped the machine harvest more efficiently and put more money in my pocket.”

The notice said not to use the tractor and to join a waitlist for a future fix, with no time frame provided. Infuriating.”

Peter, Redfield, Iowa: “We bought a **Staber** washing machine after reading about it in **FARM SHOW**. My wife loves this machine. I’ll admit, I’ve replaced the bearings, but it was an easy job and much cheaper than buying a new one. All in all, it’s a great machine. They’re pricey, but I probably would’ve bought three or four store-bought machines if I hadn’t bought the Staber.”

Thomas Quinn, Chelsea, Mich.: “I purchased **Pat’s Easy Change 3-pt.** Quick Hitch for my 1959 Massey Ferguson 50. The problem was likely operator error and a poor clutch, which together made it very difficult to back up to the implement without bumping it out of alignment with the Quick Hitch. The tractor would jump as I backed into the implement, and I just couldn’t make the connection. A friend has a new Kubota and has no problem with the Easy Hitch. Fortunately, I was able to sell it at a garage sale.”

Ron Enfield, Atwood, Kan.: “My 2025 **Harbor Freight** Bauer mini chainsaw and hedge trimmer have worked great without failure, and the battery life is very good.”

Kevin Cox, Tioga, La.: “A recent best buy is a handheld, battery-powered chainsaw I bought online from **Walmart**. The price was cheap—less than \$30. For that, I received a nice plastic carrying case, two 20-volt batteries (which last quite a while), a battery charger, and an extra bow and chain. It’s perfect for small branches. Buying the

batteries separately would’ve cost more than I paid for the whole package. I’ve used it quite a bit, but I’ve yet to sharpen the chain. I liked it so well that I bought several more and gave them as Christmas presents.

“My worst buys lately have been some small-base LED bulbs that fit my ceiling fan light. They claim to have a long life, but they’ve burned out in less than a year, and I’ve already had to replace them.”

Dan Ashburn, Bloomfield, N.M.: Dan’s the satisfied owner of a 2003 **Yamaha Timberwolf 250** four-wheeler. “This little machine does everything on my farm and just keeps running. I’ve had it for about 10 years, and I’ve rebuilt the engine once (that’s how much it’s been ridden), and it just keeps going. It’s truly a great machine; I can’t say enough good things about the four-wheeler. If it blew up tomorrow, it wouldn’t owe me anything because I’ve gotten my money’s worth 100 times over.”

“I’ve gotten my money’s worth 100 times over.”

Dan didn’t have the same experience with **Polaris** four-wheelers. “I’ve owned two Polaris four-wheelers. One caught fire while I was riding it, burning up a wiring harness and a computer that cost more to fix than the

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