

## Farmers Nominate Best & Worst Buys

through this DIY project. I found some of the products at Fleet Farm stores."



**Floyd Plank, Fort Atkinson, Wis.:** "DeWalt Powerstack batteries carry approximately three times more power than others. **Keystone Air Power** in Pennsylvania (ph 717-866-9224) has good deals on DeWalt or Milwaukee tools and more.

"The **Work Sharp** sharpener I bought at Menards is the best knife sharpener I've owned ([www.worksharptools.com](http://www.worksharptools.com))."

**Gary Minton, Huntington, Ind.:** "My **Bad Boy** lawn mower was assembled wrong. I took it back, but I still can't use it. The handlebars push into my stomach and chest area when trying to go in reverse. Their answer is to purchase a \$165 special handlebar assembly that's only put on higher-end mowers. I should've been able to use it from the start of purchase without modification. It was almost \$6,000."

**Lee Piechocki, Algoma, Wis.:** Lee nominates his 2014 **Massey Ferguson 1529** tractor as a best buy. "It does everything I want to do with no mechanical problems. It starts right up in Wisconsin winters. The only downside is there's no cab, and the company doesn't make one for it."

Lee's not happy with his 2009 **Kymco** ATV. "The rebreathing bent for the crankcase, and it won't start in the winter. The fuel gauge rusted out and leaks rainwater into the gas tank."

**Bernard Paumier, Baltimore, Ohio:** Bernard has two best buys, a bean slicer and a Little Stripper popcorn sheller, from Jung Seeds & Plants ([www.jungseed.com](http://www.jungseed.com); ph 800-247-5864). "We used to slice beans with a knife. Now, with just a few crank turns, we have a pile of yummy French-style beans."



"By far, my best buy is the hand corn sheller. I have a power corn sheller, which I don't use anymore. I sit by the wood burner in the evenings, put some Bluegrass music on the cassette player, and shell away. I do a lot of reminiscing. I'm 96 years old. My wife keeps me supplied with cookies and other goodies."

**Mike Crawford, Bradford, Penn.:** "My cab from **Original Tractor Cabs** for my Kubota BX23S was very easy to install, and the parts were labeled to make assembly easier ([www.originalcab.com](http://www.originalcab.com); ph 800-247-5305). I purchased it for wintertime snow blowing and for easy removal at the end of the season for open-air operation. Upon assembly, I discovered the left door window was sewn in wrong. I contacted O.T.C., and the reps responded promptly to the mistake. A new door skin arrived five days later. I recommend this company to anyone looking for a less expensive option other than the hard

cabs offered. So far, I haven't had to use the heater included due to residual heat from the motor, even on a 16 F day."

Mike's experience with his **Kubota B2822** snowblower's electric chute actuator hasn't been as positive. "I love my front-mount snowblower, but after having it for 3 years, I wish I would've ordered it with the hydraulic actuator. This electric one has been nothing but a headache. The wiring to the actuator motor was too short. If you swung the chute to a 90-degree angle to the right, it would pull the wires out of the connecting socket. This thing has gone through six relays in three years. I've pulled the wiring harness out and inspected every inch, looking for potential issues. I've taken apart every relay to see why they failed, and all had water in them, shorting out the relay. It's mounted under the hood, so I can't figure out how the water gets in. Plus, if I leave the relay in the socket, it kills the battery overnight. The blower unit is a best buy, but take my advice and get the hydraulic chute deflector."

**Darrell Cooper, Chillicothe, Mo.:** Darrell nominates **FARM SHOW Magazine** as his best buy. "It makes a good gift for neighbors and family members."

**Delmar Miller, LaGrange Ind.:** "My best buys for my custom fab and repair shop are almost endless. My **Val6** medium-sized heater cut my heating costs in half compared to the Ready Heater 120,000-Btu heater I was using. It also produces significantly fewer fumes and is safe for indoor use."

"**Milwaukee** is my choice for cordless tools. My 1/2-in. high-torque impact has never let me down. My M18 grease gun works quickly on equipment that gets used often. I also use my drill and 1/4-in. impact most days."



"I'm glad I bought my **FootPro** grinder attachment for my Baldor 1/2-hp grinder ([www.farrierproducts.com](http://www.farrierproducts.com); ph 800-468-2879). I've had zero maintenance in the past three years except for changing belts. I recommend buying the attachment that takes 36-in. by 2-in. belts versus the 24-in. by 2-in. belts like mine. It'll be easier to get belts."

**Merrill Smith, Deer Park, Wash.:** Merrill's the satisfied owner of a **Craftsman** 8-hp 26-in. track drive electric start snowblower. "Even though it sat for a year in the carport at the back of my shop, I did nothing but pump the prime bulb and pull the start rope once, and it started and ran perfectly."



**James Bell, Barnum, Minn.:** "My **Timberline** chainsaw sharpener is quality



Struble was impressed with the customer service from Legacy Steel Buildings.

## Best Buy Shelter

**Tim Struble, Curwensville, Penn.:** Tim nominates **Legacy Steel Buildings** as a best buy ([www.abcsteelbuilding.com](http://www.abcsteelbuilding.com)). "Shortly after construction, they resolved a major problem completely and quickly at no small expense to the company."

"When shopping for a building, I spoke with a competitor, and it was like dealing with a high-pressure used car salesman. Legacy has a quality product, excellent service, and a professional staff with fair prices. I'm not a dealer and have no connection with this company other than being a satisfied customer."

"We purchased a kit from Legacy for a 40-ft. by 40-ft. building that we put up ourselves."

built ([www.timberlinesharpeners.com](http://www.timberlinesharpeners.com); ph 208-405-2020). If you can crank a pencil sharpener, you can sharpen your chainsaw. It puts a true factory edge back on your chain."

**Mark Wise, Claypool, Ind.:** "I purchased my used 2004 **Chevy Silverado 2500HD** Duramax in 2011 with 100,000 miles. It now has 618,000 miles. It hasn't been trouble-free, but it's a good, solid truck. It's used to deliver RV campers and has been to both coasts, Canada and the Gulf of Mexico."

**Larry Lattig, Ramsey, Ill.:** "My best buy in the last two years has been my **Milwaukee** battery-powered air compressor. It's as handy as a pocket on a shirt. If a tractor has a flat, grab this little compressor, hook up the air hose, and turn it on at the pressure you want. If it's a big tire, do something else for a few minutes. The only shortcoming is it's not compatible with tires with calcium chloride. But Milwaukee tells you that it isn't."

**John Martin, McDonald, Tenn.:** "I constantly use my **Ryobi** 6-in. 18-volt pruning saw. I've had it for about five years. I cut everything from vines to 6-in. trees and have never had a moment's trouble."

John likes his 2011 **Sun Joe** 16-in. electric rototiller ([www.shopjoe.com](http://www.shopjoe.com)). "I have very rocky soil and use box gardens. This tiller churns up a 5 by 10-ft. box in 3 min. I removed some concrete pavers this spring and needed to remove the packed gravel beneath them. I'm too old to run a pick, so I used the Sun Joe to till up and loosen the gravel. It did a fine job and didn't hurt the tiller a bit."

John's experience with his 2018 **Sun Joe** electric wood chipper puts it on the worst buy side. "It worked as long as I cut 1/2 to 1-in. sticks. But if there were any leaves or small vines, it would clog up. I sold it on **Craig's List** for \$25."

This was a new structure that didn't replace another.

"The issue we had was after the first cold weather, ice accumulated on the outer section, and the weight bent and ruined the entire outer section."

"This happened because I chose not to purchase the optional trim on the outer edge, not knowing that it contributed to the structural stability. When I showed them the pictures, they agreed to send me a complete new section and the trim at no cost."

"I use the building primarily for hay and equipment storage. I'm 71 and a retired truck driver. My sons and I raise Dexters on 52 acres."

**Glen Harris, Salem, Mo.:** Glen has two **Makita** best buys. "My snowblower is about two years old. It has good airspeed but is light to handle."

"My 16-in. electric chainsaw is easy to operate, lightweight and adequately harvests small firewood."

Glen is disappointed in his 2019 **Deere** 5075E tractor. "It's unstable in operation because the wheelbase is too short, making it weighted incorrectly. We've added 300 lbs. of weight on each wheel but must use great caution to avoid instability. I wrote to Deere but, of course, received no response. I see many of this style tractor for sale in farm periodicals."



**Alan Walker, Cat Spring, Texas:** "My **Danuser** Intimidator tree puller is very well built (Vol. 40, No. 6; [www.danuser.com](http://www.danuser.com); ph 573-642-2246). It pulls up to a 6-in. tree, depending on the type of tree. It also pulls heavy shrubs."

"My **Ford F-250** with high output diesel has impressive power. So far, it has 24,000 trouble-free miles."

"I have several issues with my **Ford** Transit van. There's a lot of wind noise, the steering wheel is uncomfortable, there isn't an armrest

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