

## Farmers Nominate Best & Worst Buys

was the primer bulb. It always starts on the first or second pull. Trimming string frustrates me, so I replaced the trimmer head with one that uses four zip-type ties."

**Lee deVries, Crawfordville, Ore.:** "A couple of years ago, we purchased a **Stihl FSA 45** electric trimmer/edger. It's a best buy for sure. It's very lightweight and lasts about 30 min. on a charge. The plastic blades are easy to replace and cut just about anything. The head and shaft are highly adjustable, so whether you're trimming or edging, or you're short or tall, there's a position just right for you. It even works well for trimming many of our shrubs."

**David Guebert, Red Bud, Ill.:** "My best buys are **DeWalt's** 20-volt battery-powered tools. I have the air compressor, angle grinder, chainsaw, leaf blower and pole saw. They work better and last longer than you would expect."

**Richard Michalik, Church Hill, Tenn.:** "My best buy is a **Deere 875R** Gator. It has real heat and A/C. The composite dump bed is great."

**Doug Faust:** "My best buy is a wire hoe with interchangeable heads from **Neversink Tools** ([www.neversinktools.com](http://www.neversinktools.com); Vol. 46, No. 5)."

**Anonymous:** "One of my best buys has been chainsaw-safety leg chaps from **Labonville** in Gorham, N.H. They've prevented several injuries ([www.labonville.com](http://www.labonville.com); ph 800-764-9969)."

**Mark Miller, Belvidere, Tenn.:** "I bought an 18-in. planer several years ago. It worked pretty well until last year. I was planing a red oak board about 18 to 24 in. long. About 3/4 of the way through, it stopped. One knife broke, and another piece about 3 in. long broke off as well. It left an imprint of the bolt head on the oak board, which I kept as a keepsake."

"I like the planer. I can also sand, make molding, and, with two separate blades, saw other lumber."

**Douglas R. Johnson:** "My 2013 **Kubota L3400** with 600 hrs. has been my best purchase. The tractor has performed exceptionally well over the additional 800 hrs I've logged. I purchased a **Precision Mfg. Add-a-Grapple**, which has been a great help in cleaning up a large woodlot ([www.precisionmfg.com](http://www.precisionmfg.com); ph 417-581-8999)."

**John L. Blue:** "I've used gas chainsaws most of my life. My daughter got me a little battery-powered 4-in. **WoodRanger** for Christmas. It works great for small limbs and brush. No gas or oil to mess with. The only thing wrong with it is that it was made in China."

**Tom Thompson:** "Approximately five years ago, I bought a pair of **Skechers** Go Walk shoes. They're the best shoes I've ever had. They get daily use, and the soles are just now showing wear. The insides are worn out, but they're still very comfortable."

"My **Ryobi** products are best buys. I have a corded weed eater I've used for over 20 years. I also have a 40V battery-operated weed eater that works great, too."

"Jewelry-cleaning cloths from **Sterling Manufacturers** have been a worst buy. No cleaning power — just soft cloths."

**Carl Stevenson, Independence, Mo.:** "I'm 86 and not so strong. I bought a mini electric chainsaw from **Collections Etc.** ([www.collectionsetc.com](http://www.collectionsetc.com); ph 800-582-5700). It's a big help with small things, and the price was good."

**Ted Johnson, Colesburg, Iowa:** "In 2024, I purchased a **Country Clipper** zero-turn lawn mower. It rides well, with a spring-loaded seat and joystick steering. I've had no issues with the mower, and my wife loves it. It's a best buy made in Iowa."

**Alfred O. Ohlson, New Salem, Mass.:** "In 2017, I purchased a new **Massey Ferguson 4608L**. I haven't had any problems at all, except getting used to the modern controls. I had an older MF tractor for years and had no problems with it except for routine maintenance. I gave that one to my son, and it's still running well. They make a fine machine, even if they aren't as popular."

**L. Erickson, Mena, Ariz.:** "My best buy is a **Mobile Dimension Saw** sawmill ([www.mobiledimensionsaw.com](http://www.mobiledimensionsaw.com); ph 503-666-5593). With regular maintenance, we've used it five days a week for 35 years."

**Gary Brzezinski, Hobart, Wis.:** "One of my best purchases was 6 years ago, when I bought a **Bad Boy** mower with an upgraded seat. The engine starts immediately, even after sitting all winter. The Kawasaki engine is easy on fuel, and the whole unit rides and handles well."

**Donald Hill, Green Ridge, Mo.:** "It's a great tractor that does everything I ask of it," says Donald about his **Deere 3025E**."

**Daniel Czerwonka, Stacy, Minn.:** "I purchased a 6-in. **Tietco** battery-powered chainsaw last year. I confess that a battery-powered saw wasn't high on my list of useful tools, but this one made a believer out of me. It weighs less than a pound and was so fun to use that I had it cutting 4 1/2-in. limbs, which it sawed through in seconds. After half an hour of heavy use, it was still running strong. My only regret is that they didn't make these 25 years ago. This little saw is positively a best buy for me."

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**Frank Gross, Kingston Springs, Tenn.:** "I purchased a **Walker** mower on Craigslist ([www.walker.com](http://www.walker.com); ph 800-279-8537). I wasn't familiar with the brand, but I checked their website and learned they build high-end commercial equipment. Their mowers are unique — you set forward speed with your right hand and steer with your left. Once I got the hang of it, mowing became fun. The machine leaves a beautiful cut. It also collects all clippings and debris into an enclosed hopper. It's a great mower."

"My worst buy was a 40V pruning chainsaw from the **Walmart** website. It was actually 24V. It came with two batteries, both of which failed after little use."

**Walter L. Betzel, River Falls, Wis.:** "My worst buy was a **Porter-Cable** 24-gal. air compressor from Tractor Supply. When I went to use it, the air line from the compressor to the air tank was stripped out of the compressor head, and it wouldn't pump air into the tank. I took it back to Tractor Supply, but was told the 90-day warranty had expired and I didn't have an extended warranty. However, as a member of the Tractor Supply Neighbor Club, I have a 1-year warranty for free. No parts were available to fix it, so I traded it for a new **DeWalt** 30-gal. air compressor. It's an excellent machine that works great."

**Lance Moreland, Forsyth, Mont.:** "I've had my **Makita** 18V 1/2-in. impact for about 6 years. It's got plenty of power, and the battery lasts a long time between charges. It's a good tool."

**Dick Kruse, Indianapolis, Ind.:** "I sure like my 2024 **Honda** Ridgeline TrailSport. It's good for running around. It's comfortable



Using a Rappa fencing device on the 4-wheeler often turns fencing into a "family affair" for the Harley family of Oklahoma.

## Best Buy Fence Winder

**Hamish Harley, Oklahoma:** "As part owner of a 4,500-acre ranch with 650 cows and 500 stockers, we used to spend a lot of time fixing fences. Sometimes it takes two or three workers, and it's a slow, tedious job. We built our own mobile device, which helped somewhat, but the **Rappa** Winder is 100% more effective ([www.rappa-international.com](http://www.rappa-international.com))."

"Fencing used to be a real daily grind, and now it's a quick job the team looks forward to. It's even a fun family activity where I can take my young kids along, and they can actually help me. They even asked me to wait until after school so they could help!"

"In addition to building and fixing fences with the Winder, I can use it for 2 min to easily block off stock ponds so cattle will move toward clean, fresh trough water. After one summer of use, I've found that cattle are healthier and experience fewer water-borne issues."

"I also use the Winder to easily create new pastures in areas with longer grass. I can do that with less labor and fewer workers, and now it's an easy, simple process that hardly feels like work. The Winder is 100% more effective than the system I built. Fencing is now a fun job, and it doesn't even feel like work."

and big enough for a big guy and his dog. I like the rear compartment for my Milwaukee battery-powered tools; it's dry and safe. I have no complaints."

**Herman Borgelt, Ottawa, Ohio:** "My best buy is my **Ford 4000** loader tractor with a 3-cyl. gas engine. It's as dependable in 2026 as it was when I bought it in 1967. After 59 years of heavy loader work, it's still going strong."

"My **Echo** chainsaw and gas trimmer are great farm tools."

**Neil Stemann, Red Wing, Minn.:** "We've been heating our house with firewood for the past 52 years. Forty-seven years ago, we installed a new **Monarch** wood stove in the basement, which has effectively heated the house. During our working years, one of us would be here during the noon hour to restart the fire. Our central heat is an electric hot water system that seldom ran during those years and wasn't even needed this past winter. I have enough health issues to prevent good sleep, so when 'nature calls,' I might as well put in some more wood. This is a 'wood hog' of a stove, as I went through 18 pickup loads of firewood this past season. At age 83, I may have to stop this venture."

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**Ed Roy, Concord, N.C.:** "My best buy is a 1995 **Dodge 2500** truck with a Cummins engine. It's had very few problems and only needed regular maintenance. The truck has almost 300,000 miles and still runs good."



**John Childress, Robertsedale, Ala.:** "After limited or no success with several other fly control products, I finally found an economical and effective solution for my needs. The **Terro** Fly Magnet Fly Trap is a plastic trap that hangs from a tree limb or other support ([www.terro.com](http://www.terro.com); ph 844-837-7644). It's filled with a powdered bait packet and diluted with water to the fill line. It attracts and traps hundreds of flies, killing them in a matter of hours. After a few days, just empty and reload. It's the most effective trap I've found. It's made a huge difference for me."

**David Pichler, Eau Claire, Wis.:** "A few years ago, my charging system on my **Farmall A** quit working, so I bought a new regulator, but it still didn't work. Apparently, the generator had failed. I figured it was time to convert to 12 volts. I bought a 12-volt alternator, 12-volt battery and 12-volt electric gauge. Everything worked beautifully for

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