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my 1970 **Ford 3000**, which I bought new. It still runs like new. I can't wear it out.

"I love farming and tractors; **FARM SHOW** is the only farm magazine that's down-to-earth and worth reading. Hello to my friends out there."

Michael Elder, Plainview, Minn.: "It starts within two pulls. The line feeds out correctly, has a lot of power, and is easy to handle," says Michael about his **Shindaiwa** string trimmer."

David Van De Weert, N.Y.: "My three best purchases are a **Deere 4240**, an **IH 1256**, and a **Ford 9000**. It's too bad this new, cheap junk can't perform like the old ones."

Albert Overbey, Mount Vernon, Ill.: "I've had great service from **Milwaukee** drills, impacts, Sawzalls, pole saws, etc. I wore out two drills, but with new brushes, they're good as new. At 76 years old, I've slowed down, but like my dad said when he was 74, 'I'm not getting weaker; the bolts are tighter.' Best buys ever."

Merilee Ritter, Bergen, N.Y.: Merilee nominates **Greenway Seeds'** alfalfa seed as a best buy (www.greenwayseed.com; ph 208-454-8342). "This alfalfa seed lived up to the hype. It did what Mr. Greenway said it would do."

Milton T. Webster, Taylor, Texas: "I'm still driving my 2017 **Ford F-150** truck with 110,000 miles. It's had only one problem, a recall that Ford took care of."

"I have a name for my truck when it's dirty; I call it 'F-I Filthy.' Every time I look at the cost of a new vehicle, I become more determined to keep this one as long as possible. It's the best vehicle and the most comfortable to rest in while traveling. The ride is smooth and quiet."

Wayne Chambers: "The worst purchases I've made involve almost anything made in China."

"I have a 2004 **Buick Park Avenue** with only 135,000 miles. The original radiator and heater core failed, and I had them replaced. The radiator failed after 2 years, and the heater core lasted about as long. I had an OEM radiator installed. No problem. Then the heater core started leaking again. I bought a heater core made in America and had it installed. It also failed. So far, with the fourth heater core, which was made in America, there have been no problems."

Joseph Barna, Wapwallopen, Pa.: "My **Kobalt** battery-operated tools do the job they're intended for. The batteries hold a good charge, even when not used. They're reasonably priced and have a good warranty. I'm well satisfied with their performance."

Melvin Sporrer, Portsmouth, Iowa: Melvin likes his **International Harvester** Farmall tractors. "The bull gears put more power to the ground."

Patrick Rogers, Moravia, N.Y.: "I haven't had to make any repairs to my 2000 **Grasshopper** zero-turn mower with a 6-ft deck (Model 325).

"My **Kubota 3-cyl.** gas engine mower has all the original belts, even with mowing 5 to 7 acres a week in the summer."

"I bought a new **Honda** rotary mower (HR215) in 1992. It still works great and is used by the wife all summer."

Phil Funk, Dallas Center, Iowa: "My best buy lately is a battery-powered **Stihl MSA 70 C** chainsaw. It's a mid-sized, lightweight and quiet model. The battery life is long. I've noticed that the chain doesn't dull very quickly. It's a very useful tool. They make larger models for loggers."

Mervin Yoder, Chouteau, Okla.: Mervin was disappointed with the two new **Gandy** airboxes he purchased. "We had to work on

both of them the first day we had them."

Terry F. Totsch, Liberty, Ill.: "My best buy is **Cen-Pe-Co** gas and diesel fuel treatment (www.cen-pe-co.com; ph 800-553-1891). I've used it for over 40 years and have never had injector problems. It also cleans fuel systems and prevents moisture buildup. It's a great product. My dad used it on older John Deere 2-cyl. tractors, and it never let him down. It kept carburetors clean and fuel systems top-notch."

Ben Parks III, Austin, Texas: "My **Oreck XL Pro** commercial vacuum cleaner is both



"As advertised, it's been a very durable cleaner that cleans very well. After all these years, it still has its original belt and rotating brush, and it's not even worn out, so I'm satisfied with its performance."

"The quality of the plastics makes it a worst buy. My gripes are that the plastic case is slightly warped and has a slight leak, so I have to put tape around the top half to seal it, and the plastic foot release pedal broke off at the pivot hinge, so I have to physically bend down to release the handle."

"If I ever wear this one out, I'll try to find a vintage Royal metal-bodied commercial vacuum. I used those when I worked part-time as a janitor, and those old Royals are virtually indestructible."



"I'm satisfied with the **ShoeKeeper** shoe stretcher tool. It works great for stretching tight shoes or sneakers. It may need to be applied and readjusted with the supplied spacers, or I'll put a doubled-up rag inside. The shoe will stretch permanently in about 2 weeks to a month. It's a very handy tool."

"Another product I'm satisfied with is **Sprayway** (www.spraywayclean.com; ph 855-777-2992). I was introduced to it by folks in the detailing business, and it's an excellent product compared with **Windex** or cheap knock-offs. I like a clean windshield when I drive. **Sprayway** leaves no streaks and dissolves dirt and bug stains, leaving the glass clear. It has a wonderful fragrance and works great around the house. I keep a can in the truck and another in the house."



Best Buy Nitrate Water System

Carson Kahler, Martin County, Minn., says he invested about \$10,000 in a **Green Lightning** system to produce about 6,000 gal. of nitrate water to fertilize his corn (www.greenlightning.ag; ph 859-577-8005). Kahler says his strategy is to use the nitrate water to supplement synthetic nitrogen rather than as a direct 1-to-1 replacement.

He modified his 12-row planter to place 5 gal of the nitrate water in furrow per acre as he plants. He's comparing it in test strips with different amounts of UAN. To further test the product, he used a 70/30 blend of UAN to **Green Lightning** for side dressing. He thinks the nitrate water, with a pH of 2.7, may be an excellent carrier for corn fungicide. Kahler says the lower pH should allow the plants to take up the fungicide more quickly than with regular well water and AMS.

Kahler says that although research in Illinois has shown that replacing UAN with nitrate water definitely results in yield loss, he's running test strips with modified recipes on his own farm. Harvest results will provide data to help him plan for next year.

Kahler says his cost to produce the nitrate



Kahler says his cost to produce the nitrate water is about 4¢ per gallon, which equates to 20¢ per acre.

water is about 4¢ per gallon, which equates to 20¢ per acre, far less than conventional starters, which may run \$20 to \$30 or more an acre. He says the dollars and cents have to make it worthwhile for him to continue using it and at what application levels.

decision was made to overhaul the engine and replace both clutches. It's still the go-to tractor in the yard."

On the negative side is Robert's 2012 **Fiat 500 Sport**. "I've driven Fiat's made in Italy, but this model was made in Mexico. It seems to have a poor wiring harness. The mirrors only move down. It can't find the clutch switch, so it won't allow it to start or use the cruise. The dealer doesn't have any parts and can't get any. Fiat decided not to import the 500 anymore, so it's an orphan car. Total waste."

Ted Sockaci, Fombell, Pa.: "The best implement I've recently purchased is a **Great Plains 1206NT** drill. It does a great job of no-tilling small grains, soybeans and cover crops, and of renovating pastures."

"The worst things I've ever bought were an **Oliver 1750** diesel and a **White 2-70** diesel tractor. Both engines blew up. We repowered the 1750 with a Perkins and sold the 2-70. No more big-block Waukesha engines for us."

Gary L. Hoffman, Monroe, Wis.: "I bought a 1956 **Deere 720** diesel in 1963 with 6,000 hr on it. It now has 14,000 hr. It's still going strong and does everything it needs to do."

Dennis Gaede, Parowan, Utah: "My 2024 **GMC Sierra HD** is the best buy I've made in a while. I've had three Dodge Rams over the years, and the GMC pulls better, gets better fuel mileage, and rides much better. I'm not going back to Rams."

Leroy Oberholtzer, Greenwich, Ohio: "A best buy for me has been my **Milwaukee** magnetic drill. It's probably one of the few power tools in our shop that hasn't caused complaints. It's operator-friendly, easy to set up, powerful, and durable. It's a good product."

Kent Macdougall, Yoncos Island, S.C.: "I rate **Gorilla Glue** as a worst buy. It's a sticky mess to apply. I've glued and screwed many a project with it over the years. I've found that if you take the screws out, the wood falls apart with no bond whatsoever. Use **Liquid Nails**; I know it works."

"**Gorilla Tape** is no good either, especially when the sun shines on it. It slips and leaves a snail trail of sticky goo. No more Gorilla anything for me."

John Humeniuk, Baudette, Minn.: "My best buy is the **Kubota U35-4** mini excavator I bought in 2014. It's a great machine. I've only done routine repairs. It's fun to operate."



Tom Calvert, Ethridge, Tenn.: "In the last couple of years, I purchased a **NOCO Boost Pro GB150** jump starter (www.no.co). It spins old diesel engines fast enough to start them. It cost \$300, but I think I'll get many years out of it."

Harold Williams, Cleveland, Okla.: "I purchased a new **Massey Ferguson 1429** tractor/loader in 2003. I have 3,500 hr on it and have used it hard. It's the most trouble-free tractor I've ever owned."

"I have two **Echo 400** chainsaws that are excellent. They've gone through many chains and bars, but I haven't had to do anything beyond regular maintenance."

"I purchased a new **Chrysler 300-C** in 2006. It's been the most trouble-free car I've owned, and I've owned 30 over the past 75 years."

Loren Loehmer, Monterey, Ind.: "One of my best buys is a **Deere 72-in.** zero-turn mower (Z 960M). I've had it for 5 years without any problems."

Will E.: "I do a good bit of welding. That requires grinding, and over the years I've used and worn out just about every name-brand small angle grinder. The absolute best has been the **Hercules** I bought at **Harbor Freight**. It's ergonomic and powerful, and I haven't worn one out yet. It's a small fraction of the price of the others. The grinder works with 6-in. grinding wheels. You get a lot more done with the bigger discs."

William L. Donner, Three Oaks, Mich.: "Our **Stihl** battery-powered push mower is great. My wife loves it. Happy wife, happy life."

Robert L. Greenwood, Abie, Neb.: "My best buy is the 1949 **Allis-Chalmers WD** my dad bought. It was our only tractor for a decade, handling all field and lot work. It's never slowed down."

"After seven decades, a seal failure damaged the wet clutch, and two years later, the dry clutch failed. At that point, the