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after a wind storm forced us to replace about 75 percent of our fences. I was able to string out the wire by myself."

C.W. Travers, Chambersburg, Penn.: "My worst buy is the McAfee virus protection system I bought for my computer. I've subscribed for a couple of years now to this virus protection service, but somehow a virus got through, even though I'm supposed to get automatic updates every time I start up the computer. The company wouldn't make any repairs or offer any help unless I paid the going tech rate. Why should I have to pay for protection when it's their fault the virus got through? I was left on my own. I ended up having to reinstall the system myself."

Dick Lutz, Frierson, La.: Dick likes his **Drill Doctor 750** bit sharpener. "I resisted buying a Drill Doctor for years because of the \$200 plus price tag. Finally my supply of dull bits became larger than my supply of sharp bits, and it was time to try it."

"The Drill Doctor came with DVD instructions which I found were easy to understand. I was so impressed with the process of sharpening drill bits that I spent several hours



sharpening bits in the first two days, finishing off more than 200 bits up to 3/4 in. in diameter. The results were better than I expected. I even found myself sharpening new bits that didn't really have to be sharpened. The Drill Doctor put an edge on the bits that was better than the factory. I wish I had bought a coarse wheel for sharpening larger bits - it takes longer to sharpen large bits with the standard wheel."

Phillip Page, Fredericktown, Mo.: Phillip nominates his 2005 **Deere Gator** as his "best buy." "My wife was the one who expressed an interest in buying this utility vehicle. We use it almost every day. It has enough power to pull our boat dock up a steep incline and will run forever on a tank of gas. The electric dump bed is worth the extra money."

On the "worst buy" side, he lists his 1999 **Long Farmtrac 60** tractor. "This was the first new tractor I ever bought. The tractor was advertised to be 'just like a Ford New Holland' and the specs on it were almost the same. However, I was able to put a total of only 120 hours on this tractor because I had so much trouble with it. The brakes were bad, the hydraulic system leaked, and the fuel gauge was faulty. I did learn how to bleed a diesel fuel system. After one year I traded this tractor in for a **Deere 5210**, and I'm well pleased with it."

Kevin D. Vaughn, Christopher, Ill.: Kevin likes his 2005 **DR** field and brush mower. "We bought this unit for heavy duty use, in particular for clearing off wooded areas that have grown up over the past two decades. This mower will cut down small trees just as advertised. We also bought a **DR** finish mower but it isn't built as rugged. We bent the blades and broke the housing when we accidentally hit a hidden tree stump."

Roger Hoffman, Coldwater, Kansas: A 2005 **Ford F-350** pickup rates as Roger's "best buy." "This pickup has been a joy to own and has plenty of power for any job. It has more than 9,000 miles on it with no problems. I use a **Butler** electric-over-hydraulic flatbed bale carrier on it, which works great."

Keith Kelley, Baxter Springs, Kansas:

"My 2005 **Ford F-150 4-WD** crew cab pickup rides like a car and gets a reasonable 16 mpg."

"I'm also happy with my 2004 **Deere 8120** MFWD tractor. It's fuel efficient and comfortable to drive."

Ray Carson, Valley View, Texas: "My **Suzuki 700** Kingquad ATV equipped with electronic fuel injection is a best buy. It's great to own an ATV that always starts. I never have to worry whether I'll get back home."

"After owning two lemons in a row, an **Arctic Cat 500** and a **Kawasaki 650** Brute Force, it's nice to have an ATV that I can depend on. I have to thank my dealer who, after working on and off for six weeks on the Kawasaki, allowed my full purchase price on another unit. Also, my thanks to the salesman who suggested I buy a **Suzuki 700**. I think I now have a machine that will provide many years of service."

William G. Lyle, Murfreesboro, Tenn.: William likes his 2005 **Farm Pro 2320** Chinese-made tractor. "I use it with a 4-ft. tiller, a 4-ft. brush cutter, and a pond scoop. This tractor has never failed me. The 3-cylinder diesel engine has more than 90 hours on it. However, the dealer wasn't much help on filters but O'Reilly's helped with Wix filters."

Lamar Bello, Fairview, Tenn.: Lamar says his two **Dodge** pickups are his "best buys" - a 1990 model and a 1993 model. "The 1993 model had about 750,000 miles on it when I sold it. The 1990 model had a rear seal leak so I told the dealer to put new bearings in it. But when the pan was pulled, the transmission oil was clean as a pin and it didn't need new bearings, even though this pickup had about 395,000 miles on it. I've sold both pickups but they're both still running strong for the new owners."

Ray Combe, Paradise, Utah: "My 2005 **Ford F-150 Super Cab** pickup is built cheap and is my worst buy. When I drive it on the road both the hood and the bed bounce up and down, and whenever I hit a bump the mirrors and doors rattle terribly. I've taken this truck to three different Ford dealers and they all say the same thing - because of the truck's design and construction, nothing can be done about the rattles. They say 'You'll just have to live with it'. I contacted the company's customer service center and they said the same thing. It's disgusting when you have a new truck and it rattles so bad that it's embarrassing to let anyone ride in it."

"The truck has only about 12,000 miles on it but already it has transmission problems. It stutter shifts. The service department at the last Ford dealer I took it to drove it and knows it has a problem. Because it won't show up on their diagnostic test, Ford won't let them tear the transmission down."

"If you want an extended cab truck that's low quality and poorly constructed, then this is the pickup to buy."

"Two months ago a Ford mechanic disassembled the steering column to put a spring in the ignition. Now I can be driving along and the cruise control will shut down. Again, because it passes all their tests Ford won't let the dealer work on it."

"If you want an extended cab truck that's low quality and poorly constructed, with no dealer or factory support, then a **Ford F-150 Super Cab** is the pickup to buy."

Philip Miller, Marble Falls, Ark.: "My **Stihl 032** chainsaw runs constantly during the

He Replaced His Tractor Radials With Bias Ply Tires

"My **Case 930** tractor had a problem. It needed duals to take advantage of the horsepower but if you put duals on you would break the rear axles," says John Ruff, Logan, Kansas.

"When the radials on the tractor went bad, I did some serious thinking for several months before I decided to put on a set of **Goodyear Dyna Torque II** bias tires without fluid. I had previously put **Dyna Torques** on my two smaller tractors with no fluid and found they made a big improvement in the performance of the tractors. That wasn't as much of a gamble as both were much smaller, lower horsepower tractors that were originally fitted with bias tires. The **Case** tractor, however, was much more of a gamble."

"I've run this tractor for more than 35 years so I know how it runs. As soon as I let out the clutch on the new tires, I could tell the difference. The tractor started moving faster and the difference in the field is very noticeable, too. There's less slippage than I had with the fluid-filled radials. When the going gets tough, the governor response is very fast

and is noticeable in the exhaust sound. I don't know what the impact is on fuel consumption yet but I know the tractor can do more work now."

"Unfortunately, **Goodyear** is phasing out the **Dyna Torque II** bias tires. I don't think the company realizes how good these tires are. Thanks to the short bar/long bar lug design, there's more lug area in contact with the ground than with V-shaped lugs. They also clean better in mud. Bias ply tires with V-lugs might not work as well."

"I can see why no one has tested **Dyna Torques** without fluid against radials with fluid, so the company doesn't know how well that works. Hopefully, someone at **Goodyear** will figure that out before they drop what has to be the best agricultural tire the company has ever made. They wear well and cost less. It's also nice not to have to worry about the rims rusting out."

Contact: **FARM SHOW** Followup, John G. Ruff, 963 W Big Bear Lane, Logan, Kansas 67646 (ph 785 689-4323).

fall and winter months with no problems. All it needs is a new chain every now and then. It starts easy and runs good."

"My **Murray 42-in.** riding mower is the sorriest piece of equipment I've ever owned and is my worst buy. I purchased it at **Wal-Mart**. I call it a 'wonder' mower. That is, it's a wonder the engineer who designed it ever got out of grade school. The belts don't line up correctly and come off every time I shut the mower down. The deck is so flimsy that it wore through in only a year. Every time I try to use this mower, I have to go to the shop and repair something."

Robert E. Smith, Coulee City, Wash.: "I like my 2005 **Bush Hog King** Kutter rotary mower. I owned a **Field General** mower before, but the **King Kutter** is built stronger and heavier. I use it mainly for cutting sagebrush. It does a good job and the blades never fail."

Charles W. Malecha, Pittsville, Wis.: "My best buy is the big bale cutting chain I bought for my chainsaw from **Ernest L. Newman** (Owego, N.Y. ph 877 687-1244 or 607 687-1244; www.bigbalecutter.com). It does a great job and makes it a lot easier to cut up large diameter round bales for hand feeding."

Gerard G. Marcelle, Luxemburg, Wis.: "For Father's Day I received a new **Black & Decker 1/2-in.** VSR hammer drill driver. I needed to drill 1/2-in. dia. holes in some wood. However, I was able to make only eight or ten holes before the drill gears stripped. I called the company service center and was told to return the unit to the **Mills Fleet Farm** store where it had been bought and they would repair it. They wouldn't allow me to exchange it."

Harold Triebenbach, Detroit Lakes, Minn.: Harold nominates his 2006 **New Holland 1465** haybine as a "best buy." "It does a good job and is easy to adjust for different field conditions."

Alden H. Judnitsch, Pengilly, Minn.: "I'm happy with my 1970 **Allis Chalmers 160** wheel tractor. The 3-cyl. Perkins diesel engine on it is a real miser on fuel."

Doug Kramer, Elroy, Wis.: "My worst buys are the battery-powered 18-volt drill, 18-volt saw, and 18-volt grease gun that I bought from **Harbor Freight**. All were underpowered compared to other 18-volt tools I own, and the battery life is only minutes. I wasted my money on these tools. I keep them

in my shop because their distinctive orange color reminds me never to buy one again."

Gino G. Buccella, North Weymouth, Mass.: Gino says the **Tornado** fuel-saving device paid off for him (ph 800 500-8880; www.tornadoair.com). It's a non-moving, turbine-shaped device which creates a vortex of swirling air in the intake. The result, according to the company, is improved airflow into the engine's combustion chamber, causing a more efficient mixture between air and fuel. Fits most cars and will work in either carbureted or electronic fuel-injected engines.

On a carbureted vehicle, you install the **Tornado** inside the air cleaner housing. On a fuel-injected vehicle, the unit fits inside the air intake hose. The company claims it will boost mileage 10 to 20 percent. It sells for about \$70.

"This unit has worked great for me, my son and two nephews. It works especially well on the highway. Every drop of gas I don't have to buy makes me happy. I also change the air filter every 3,000 miles, as often as I change the oil."

Willard Meyer, Newton, Wis.: "My 2003 **Sears Craftsman 1000 20** hp riding mower equipped with a 2-cyl. Briggs & Stratton engine is my best buy. It has required only routine maintenance. I change the oil twice a year and grease the wheels. It really runs smooth."

Gary B. Miller, Peru, Ind.: "My 1966 **Pontiac GTO** was my all-time best buy. It was a fun car to drive. I won my class at the drag strip, and in later years it handled all our family chores just fine. I wish I hadn't sold it."

He's unhappy with his 2004 **Swisher** pull-type mower. "This mower couldn't cut thick grass during the spring of the year. I had to stop all the time to clean it out. The grass wasn't too tall - it was just too 'juicy' for this mower. The grass had to be dry like it usually is in August and September before this mower would work well."

"This mower has three defects: the blades can't move the clippings; the baffles are installed too far from the ends of the blades; and the discharge opening is too small. After 90 hours of use the bearing on the center spindle went out, destroying both the spindle and the bearing housing. I found that four of the six spindle bearings were worn out."

"I made the necessary parts on my lathe so