

BUYING TIPS YOU CAN USE

Randomly selected farmers “tell it like it is” in nominating their “best” and “worst” buys.

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Farmers Nominate Best, Worst Buys

OPINION

Tell Us About Your “Best or Worst” Buy
Send your nominations to:
**FARM SHOW, P.O. Box 1029,
Lakeville, Minn. 55044, or use
the survey form on our website at
www.FARMSHOW.com,
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Terry D. Johns, Transylvania, La.: Terry’s happy with his **Texas Fence Fixer** (ph 800 621-8546; www.texasfencefixer.com). Invented and patented by Ken Evans of Sequin, Texas, the tool is designed to tighten or take slack out of barbed wire, horse wire, electric wire, net wire and high tensile wire with equal ease. When the tool is removed, the fence remains completely tight.

“I met Evans and his wife at a farm show and became a dealer for the tool,” says Johns. “I spend the summer on a ranch in Wyoming and use the tool on 5 or 6 miles of fences. It works great and saves a lot of time.”

Roy E. Sapp, Independence, W. Va.: “I’m well pleased with my 2012 **Kubota L3200** 4-WD tractor equipped with an HST-type transmission, 2540 front-end loader and BK976 backhoe. This machine has great power and the backhoe and loader are easy to remove. You just pull 2 pins to detach the backhoe and pull 2 more pins to remove the loader. It’s also equipped with a 3-pt. hitch for hooking up to implements.”

Larry W. Easley, Jackson, Miss.: “I drove my 2008 **Dodge Ram Big Horn 2500** pickup about 115,000 miles in 3 years, but it had a lot of problems. Something new seemed to

happy with his **Harbor Freight** 10-ton hand-operated log splitter. “I use it to split wood measuring 14 in. dia. or less. I’m getting older and wish I had bought this splitter years ago. I really like it.

“My worst buy was a 4 by 6-in. manual jaw pullers that I bought from **W.W. Grainger**. These jaw pullers wouldn’t hold pulleys, wheels or gears firmly. When I turned the center thread the jaws would slip off the edge of the pulleys or gears. The problem was the bottom of the jaws wasn’t deep enough to hold.”

Jack Zielsdorf, Grand Coulee, Wash.: “My 2012 **Ford F-350 Super Duty** crew cab diesel pickup gets up to 26 mpg and has unbelievable power.

“I love my 2001 **Goldoni** diesel tractor equipped with a Deere engine (www.italianfarmmachinery.com). This Italian-made tractor is really built well and has never let me down.”

Carl Jeffries, Ardmore, Ala.: “My **Belarus 572** 65 hp tractor is dependable, with only minor breakdowns that were easy to repair. The dealer always explains how to make any repairs over the phone and this has saved me hundreds of dollars. This tractor costs much less than other brands. I love it.”

Ryan Rohde, Colome, S. Dak.: “My **Goldenrod** fence stretcher does exactly what it’s supposed to do and should last a lifetime. I bought two units on sale at a local store for about \$25 apiece. But you can also find it at Northern Tool (ph 800 221-0516; www.northerntool.com). You can’t even buy a decent wire cutter for that price.

“The door hinges on my 1998 **Chevrolet 3/4-ton** are junk. I recently found a 2005 **Chevrolet crew cab pickup**, and the first thing I looked at was the door hinges. They were very different than the ones on my 1998 pickup so I bought the 2005 model. However, it wasn’t long before the doors on it were loose and sagging, too.”

Richard Wilder, Wellton, Ariz.: “My 2013 **Whirlpool** Cabrio clothes washing machine is a worst buy. Our clothes and sheets weren’t rinsed good and came out with brown spots. This machine uses so little water that some clothes come out dry and not even washed at all, or are streaked with soap and dirt. I finally went back to using my old washer.”

Bob Grenzow, Sumas, Wash.: “I’m happy with my 2004 **Dodge Cummins 6-speed** manual shift pickup. I use it to tow heavy loads in the mountains with no problems. I updated the pickup’s rear suspension to a **Kelderman 4-link** airbag setup, and it has worked beyond my expectations (ph 800 334-6150; www.kelderman.com). I also installed a **Dynatrac locking hub kit** on the front axle (ph 714 596-4461; www.dynatrac.com). This kit uses an adjustable Timken tapered roller bearing instead of the non serviceable cartridge bearing that all the pickup manufacturers are using. The Dynatrac is a real fuel saver, as the front axle doesn’t turn when the hubs are locked out.

“The **Omega 1,250-lb.** gearhead engine stand I bought from Northern Tool was made in China, and it shows. It’s rated at 1,250 lbs. The engine mounting loops weren’t bent correctly, so the bolts that came with the kit wouldn’t fit through them. The gearhead fit very loose on the shaft, and as a result the engine had almost 2 in. of play in rotation. I hung an 850-lb. engine on the stand and it bent, apparently because the stand had reached its weight limit. It took me at least 4 hours to modify the stand to make it useable again.”

John Ries, Elk Point, S. Dak.: John nominates his 2012 **Generac 8kw** propane-powered standby generator as his “worst buy”. “Soon after I bought this unit it started to backfire and blew off the air cleaner

go wrong almost every day whether it was with the turbocharger, check engine light, transmission, upholstery, headlights, air conditioner, or exhaust filter.

“The check engine light came on 5 min. after I drove away from the dealer showroom, and the dealer’s inept technicians never were able to figure it out. Finally a Cummins diesel rep clued them in that the turbocharger was defective and was eligible for warranty replacement – except that there were no replacement parts available anywhere because the problem was so widespread.

“The check engine light finally went out when the bulb burned out, after I had to endure 3 continuous years of brightness. When the transmission started acting up and the upholstery in the cab began to disintegrate – the seat covers seemed to be as thin as newspaper – I decided it was time to dump the vehicle. So now I’m the proud owner of a 2013 **Ford F-150 King Ranch 4-WD**, which is a real pickup. I’m one and done on Dodge or anything Chrysler. To any prospective used pickup buyers out there, don’t buy a 2008 Dodge diesel. You’ll be sorry and poorer.”

David Piotrowsky, Ottawa, Kan.: A 2005 **Cub Cadet Z-Force 44-in.** riding mower equipped with a Briggs & Stratton engine rates as David’s “worst buy”. “This mower has 174 hours on it and smokes on start-up. It has gone through 3 sets of belts, and the hydrostatic drive belt continues to jump off. The center spindle bent the top of the deck even though I never hit anything. My 45-year-old Cub Cadet 127 riding mower will outlast this unit.”

Dennis Huwe, Bagler, Minn.: “I use **JB Weld** for many fixes, from body filler to bearings (ph 903 885-7696; www.jbweld.com).”

David Ziegler, Ballwin, Mo.: David’s