

BUYING TIPS YOU CAN USE

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

By: Mark Newhall
Editor

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Thomas C. Jones, Williamstown, Ky.: “I recently read reports in FARM SHOW from readers unhappy with **Edenpure** quartz heaters. I wanted to tell readers that I have two Edenpure heaters bought in 2008 that I like a lot. I use them to heat three rooms and a bath, and last winter my furnace didn’t come on until the temperature got down to 7 degrees



above zero. The friend who talked me into buying them has four of units. The company promptly answers any questions. I have nu-

merous friends who have seen my heaters and then bought their own. The older models had trouble with the bulbs burning out, but the company stood behind them all the way. Their new models have 20,000-hour bulbs. I’d recommend this heater to anyone.”

ph 800 848-6200; www.staber.com). It’s very efficient, using only a fraction as much water as other machines. My clothes are always clean and there’s no agitator to cause wear and tear on them. I use only one ounce of detergent per load. The extra cost of this machine has paid off in savings to our pocket book and to the environment. Best of all, it’s made in the U.S.

“My 2006 **Jeep Commander** is my worst buy. At first we were mostly pleased with it, except the V-6 engine wasn’t as fuel efficient as we had expected. Then we had problems with the electronics and there were noises, fluid leaks, and safety control issues. All this with well under 36,000 miles.”

Art Hertz, Fairfax, S. Dak.: Art’s son is a dealer for **Titan** loader tractors (ph 605 638-0897; www.titanloadersales.com). “I bought a 4-yard 958G model and like it real well. I’ve operated it for 60 hours and it uses less than 4 gal. of fuel per hour. These tractors are made in China using American-made parts.”

Jim Peake, Leask, Sask.: “I like my **Stihl** 460 chainsaw equipped with a 20-in. bar. “My 2001 **Husky** 359 saw has never been touched and the carburetor is still on original factory settings. I use it every other day all winter, cutting about 14 cords per winter.

“I use my **Stihl** FS85 trimmer equipped with an 8-in. saw blade to cut willow trees. It does a wonderful job.”

Richard Quik, Vandrevil-Dorion, Quebec: “I use my 1980 **Gravelly** 12 hp lawn tractor to cut grass and clear snow. It’s still going great and always starts right up.

“I use my 1990 **Stihl** 034 chainsaw to cut 20 cords of wood every year. I just bought a 24-in. blade for it from **Cutters Choice** to make cutting large trees an easier job (ph 814 898-1738; www.cutterschoice.com).”

Stephen Carpenter, Somerset, Ohio: “My **Reese** Maxi twin drum mower, which I bought used, mows as fast as I can stay on the tractor seat without plugging up. It’ll mow grass from 6 in. high to 4 ft. high with ease.

“My 2006 **Deere** 6603 and 2007 **Deere** 6403 MFWD tractors are both easy on fuel. They let me plant beans with a 15-ft. 1560 drill on one quart of diesel per acre. These are ‘value’ tractors - no electronics means no trouble.”

Vince Manhart, Palestine, Ill.: “My **Hardee** Navigator sprayer, equipped with a 1,000-gal. tank and 60-ft. boom, is easier to operate than any other sprayer I’ve owned. At first I had trouble with the computer, but the district rep got it working. He actually took it to the field and ran it himself to be sure it worked okay. Not many companies provide service like that any more.

“My **White** 5100 splitter planter is my worst buy. I was never so proud of Case IH machinery until after we bought this planter. It was a nightmare - we seemed to be working on it all the time. We planted 30 percent less per day with it than we did with the same size Case IH planter.”

Ellis S. Kinney, Louisville, Ky.: “I’m disappointed with my **Wallenstein** BX42 pt-powered wood chipper. The top rotor housing tapers from 5.25 in. sq. to 4 in. round to accommodate the discharge chute, and this taper causes a tremendous plugging problem. The machine plugs up as often as six or seven times per hour.

“A factory rep told me an increase in rpm’s should solve the problem, but it didn’t. Another factory rep told me to adjust the stationary knife. No luck.

“I solved the problem by sawing off the top rotor housing taper and replacing it with a straight square piece that’s welded to the top housing. Now it works perfect. I have to reposition the tractor in order to change discharge directions, but that’s a minor inconvenience.

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,
or E-mail your comments to:
Editor@FARMSHOW.com

merous friends who have seen my heaters and then bought their own. The older models had trouble with the bulbs burning out, but the company stood behind them all the way. Their new models have 20,000-hour bulbs. I’d recommend this heater to anyone.”

Jay Strayer, Degraff, Ohio: “My **Universal** corn burner is my worst buy. The first year I had to replace three or four auger motors, and the second year the water pump went bad and the machine ran only for about six weeks the entire winter. I couldn’t keep the auger motors running, even though I use corn that’s dried to 13 1/2 percent moisture and is cleaned through a screen.

“All the company says is that I’m doing something wrong. I’ve used this corn burner for only three winters but already I’ve had to totally rebuild it, adding a new firepot, new augers, new timers, new auger motors, and a new blower.”

Kelly Shelton, River View, Florida: “This pickup runs great,” says Kelly, pleased with his 1995 **Dodge** 2500 4-WD equipped with a diesel engine. “It’s fuel efficient, pulls anything, and is dependable. I run it on a fuel mixture of 50 percent diesel and 50 percent used oil, and I can’t tell any difference between them other than the color of the exhaust smoke.”

A 1,500-lb. 12-volt winch that he bought from **Harbor Freight** rates as his “worst buy”. “The cable came off the pulley and wrapped around the motor housing which caused it to lock up.”

T.C. Childress, Laurens, S.C.: “My **Cub Cadet** LT1046 riding mower does a good job but steers hard. You need strong arms to steer it.”

Sue Seefeldt, Coloma, Wis.: “We’re well pleased with our **Staber** top load washing machine (Staber Industries, Groveport, Ohio