

Farmers Nominate Best & Worst Buys

and easy to handle, and the battery holds its charge for a long time. I can trim all my shrubs with one charge, which I really like. This trimmer is also lightweight so I don't get tired out using it. It has a long blade which lets me cut more in less time, and the handle is easy to hang onto."

James E. Holman, Arnold, Neb.: "My 2006 Lincoln Town car, a Signature Limited model, is my best buy. This is my fourth Town Car. I put about 60,000 miles on them and then trade for a new model. That way I never have to buy new tires or batteries. These cars never fail to start, no matter what the weather conditions. I can drive them 700 miles in one day and still enjoy going to a party that night, even though I'm 80 years old."

Gordon Bills, Creston, Iowa: "This is the best mower I've owned in 50 years," says Gordon about his 2006 Country Clipper zero turn mower. "I have more than five acres to mow so last year I bought this mower equipped with a 20 hp Kohler engine, 52-in. deck, and joystick steering. I'd recommend it to anyone. I don't mind mowing lawns anyway. I don't mind mowing lawns anyway, but this machine makes the job fun."

Pat Fenton, Richland Center, Wis.: "I've had few problems with my 1977 Case 1070 tractor. It has a lot of power and is still going strong."

"Small gas-powered weed eaters often start hard and have problems with the string mechanism. But they cost only about \$75, so after two or three years I throw them away and buy a new one."

Mike Rabb, Dubach, La.: "My 1994 Kubota 14 hp tractor is a super machine. Once I accidentally drove it into a pond where it tipped over and was completely submerged under water, but the only damage was a bent steering wheel and a broken rear light. I bought a rollover protective structure (ROPS) after that, and am glad I did as I later rolled the tractor again. The ROPS saved me. Recently I bought a new, bigger Kubota and expect great things from it. However, I do intend to keep it upright and dry."

"I think Stihl chainsaws are great. My 028 model is about 20 years old, and I also own a 2003 MS440 model."

"The air conditioner on my 1999 Chevrolet C1500 Silverado pickup broke within 5,000 miles after I bought the pickup. The fuel gauge stopped working so I used the odometer to estimate how much fuel was left in the tank. Then the odometer stopped working, too. The driver's side electric window broke and now something is rattling inside that door. Also, one of the rear windows won't close tightly."

Hank Adger, Gilliam, La.: "My Cat B91 TracHoe is the handiest piece of equipment I've ever owned. I use it to cut thorn trees in our pasture and along fence rows, and to unload everything from fence wire and posts to hay bales. It's built tough and is economical to operate."

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Paul Wensel, Black River Falls, Wis.: "My 1994 Ford 7740 tractor has about 11,500 hours on it, yet the engine has never been touched."

Steve Fitch, Falls Village, Ct.: "It does a number of tasks extremely well," reports Steve, pleased with his Bobcat T300 track loader. "Jobs that used to take days to do with a farm tractor now take only hours."

Robert D. Kreager, Schuylkill Haven, Penn.: Robert's impressed with his Deere 980 field cultivator. "It's equipped with a spike harrow and rolling basket and does a good job of seedbed preparation. One pass after chiseling corn stalks and I'm ready to plant oats. It handles trash well and prepares a nice, even seedbed."

Jeff Diefenthaler, Newton, Wis.: "My Taylor water stove is my best buy. I bought it three years ago to replace another popular brand. No problems. This stove is big enough to heat my 35 by 50-ft. garage shop as well as my poorly insulated, 1,600 sq. ft. farm house with no problems. It delivers an endless supply of hot water with a built-in hot water coil, yet I only have to fill it once or twice a day. The firebox isn't huge - it measures about 30 by 30 by 36 in. so three to four 12-dia. pieces of wood will fill it up. It has a double-pass flue system that saves as much heat as possible and also reduces smoke. Also, it comes with a 6-year warranty which I really like."

Eric Haselhorst, Great Bend, Kansas: "My 1998 Chevrolet Venture mini van performs well and has about 185,000 miles on it, yet I haven't spent much for repairs beyond routine maintenance. It's reasonably fuel efficient and gets 24 mpg on the highway and 20 mpg in town."

Gerald and Harold Thaden, Marvin, S. Dak.: "Our 2005 Deere 8220 Trac tractor has a lot of power and excellent traction. We've noticed that soil compaction has been less of a problem ever since we started using it, compared to when we were used our Deere 8210 wheeled tractor which we traded in. I was surprised at how easily this tractor handles in row crops. I enjoyed taking part in Deere's Gold Key program, which allowed us to be present at the factory in Waterloo, Iowa, and view our tractor being assembled."

Fred Hoover, Dubois, Penn.: "I like my 1998 Dodge Ram 2500 pickup equipped with a V-10 engine. It's still like new with no rust. It's a beautiful pickup. No problems."

"I like my 1992 Jeep Wagoneer, which I bought used. I repaired the clutch and radiator, and now it runs perfect. It's fuel efficient."

James Bee, Davis, Ill.: James is the proud owner of a 2003 Chevrolet 2500 Duramax pickup equipped with a diesel engine and Allison automatic transmission. "It has more than 138,000 miles on it without any repairs and is still on its second set of tires. It's fuel efficient."

Jerry Allison, Dallastown, Penn.: "I've bought many DeWalt power tools over the years and all have worked great. We use these tools every day for construction work. I won't buy power tools from anyone else."

Stedman Twiss, Florence, N.Y.: Stedman's the satisfied owner of a Stihl 250C chainsaw equipped with Easy2Start. "This chainsaw was a gift from my daughter, who thought my other saws were getting too heavy. I've owned a lot of different chainsaw brands over the years, but this little 2.77 cu. in. saw really impresses me with its ease of starting and its light weight. I use it mostly for cutting firewood and removing tree limbs. It works great."

Butch Goldade, Sault Ste. Marie, Mich.: "My 2000 Play-Mor 32-ft. fifth wheel Sport travel trailer is my best buy (ph 636 586-7600; www.playmorrsvs.com). It's a box-type trailer equipped with a winch-operated ramp tailgate, which works great. This trailer has been trouble-free for the most part, and the couple of problems we did have were taken care of promptly."

"Our Shark vacuum cleaner is a worst buy. Flimsy construction and it doesn't hold much dirt."

Phillip D. Hill, LaGrange, Ind.: "My best buy is my 2002 Lucas portable 613 sawmill. It's lightweight, easy to operate, and easy to move as it takes only 10 to 15 minutes to set up or take down. I can put a log in place and start cutting it without having to move the log. The maintenance of this sawmill, including sharpening of the blade, is very simple. It's also simple in design and simple to operate. I've used it to cut logs from 10 to 54 inches in diameter. This machine paid for itself in the first year."

Mary Trusler, Frazeyburg, Ohio: Mary's impressed with her 1997 Stihl 009 chainsaw. "It's small and starts easy. Works great for tree trimming, cutting multiflora roses, and cutting firewood. It's lightweight so I can make precision cuts doing rough construction work."

Jim Brazel, Lebanon, Oregon: "I like my 2002 Dodge 3/4-ton pickup equipped with a Cummins diesel engine. It gets anywhere from 22 to 34 mpg depending on the load, which I think is pretty good."

Brad Miller, Ridgeville Corners, Ohio: "The church I belong to bought an A-Maizing Heat furnace and it's a worst buy. We had our building professionally sized and were told this furnace would more than meet our needs. However, it never was able to heat the building to more than 62 degrees. It was installed according to the company's directions but there were problems from the start."

"It had a defective auger motor and control switch. The company told us to ignore the recommended setting in their manual and just 'play with it' until it would run right. But this stove never operated for more than four days in a row without the fire going out or some other type of problem. We had our dealer come out to look at it. He made some adjustments and said the stove would be okay, but by the next morning it wasn't working again. Finally we replaced the corn burner

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with a smaller btu gas furnace, which heats our building just fine. The company wouldn't stand behind its product."

Joshua Quarrick, Uniontown, Penn.: "My 1990 GM heavy duty 3/4-ton pickup equipped with a 350 cu. in., V-8 engine and 400 turbo automatic transmission is my best buy. I drove my first 1990 GM pickup from 1994 to 2006. It had 400,000 miles on it, and half the time I used it to pull a trailer. Then last August I bought a second 1990 GM pickup, with 140,000 miles on it. It's the exact same pickup. Parts are cheap, and the average farmer can still fix whatever goes wrong. We're using the pickup that we bought in 1994 for parts."

Rabon Mubayin, Zirconia, N.C.: Rabon says his Cub Cadet riding mower equipped with a 38-in. deck is neither a "best" nor "worst" buy. "The mower works good and does a good job of cutting grass, and I haven't had any problems with the engine or rear end. However, the paint job is lousy. Within five years the decals peeled off, the paint started peeling, the metal began to rust, and all four tires had to be replaced. I also had to replace the mower deck."

"I own two Dodge Dakota pickups and several Dodge and Plymouth cars and they've all been trouble-free. My wife has an unrestored 1949 Plymouth Special, and it's our most dependable car."

T. Boyle, Yonkers, N.Y.: "I like my 1982 Mercedes Benz 300 station wagon equipped with a 5-cyl. diesel engine. It has more than 295,000 miles on it. A hydraulic shock is leaking, but that's about it. The engine still works great."

Daniel Palmer, Kensington, Ohio: "My Snap-On 1/2-in., 18-volt cordless impact wrench is built strong and lasts a long time on a single charge. I'm a mechanic at a Bobcat dealer and regularly use this tool on field service calls."

George Remsberg, E. Wenatchee, Wash.: George is impressed with his 1990 Deere 430 garden tractor equipped with a 3-cyl. Yanmar diesel engine. "I've owned several Deere garden tractors over the years, but this one is the best ever. I use it with a 4-ft. blade, 4-ft. snowblower, 5-ft. mower, a material collection system, and a hydraulic post hole digger so it stays busy all year long. It has had only a couple of small problems which were easily fixed. The hydrostatic transmission works great. Even in subzero weather this tractor never fails to start, although most of the time I would plug the engine heater in for a half hour or more."

Chris Schoenberger, Upper Sandusky, Ohio: "In September of 2006 I bought a 2007 Arctic Cat 500 ATV and have had nothing but problems with it. At 50 miles the actuator that puts the ATV in 4-WD failed. I took the machine back to the dealer to get it fixed under warranty. At 105 miles the right front axle drive went bad. Again, the dealer fixed it at no cost. At about 130 miles the ATV wouldn't shift the way it should, so I brought it back to the dealer again."

"Last February I was riding with some friends, and as I was beginning to slow down, the front brakes locked up. The back of the 4-wheeler came over the top of me, pinning me to the ground. Luckily I was wearing a helmet. When I finally got out from under the 4-wheeler my friends rushed me to the hospital. After a few X-rays and tests they discovered that I had two broken bones in my right arm. Now I have a few plates and screws in the arm. I also had a deep cut in my chin which was caused by the helmet."

"The impact fractured my jaw and broke some of my teeth, and the doctors wired my jaw closed. I took the 4-wheeler back to the dealer and told them what had happened, and that I didn't want this machine any more. They called the company which reimbursed me, and I used the money for hospital and doctor bills. Wearing a helmet saved my life."

"My 1998 Arctic Cat 500 is my best buy. I've never seen an old ATV work so hard. I use it to pull or haul 550 lbs. of feed, and tow it behind our farm equipment to the field so I have a way to get home. I also use it to haul milk to our calves. This ATV now has more than 3,600 miles on it, and I plan to hold onto it forever."

Misty And Wesley Combs, Howe, Ind.: "In July 2006 we bought a 30 by 45-ft. barn from Menards and put it up ourselves, getting help only with the rafters and roof. We love this barn. It was a lot of hard work, but that's why we love it so much. It came with great prints and materials. I couldn't believe it was so easy to build a 14-ft. sidewall barn. The Menards rep was very helpful. We used our Deere 6600 combine to put up the rafters, which was a lot of fun."

Stanley Miller, Independence, Ky.: "My front-mount Cub Cadet zero turn mower is a real headache. The caster wheels pick up dirt until the wheels lock up and won't turn. The problem is there's not enough clearance between the tire and frame. The dealer refuses to do anything about the problem."