

Farmers Nominate Best & Worst Buys

Duane Kimball, Callaway, Neb.: "My 2004 Deere 4995 swather equipped with a rotary cutterbar is a best buy. It cuts anything fast and clean."

"My 2004 DMF grain trailer is built tough and is equipped with user-friendly T-handle gate openers."

William C. Neel, Mobile, Ala.: "I recently bought a two-wheeled Weed Eater and it's my best buy. It's a 2-cycle, engine-driven machine with great maneuverability. Very easy to handle. It's a real workhorse."

Loren and Sharon Crabtree, Alturas, Calif.: Loren and Sharon nominate their 2001 Deere 4-WD Gator as their "best buy". "We use it for everything from fixing fence in rocky country to checking on heifers. We often drive it over very rough terrain, which it handles easily."

"Our only complaint is that Deere can't make a seat that doesn't fall apart. We keep both our tractor and the Gator in a shed out of the weather, but the seats on both machines have still deteriorated badly. The tractor is just four years old but the seat already looks like it's 20 years old. We go through Gator seats in less than a year."

Scott Winter, Altamont, Ill.: "I haven't had any problems with my 2001 Ford F-150 extended cab 4-WD pickup. It rides and pulls good. It's my best buy."

"My 1998 Chevrolet S-10 4-WD Blazer is my worst buy. It has only about 80,000 miles on it but we've already had to replace three CV joints and a stub on the front axle. It has also needed a new alternator, water pump, fuel pump, and two oxygen sensors. This Blazer has not been our most dependable vehicle."

Ed Harris, Milan, Tenn.: "My 1991 Dodge Ram 3/4-ton pickup equipped with a Cummins diesel engine has more than 200,000 miles on it with no problems. My 1994 Dodge Dakota pickup equipped with a V-8 engine has more than 250,000 miles on it with no major repairs."

Alan Leonard, Columbus, Miss.: Alan likes his 2004 Chevrolet 2500 Duramax heavy-duty pickup. "It's a pleasure to drive and a valuable workhorse. It never lets me down."

Norm Batson, Clay Springs, Ariz.: "I use my 1997 Stihl 044 chain saw to cut 10 to 15 cords of firewood each fall. It has never failed - absolutely no problems. It runs as good now as the day I bought it."

Richard Brown, Edwards, N.Y.: "I purchased an HDC circular saw and an HDC reciprocating saw. Both were made in China and the first time I used them they went up in smoke. It's hard to understand why how any company could make such worthless tools."

Doug Bonno, Iron River, Mich.: Doug's impressed with his 2004 Stihl chain saw equipped with a 16-in. bar. "Over the years I've owned many different chain saws, but this one is the lightest and most powerful of all. It has a new system on it that automatically keeps the chain tight. Also, it's very easy to start."

Scott Johnston, Pictou Co., Nova Scotia: "My 2004 Deere 5520 tractor equipped with a Deere 541 front-end loader is my best buy. This tractor is easy to start in cold weather and extremely easy to operate."

Doug Alberts, Melville, Sask.: Doug's the satisfied owner of a 2003 Arctic Cat 400 4-WDATV. "It has a good suspension system, a good engine, and a lot of clearance. So far we have 3,500 trouble-free miles on it."

Patty McLay, Lion's Head, Ontario: "I'm the not-so-proud owner of a 1992 Ford Taurus. I've had a lot of problems with it, including several head gasket replacements, constant brake replacements, transmission problems, and numerous electrical system

headaches. Sometimes the lights would work and sometimes they wouldn't. Same for the radio. The power windows only worked sometimes, and the wipers would quit working at the worst times. The company could never solve these problems. I've since learned that I'm not the only one who has had problems with this model."

Ben Burlingame, Charlton, Mass.: "My 2004 Husqvarna 357XP chain saw equipped with a 20-in. bar is the best chain saw I've ever used. It's well made and will cut almost as much as my father's 1999 Husqvarna 371XP. It's also light enough to carry all day. The 20-in. bar works great both for felling trees and sawing off tree limbs. We have five different Husqvarna chain saws in all, but this one is the best yet."

"The Blitz 2 1/2 and 5-gal. gas cans I bought from Home Depot are my worst buys. The flexible spouts on these gas cans are sturdy, but they leak like an old faucet. The Wedco line of gas cans are the best we've found (Madsen Shop & Supply, Inc., ph 360



736-1336; www.madsens1.com/gascan.)"

Bob Andrews, Haines, Alaska: Bob enjoys browsing through his E & R seed catalog (E & R Seeds, Monroe, Ind. 46772 ph 260 692-6071). "E & R Seeds has great prices, with products that are a good value for the dollar. I've purchased both seeds and plants and find their quality to be excellent. I do wish the company had a website and email address."

"Clear Span greenhouses sold by FarmTek are also best buys (Dyersville, Iowa ph 800 327-6835; www.farmtek.com). These buildings are easy to assemble and disassemble,



and they're built tough. I'd definitely purchase another one."

On the "worst buy" side, he lists the meat saws he purchased from Northern Tool. "These saws seem to have a sturdy frame and a comfortable handle. However, the blades have no adjustment. When installed, they're much too loose, which causes a crooked cut. As far as I can see, they're not much good for anything."

Stephen Williams, Priest River, Idaho: "We decided to order a product called Coloidal Silver, which is an herbal product sold by Herbal Healer Academy in Mt. View, Ark. (www.herbalhealer.com; ph 870 269-4177) My wife was suffering from repeated gum abscesses and antibiotics were expensive and took a week or more to help. We really didn't expect much from this product, so we were truly amazed when an abscess cleared up in one day. She had others, but got quick relief for all of them. Since then everyone in our family has used it for one thing or another, and we've all found it to be just amazing. It has saved us a lot of money in medical bills."

Michael Ray, Bloomington, Ind.: My

Weed Eater string trimmer and Homelite leaf blower are both best buys. With both products I just mix the gas and go. No problems."

"I like to use Maxima chain wax on motor-cycle chains, linkages, hinges, etc. (Pacific Crest Off-Road, ph 800 4 6 0 - 6 8 8 0 ; www.mxdeals.com). The wax sets up good and stays put. It's parafin-based."

"My Wagner medium-duty paint sprayer is my worst buy. It spits out globs of paint, is hard to clean and also hard to keep in adjustment. It wasn't worth the money I paid for it."

Lee Marks, Hortonville, Wis.: "My White 5100 planter plants accurately, requires little maintenance, and is easy to adjust. When it comes to planting corn, it'll do everything but mend a broken heart."

"My Case IH 600 silo blower runs easy and has enough power to make our silo roofs quiver."

Hilery G. Heins, Postville, Iowa: "My 2004 Chevrolet Ventura mini van has all the bells and whistles. We travel a lot so it already has 22,000 trouble-free miles. The ride is comfortable and it gets 24 mpg. I have a bad back, but I can ride without pain in this van. It has required only routine maintenance."

"My Climate Master geothermal system, which we use to heat and cool our house, is a best buy (Climate Master, Inc., ph 405 745-6000; www.climatemaster.com). It's very efficient. We had to replace both compressors during the first year, but the company stood behind its warranty. They're fine people

to do business with."

Jim Wilson, Smith Creek, Mich.: "My best buy was a hydrogen peroxide injection system for my well water, reported on in an earlier issue of FARM SHOW (Kennedy Enterprises, ph 515 733-5053). The peroxide helps eliminate the sulphur smell in our water. It also helps the water filter remove a lot of the iron. Our laundry soap now works better and we use less. I bought the system in September 2004 and just ordered another 5 gal. of peroxide. Installation was easy."

James P. Walsh, Merrimac, Mass.: "My Porter-Cable 10-amp Tiger Saw has plenty of power to do any job and is my best buy. It's priced below \$100."

"I only use my 2004 GM Sierra Duramax 3500 diesel pickup on the highway but at 4,060 miles the turbocharger failed, ruining the engine. The dealer and GM fought over who would pay for repairs, and I was in the middle. It took 40 days to replace the engine and turbocharger and I took a big financial loss. This pickup is on call seven days a week for emergencies."

Peter Gabriel, Oregon City, Ore.: "I just can't say enough good things about my 1999 Massey Ferguson 1160 4-WD tractor. Everything on it works just like it should."

Ken Marcotte, Rosemount, Minn.: "I couldn't be happier with my 2004 Chevrolet Silverado Duramax 2500 heavy duty pickup. It's really fuel efficient and pulls all my trailers with ease."

A 2004 Polaris ATP 500 ATV rates as his "worst buy". "All my previous ATV's were Hondas and they were flawless. The electrical system on this new machine hasn't worked since day one, and a belt blew after only 147 miles. What a huge disappointment. I'm going back to Honda."

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