

## BUYING TIPS YOU CAN USE

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

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**Don Ritchhart, Lincoln, Ill.:** “I’m 91 years old but I still use my 2014 Bobcat tractor with a York 3-pt. ‘rake’ (available at Tractor Supply Company) to grade dirt driveways and gravel parking lots. It does a great job of leveling. The city of Lincoln recently bought one after seeing how well mine works.



**Jeff Grube, Wisconsin Rapids, Wis.:** “My best buy recently is **Lockhart’s Firewood Grippers**. They’re a set of flexible hooks for picking up firewood chunks. They work like bale hooks except that the cable between the hooks is covered by a rubber hose that’s comfortable on the hands. Once you hook them on a log, they stay hooked but when you set the log down they release easily. You can also use them on railroad ties and other heavy loads (available at Amazon for about \$25, depending on size, or call 715-842-0207).



“I use them by hand and also on a boom gantry attached to my wood splitter, which is powered by a 1970’s Nissan car engine which is fitted with a transmission that drives a big hydraulic pump hooked to 1-in. dia. hydraulic lines. It has an angled 10-in. tall splitting wedge.”

**Lorn Manthey, Northfield, Minn.:** “I bought a **HydroTek 40004VS** pressure washer in the fall of 2015 and used it half a dozen times to clean equipment with cold and hot water. It’s powerful enough to take slag off a weld - and works extremely well with different nozzles for a variety of jobs. However, when the washer sits for more than a few weeks, the Vanguard 479cc engine that



powers it will turn over but won’t start.

“The first time it happened I hauled the machine back to the dealer 40 miles away, who fixed it in less than a day. A couple months later the same problem happened again. This time the dealer tech offered to show me how to fix the problem myself.

“Remove the air filter and the pan that holds it so the carburetor and top of the engine is exposed, then remove the cowl that holds the ignition key. Next, remove the solenoid that screws into the side of the carburetor and make sure that the little spring-loaded plunger that goes into the carburetor moves freely.

“The plunger is about the same diameter as a toothpick. It extends out to shut off fuel to the engine when the key is turned off. When the key is turned to start the engine, a small magnet retracts the plunger to let gas in. If the engine sits for an extended period without being used, gas caramelizes so the plunger gets stuck in the ‘out’ position. The dealer tech says the best way to prevent the

# 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**

“After I bought the Bobcat tractor new in 2014, the dealer had to split it apart because there was a loose bolt inside that was causing it to lose oil. But they did a good job fixing it and it’s been fine since.”

**Robert Fussner, Brookville, Ind.:** “Our L3800 **Kubota** FWA with loader is a great extra set of hands around our farm. I made a bolt-in fork that we use to move brush, carry poles, dig ground, haul manure, carry hog



panels, and so on. When needed, I place a plywood platform over the forks to carry bulk items and use as a scaffold platform when working on buildings. I particularly like the loader’s hydraulic lock-out feature.”

On the negative side, “My **Deere 2950** FWA with cab has a good engine but is an unreliable tractor. The clutch slave cylinder is a continuous problem, as is the mechanical fuel pump. Poor cold weather starting and the cab is cramped.”

**Bruce E. Smith, Covington, Ohio:** “I bought my 1968 **Deere 4020** new after coming home from the Army and over the years it has been a good tractor. I added a cab and larger front and rear tires for better flotation and traction. The engine, transmission and rear end have not been touched.”