

## Farmers Nominate Best & Worst Buys

hydraulic-operated 'thumb' that works great for stacking brush and small trees and for moving logs around my bandsaw mill. The machine is quiet, has a lot of power, and is easy to maintain. It's also fuel efficient."

**Willard M. Stoll, Orrville, Ohio:** "We bought a used Sunflower Land Finisher that leaves a better seedbed than anything else we've tried."

**Fred Wheaton, Montour Falls, N.Y.:** "Last year I bought a used 2002 Ferris zero-turn riding mower at an auction for \$250. It's equipped with a 25 hp. Kawasaki engine and a 61-in. deck. The mower needed a lot of work, as it had sat outside uncovered for 3 years. I replaced all the missing or worn parts with original Ferris parts for about \$1,300. Now the mower works like new and is a super cutting machine. I think it'll last as long as I do."

**Connor Bishop, Guilford, Ct.:** "I like my Mac Robo-Grip pliers. They're similar to channel lock pliers, but are spring-loaded and automatically adjust themselves to whatever size object is being grasped. They're easy to use with one hand, and the jaws never accidentally slip like with standard channel locks. The jaws have nice sharp serrations that grab corners of nuts or round objects such as pipe equally well."

**Rodney Tollefson, Greenbush, Minn.:** "I bought my WoodMaxx 8H 3-pt. mounted, pto-operated wood chipper online at a reasonable price and it was shipped at no charge. I was able to assemble it in a couple of hours using the great instructions that came with it. We use our Deere 3720 44 hp. utility tractor to operate the chipper. It's powered by a pto-driven hydraulic pump and has no trouble handling 6-in. dia. poplar trees, which we use to make 'browse' that we feed to the deer on our deer ranch. They love the chopped leaves, branches and bark. Works great."

**David Christ, Warsaw, N.Y.:** "My 2015 Aqua Therm 275 outdoor wood boiler started leaking water the second winter we used it. I called the company and they wanted me to ship the boiler back to them, but it would have cost me more than \$1,000 for shipping. Finally, after I made numerous phone calls, the company agreed to pay someone to repair it. The company wouldn't guarantee how long before the boiler might start leaking somewhere else, and sure enough a few months later it started leaking again."

**Tom Borer, Clearwater, Neb.:** Tom nominates his 2010 Deere 3038e tractor equipped with a Deere 305 front-end loader as his "best buy". "This tractor is fuel efficient and has been trouble-free. No leaks anywhere. I use the tractor around our farm for mowing, spraying, and moving trees."

"My 2014 Dodge Ram 1500 4-WD Laramie pickup has had numerous company recalls. The air suspension warning light comes on during cold weather, but the dealer says I'll just have to live with it. The rear main oil seal started leaking at about 12,000 miles and had to be replaced. The pickup's heated seats take a long time to warm up, and the cab heater is the worst I've seen. The pickup has just over 17,000 miles on it."

**Robert Plummer, Swanzey, N.H.:** "The turf tires on my 2000 Kioti 4-WD tractor are located so close to the tractor's frame that I can't put chains on them. The company doesn't make spacers, so I made my own by drilling holes into front wheel disc brakes and then bolting them on. They work great."

**Roger Dickman, Monroeville, Ohio:** "After 5 years of perfect service from my 2013 Prius hybrid car, I recently traded for a 2018 Prius 2. The 2013 model was trouble-

free and got about 50 mpg, which I think is great. I expect the new model will perform just as well."

**James E. Coates, Lexington, S.C.:** "This is the first tractor I've ever bought, and it was a retirement gift to myself," says James about his 2017 Deere 1025R. "I use this 23 hp. tractor on my 52-acre property and on 85 acres of hunting land. It's a hard working tractor for its size. I use it a lot to pull a bush hog and a 4-ft. disk. I really enjoy using it."

**William Watner, St. Marys, Kansas:** "In 2014 I bought a used 1995 Dodge Ram 2500 2-WD pickup equipped with a 5.9-liter Cummins diesel engine and 5-speed transmission. It has about 169,000 miles on it but so far has had only minor mechanical problems. The cab interior is in terrible shape as is the paint job, but that's typical of these models."

"I recently purchased a Fluke T5-600 multimeter voltage and current tester ([www.testequipmentdepot.com](http://www.testequipmentdepot.com)). It automatically measures AC and DC volts with precise digital resolution. At about \$100 it wasn't cheap, but it's worth it. A seasoned industrial electrician recommended it."

"In my opinion Victor brand mouse traps are the best on the market."

**My Snap-on heavy-duty combination slip joint pliers are pricey but superior in quality and functionality. They come with diamond-serrated jaws that provide a better grip and grab effectively. A 3-position adjustable joint on the pliers provides a wider jaw spread for tough-to-get-a-hold-of jobs."**

**James L. Osborn, Union Bridge, Md.:** "The 1990 Case IH 8920 tractor I bought used in 1994 now has almost 8,000 hrs. on it. It always starts, runs strong, has plenty of power, and shifts gears easily. The power shift transmission is very responsive. This tractor uses less fuel than I'd expect when performing heavy pto work. If a better tractor was ever made, I'm not aware of it."

"Over the years I've purchased several used New Holland discines and used them a lot on my farm and to do custom work. I'm disappointed with the machines in general and their cutting modules in particular because they had a lot of problems. We got pretty good at replacing parts, but they were overpriced."

**David Veach, Zwingle, Iowa:** "My Makita MM4 string trimmer equipped with a 4-stroke engine starts good and has a unique line wind-up system that I like."

"My Dolmar chainsaw starts good and is a best buy."

**John P. Morgan, Jr., Plymouth, N.H.:** "We use our New Holland TC33D tractor with a backhoe, loader bucket and wood chipper. It has about 1,950 hrs. on it with no problems.

"My Kawasaki Mule 3010 utility vehicle has about 800 trouble-free hrs. on it. We use it a lot during the maple sugar season."

"The crankshaft on our Poulan chainsaw broke, but the company replaced the saw at no cost."

**Dennis Strahle, Eagle, Mich.:** "I've been using Kness mouse traps in our barn for years and find them to be highly effective ([www.kness.com](http://www.kness.com); ph 800 247-5062). These traps last and last. I use peanut butter for the bait."



## He Likes His Clamp Tool

**Roger Podoll, Wautoma, Wis.:** "I use my ClampTite tool all the time. It is the handiest tool I have in my toolbox. I have both large and small sizes. The big one will wrap 10-ga. wire (up to 1/4 in.) around fence posts, while the smaller one can handle wires up to 0.062 in. The company sells multiple models and combination kits."

"The other day I used the small one when a hammer handle cracked. I put 2 strands around it, and it was fine. It is handy for making hinges for small doors on animal cages, too."

"A friend of mine lives in Alaska, and he won't leave the house without his ClampTite tool. His wife flies planes in bush country, and they have used it to repair parts on the plane, fix fishing poles and even fix a kayak paddle when on a river trip."

"The stainless steel wire the company sells is strong enough to be used on aircraft. I buy my stainless wire from aircraft supply houses like Aircraft Spruce & Specialty Co. or Wicks Aircraft Supply. Theirs comes in a round plastic can so you can pull the wire out of the center and tie it off. It comes in various sizes and types, like brass and copper for decorative twists."

"I do mechanical work on aircraft, as well as on ground equipment. I use the ClampTite all the time. The wire doesn't catch on things like clamps do. If you want it even smoother, just slip a heat shrink tape over it or cover it in epoxy."

"It's well made in the U.S., not a cheap import. The quality is top notch. You can get them at many farm shows, as well as from their website, [www.clamtitetools.com](http://www.clamtitetools.com)."



Small size ClampTite is used here to wrap wire around a hammer handle.



ClampTite can also be used to make hose clamps out of wire.

I set the traps against a wall where I suspect mice might be traveling so that even if they don't stop for a snack, they'll still step on the trip pad and get caught.

"I've found it's best to screw the trap to a small board so the mice can't accidentally slide the trap out of sight if they start kicking before they die."

**Levi Schrock, Arthur, Ill.:** "My LockNLube grease gun coupler saves a lot of grease. Like the ad says, the grease goes in the machine, not on the machine."

"I bought a Wand Wizard attachment for pressure washers. It lets you adjust the spray tip on your washer's wand to multiple angles anywhere up to 90 degrees, and then lock it in place. Unfortunately, after only about 20 min. of use the seal blew out. I called the company and they replaced the unit. However, the seal on the replacement failed, too. The idea behind this washer tip is a good one, but it needs a better seal."

**Ken Yurga, Inverness, Fla.:** "My 2017 Ferris zero-turn riding mower equipped with a 61-in. deck is comfortable, cuts great, and is easy to service."

"I find that Porter Cable 20-volt tools work good but their batteries don't last. I had 2 batteries go bad - one of them lasted less than a year."

**Steven O. Hart, Marietta, Ohio:** "In 2010 I purchased several Milwaukee cordless tools which have been nothing but reliable. I've accidentally dropped my 1/4-in. drive impact wrench and 1/2-in. VSR drill numerous times from various heights, but the tools still never miss a lick. The impact wrench has almost made my air impact wrench obsolete. I'm a contractor and use these tools constantly. All the batteries for these tools still charge up like new and will hold a full charge for months when not in use."

"A friend of mine recently used my drill

and got it so hot that he couldn't touch it with his bare hands (he had gloves on). However, as soon as the tool cooled off it was up and running again without missing a beat."

**Tommy Bunch, Luttrell, Tenn.:** Tommy likes Pat's Easy Change 3-pt. hitch system. "The older I get, the more likely I am to spend money to make life easier. This system makes hooking up to heavy equipment easy."

"I'm a big fan of Ryobi 18-volt cordless tools. I own the company's drills, impact drivers, saws, and a blower. They all use the same batteries and work flawlessly."

**Carl Zismer, Maquoketa, Iowa:** "Our 2008 Sunco residue manager planter attachments have more than 20,000 acres on them ([www.suncomarketing.com](http://www.suncomarketing.com)). We've tried many other brands, but these units are the most trouble-free."

**Charlie Huegel, Venus, Penn.:** "I have 4 to 5 miles of fence to maintain, so I thought a DR 3-pt. mounted trimmer mower would be worth buying. However, the trimmer's plastic strings either wore out or broke within 200 ft. of use, and the trimmer didn't adapt well to my Ford tractor's 3-pt. hitch."

**David Lees, Alexandria, Ohio:** "My 2007 Case 125 Maxxum tractor has a serious design problem. To repair damage caused by the air conditioner's drain hose, the tractor's fuel tank, rear wheel and cab all had to be removed. It resulted in a \$3,000 repair bill."

**Marvin Schweim, Mankato, Minn.:** "My Pursuit Mobility electric scooter really helps me get around our farm ([www.pridemobility.com](http://www.pridemobility.com)). It rides on 4 large wheels and has a comfortable seat. It also has good lights and turn signals, and an electronic red light on back which helps when slowing down. Top speed is 8 mph. This is the third Pursuit Mobility scooter I've owned, and the best one yet."