

Farmers Nominate Best & Worst Buys

equipped with a mower deck. I've replaced a belt and a set of blades, and one time the pt relay broke down. Otherwise, no problems. It still has the original battery."

Steve Day, Gibson City, Ill.: Steve's impressed with his 1995 F.B.I. building. "It's a great building and the company has provided excellent service on the few problems I've had. I'd recommend this company to anyone. The only negative is the building's 20-ft. wide, 14-ft. high door Raynor tri-core door. The door's rollers went bad so I called the company and they replaced them. When the same problem happened again the company replaced them once more. In addition, the door panels were holding water which leaked out. The door is supposed to come with a lifetime guarantee but it has problems."

Bruce Stauffer, Continental, Ohio: "My 1981 Case 2390 tractor has more than 6,500 hours on it and is my best buy. It hasn't required any engine work and still pulls more than its rated horsepower."

Coy R. Prokup, Porum, Okla.: "Our 1993 Dodge 3/4-ton pickup equipped with a Cummins diesel engine is our best buy. It has more than 230,000 miles on it and is still going strong. The only repair it has required was to an odometer sensor. I wish all pickups were made like this one. The new ones that are made in Mexico have trouble with sealed U-joints, grease seals and clutch."

"I've worn Mason steel-toe shoes for several years and always considered them to be a great value. Not any more. The tongue was defective on one of the last two pairs I bought. The leather literally disintegrated. The company said the problem didn't happen within 30 days of the purchase and therefore they weren't responsible. Because of their greed they've lost a customer."

Erik V. Helleskov, Stephentown, N.Y.: Erik says Trojan plastic cattle water bowls are his "best buy". "I was reluctant to buy anything made of plastic for use in my dairy barn, but most cast iron waterers cost twice as much as this one so I made the purchase. These water bowls have stood up extremely well, even though cows routinely scratch themselves on them."

Bill Griffin, North Garden, Va.: "I'm impressed with my Deere AMT 600 utility vehicle which I bought used. It's one of the company's earliest models and has a motorcycle front end. This machine has performed beyond my expectations in every

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way and has required no major repairs. I use it for hauling hay, wood, dirt, manure, rocks, and to tow my log splitter and a small trailer. It goes through mud and climbs hills with no problems. I like that it fits in the back of my pickup.

On the "worst buy" side, he lists Sears Craftsman tools. "They break easily. Here's what happened to the tools I own. Open end wrenches spread open, rounding off the bolt head. The ends broke off screwdrivers. Sockets split. The end broke off my breaker bar. The pliers are too sloppy to get a good grip. I plan to buy Snap-On tools from now on."

Stephen Carpenter, Somerset, Ohio: "I

bought a 1999 Deere 1560 15-ft. used grain drill last year, and it's my best buy. It gave me a perfect stand, even in mud. It's absolutely the best drill I've ever owned."

Cloy Child, Roy, Utah: "I like my Lincoln wire-feed welder. I use it with a 60-ft. long extension cord and can carry it anywhere in my shop and plug it in. It'll weld any metal from thin to 3/4-in. thick. It's a sweet piece of shop equipment. I use the inner shield welding wire with it."

John Stonestreet, Kismet, Kansas: John's impressed with Montezuma CPL toolboxes (Montezuma Welding & Mfg., Inc., 29502 12 Rd., Montezuma, Kansas 67867 ph 800 759-5157). "Although these toolboxes cost more than they did in the past, I still think they're a great value. They save a lot of time because I don't have to dig through everything looking for what I need. I can see at a glance if anything is missing. Everything is kept in place with the lid closed and locked. "My 1988 Peterbilt 377 semi tractor has more than a million miles on it and is a best buy. It's easy to see why Peterbilts hold their resale value better than most other semi tractor brands."

"I bought a Chevrolet 350 cu. in. engine to pump well water for irrigation and it's my worst buy. The engine is supposed to have a 6-month warranty. It used too much oil so I took it back to the dealer. He claimed he couldn't find anything wrong with it and said we just needed to work it harder. We put it on a bigger well and it used only half as much oil as before. However, for a new engine it still uses too much oil."

Hart den Hoed, Jr., Quapaw, Okla.: "My 2000 Pohlen 'Wild Thing' 18-in. chain saw is my best buy. I haven't had any problems with the chain saw itself. However, I bought it at Wal-Mart and if I need parts or service, forget it."

Jeff Shronce, Granite Falls, N.C.: "It is just me, or are the big companies getting cheaper and harder to deal with? A month ago I picked up four brochures on 8-ft. scraper blades. After studying the specs, I chose a 70-08 Bush Hog blade because of its weight. I ordered one from a dealer I've done business with for the past 15 years. I picked it up two weeks later. When I got home and read the owner's manual I found that it weighed only 570 lbs. instead of 710 lbs. as advertised in the company's brochure. I called the company and they said the brochure had a typographical error and that they offer a heavier blade that weighs 30 lbs. more than the one I had. However, I would've had to pay \$450 more to get it."

"I called my dealer and he said the fair thing to do was for me to pay half of that extra cost and he would see if the company would help out with the rest. The company's reply was, 'If you don't like it, bring it back'. I've learned my lesson with Bush Hog. They're expecting their good name to carry them through, but don't expect them to be there to back up their product. I now understand why they have 'Specifications subject to change without notice' under each specification chart on each page. Now I'm ashamed to even own a Bush Hog product, including my ATH-600 grooming mower and 287 Bush Hog."

Edgar R. Rutledge, Oakland City, Ind.: "My Sears Craftsman 15 hp riding mower is a hydrostatic drive model equipped with a 42-in. deck. After two years of use the lifter that engages the blades caused me some



Pinkerton turned his "worst buy" splitter into a "best buy".

"Overhauled" Log Splitter

"A number of years ago I bought a big log splitter from Northern Hydraulics. However, it didn't take long before I started having problems with it. So I overhauled the machine and made improvements to it. Now I have a splitter that works better than anything on the market," says Elmer Pinkerton, Elmwood, Neb.

One problem with the splitter was that the oil tank was glued on and often came loose due to road vibrations. Pinkerton reattached the tank and extended the oil filler neck to keep oil from spilling out whenever he towed the splitter on rough roads. Also, whenever he wanted to use the splitter, he had to unhook it from the pickup in order to keep the split logs from ramming into the bumper. To solve the problem he replaced the original tongue with a home-built telescoping one. "The tongue has stops on it so I can adjust it for length by simply inserting a pin through a hole," says Pinkerton.

trouble and was repaired by the company. Apparently there was a design fault."

Joe Wasson, Long Grove, Iowa: Joe's impressed with his 1999 Kent 28-ft. Disc-O-Vator. "If there's a better spring tillage tool I have yet to find it. The hydraulically-adjustable disk gangs go right through standing corn stalks. This tillage tool works much better than the Deere 980 field cultivator we had been using. It's a perfect match for our Deere 8100 MFWD tractor."

David Ruark, Pomeroy, Wash.: "I nominate my Lincoln 12-volt electric grease gun as my worst buy. I've always thought of Lincoln as a company that produces a high-quality product, but this grease gun is not just bad, it's really bad. The gun's original hose went bad and was replaced by the company. Then the trigger stuck and we had to pry it out in order to get the unit to shut off. We took the grease gun to a service center for repair, but they didn't fix the problem at all. Now the product is old enough that the company won't back it. I suggest others look long and hard before they buy one of these."

Larry Dennis, Yuma, Colo.: A 1999 Lincoln Weld-Pak 100 rates as Larry's "best buy". "I have older equipment and use this welder to fix things up. I've already run about 20 lbs. of welding wire through it. It'll weld everything from tin through 1/4-in. thick steel with no problems. I recently used this welder to build new grain sides on my 2-ton truck which is equipped with a 16-ft. box. I'd

But the biggest change was to add another hydraulic control and to weld a homemade boom onto the back part of the splitter. The boom is designed to automatically lift the log up onto the splitter table. It completely eliminates manual lifting.

"The boom is made from 4-in. dia. pipe and is raised or lowered by a hydraulic cylinder that operates off the splitter's original motor," says Pinkerton. "I added a hand-operated winch (not shown) on back of the boom. The winch is used to take up any slack in the cable before the boom pulls the log up to the splitter table. By tying a snatch block to the table, I can pull in big logs from quite a distance without having to do any lifting. I haven't found a log yet that was too big for me to handle."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Elmer M. Pinkerton, 305 West D Street, Elmwood, Neb. 68349 (ph 402 994-5885).

recommend this welder to anyone."

Red Brend, Tupelo, Okla.: "My 2001 Hobart Handler 15 Mig welder is my best buy. It's easy to use, especially for someone without a lot of experience. It works great on light material. Overall it performs beautifully and comes with an excellent instruction booklet. I've never had a single problem with it. It runs equally well on electrical power or on my 6,000-watt generator."

R. Kevon Stockwell, Jeffersonville, Ohio: "We're happy with our 1995 Grasshopper zero turn mower. It's equipped with a 20 hp Kohler gas engine and a 61-in. deck. It's one of three mowers that we own. The other two are a Deere 110 and a Deere 318 equipped with power steering and a 50-in. deck. The Grasshopper has been virtually maintenance-free with the exception of two new sets of blades, which cost \$39 per set. My 12-year-old son learned how to mow on the Deere 318, but ever since I taught him how to operate the Grasshopper he hates going back to the Deere."

Francis Baker, Sylvania, Ohio: "I'm well pleased with my 2000 Dodge 2500 4-WD pickup equipped with a Cummins 5.9-liter diesel engine."

John Philipation, Onanole, Manitoba: "My Harris propane and natural gas cutting torch is economical to use, cuts clean, is easy to light and doesn't blow out. It can be used

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