

Farmers Nominate Best & Worst Buys

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on an acre of grass that is neither smooth nor level and has a lot of unkept edges. This 3-wheel mower turns on a dime. That makes it easy to trim all edges of the lawn and eliminates the need for a push mower to finish the job. Repairs have been few and far between and relatively inexpensive."

Dan Dolence, Grey Eagle, Minn.: "Our 2001 **Polaris** Ranger 4-wheeler is handy to use around the farm for fixing fence, hauling feed, checking cattle, and hauling calves. We also use it for hunting and going on pleasure rides. It has great safety features like seat belts and rollover protection."

Robert Dunn, Hillsdale, Wyo.: Robert's pleased with his 2000 **Ford** F-250 Super Duty pickup equipped with a 5.4-liter, V-8 gas engine and 5-speed transmission. "I haven't had any problems at all with it. It has more than 70,000 miles on it and has required only regular oil changes and tire rotations. I installed a fifth wheel hitch in the bed."

Reinhold Schiel, Kankakee, Ill.: Reinhold likes his 2000 **Black & Decker** cordless power sprayer equipped with a 3-gal. tank. "I use it to spray insecticide, herbicide, fertilizer, and sealant. It works good. No problems."

Denise Thomson, Napa, Calif.: "Our 2001 **Bush Hog** 48-in. mower is our worst buy. We bought to pull behind our 4-wheeler and mow between rows of grapes in our vineyard. At first I was happy to have this narrow little mower and was told that it would be lightweight enough that I could easily hook it up to the ATV by myself. However, the first time I used it the hook-up cables snapped off. It took more than a half hour to hook it back up just so I could take it back to the house. After that one of the wheels fell off, and then an axle broke. My husband had to modify the mower in order to make it stronger and easier to operate."

Harold Prechel, Marshfield, Wis.: "My 2000 **Chevrolet** Silverado pickup rides quiet and is a pleasure to drive."

Mark Heesch, Rosemount, Minn.: Mark's the owner of a 1962 **Oliver** 1800 tractor equipped with a diesel engine and 3-pt. hitch. He says it's his "best buy". The entire tractor has been rebuilt and restored from the ground up. My total investment was only about \$7,000. No matter what task I use this tractor for, it exceeds my expectations. It's equipped with fluid-filled tires and fender-mounted fuel tanks. Once the fuel tanks are topped off, this tractor has



unlimited traction, which is handy when pulling my home-built 10 ft. box scraper.

"My 1987 **Snapper** riding mower with a 42-in. deck and rear-mount engine is my worst buy. I use it on our 2-acre lawn. Every other time I use it something seems to go wrong. I've had problems with the fuel line plugging up, the belt jumping off a pulley, a blade disengaging, and one time a tire came completely off the wheel rim. It has also had electrical problems."

Bernard Taylor, Gandeeville, W. Va.: "My 1962 **Massey Ferguson** 35 tractor, which I bought used several years ago, is a best buy. I wanted to use the 3-pt. to operate a rear-mount scoop, so I replaced the mechanical top link with a hydraulic top cylinder that lets me use the 3-pt. like a front-



end loader. The cylinder is operated by a double spool valve that I bolted to the tractor's main housing, just ahead of the tractor seat.

"I use the 3-pt. scoop to haul gravel and dirt and dig out rocks. It's a lot easier to hook up than a front-end loader, and it's not as hard on the tractor's front axle or steering system. **Massey Ferguson** offered a double spool valve on this tractor when it first came out but then discontinued it. I bought the cylinder and valve used from a local tractor dealer. The valve has two handles - one to tilt the cylinder up and one to tilt it down."

John Strockoz, Little Marsh, Penn.: "My best buy ever is a **Krone** 3-pt. spinner rake. It's equipped with tandem wheels that ride over the fields quietly, and because it's 3-pt. mounted I can quickly move the rake from field to field. Last year I bought a **Krone** 3-pt. disc mower equipped with finger crushers, which I also like. I had been using New



Holland mowers for a long time and didn't realize there was a better brand on the market.

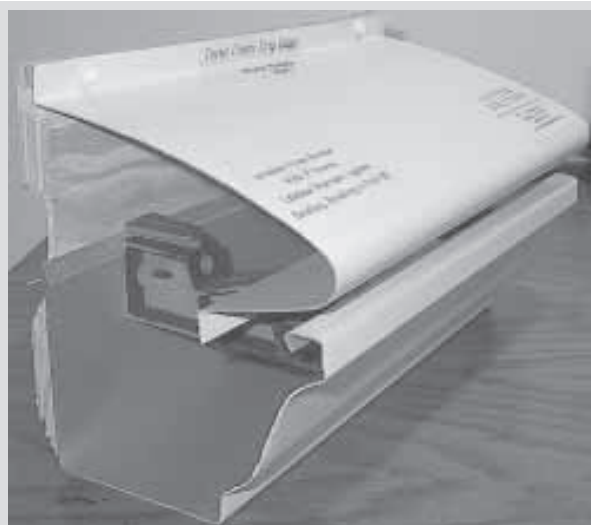
"I recently purchased my second **Deere** 6210 tractor and really like it. Both 6210's have been trouble-free."

Aaron Bower, Danville, Penn.: "My 2001 **DeWalt** 12-volt cordless drill has a lot of power and is my best buy. I've used other cordless drills before, but none of them had as much power as this one."

Pete Hinson, Foley, Ala.: Pete says his 2001 **Kubota** riding mower equipped with a diesel engine is his "best buy". "We use it to cut about six acres of grass. It's really fuel efficient - we can make several cuttings on a tank of fuel. It has an adjustable seat and adjustable steering, and the operator can change gears without having to stop. It works great. No problems."

"Our 2000 **Sears** 19 hp riding mower is our worst buy. We're glad we signed up for the extended warranty because repair men have had to come out to our place 12 or 13 times. None of the problems have been major, but they're all aggravating. The warranty ended on July 16, and of course the next day we couldn't get the mower to start."

Darrell Bohnert, Jewell, Kansas: "It cuts the grass very evenly and turns short so it has great maneuverability," says Darrell, pleased with his 2001 **Deere** 425 lawn and



Gutter hoods can be fitted to existing gutters. They're held in place by special brackets.

"No Clog" Gutter Hood System

"I spent more than six years perfecting this system and it's better than anything on the market," says Paul Zondlak, Midland, Mich., about his "No Clog" gutter hood system that fits any type of metal gutter on the market.

Zondlak contacted FARM SHOW because he thinks his system is a great money-making opportunity for farmers looking to get into a sideline business. "We went national with our machine and bracket system last year and since that time we have signed up several farmers who have set up their own successful businesses. It goes well with farming because you can work on gutter business when farming is slow. And farmers are generally handy so they quickly learn how to handle the equipment."

There are many gutter covers on the market designed to keep leaves and other debris out. What makes Zondlak's system different is that he makes gutter hoods out of standard gutter material so you don't need special steel. And his machine is low-cost,

compared to other specialty machines. You can buy a new one for \$4,500.

"We make hoods for half the cost of our competitors and they fit better and will stay looking good longer," says Zondlak. "From a business point of view, this system gives you a much bigger market than other covered gutter systems because you can make gutter hoods to fit existing gutters or just make conventional gutters, or you can do both. You're not limited."

Zondlak says the business is easy to learn. He sells the equipment for both the trough and hood and also provides the special brackets needed to attach the hood. Those brackets are the key to the system. There are no franchise or other fees to pay.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Paul Zondlak, Solution Company, Inc., 3577 N. Eastman Rd., Midland, Mich. 48642 (ph 800 727-2747 or 989 839-4203; Website: www.buildingsolution.com).

FARM SHOW's "Best Buy" Gutters

FARM SHOW bought Leafguard gutters for our office building three years ago (www.leafguard.com or 800 532-3482). The one-piece seamless gutters are formed on site. Our old gutters were worn out so we had them ripped off and replaced. Leafguard gutters have performed flawlessly, keeping the gutters clean of the leaves and seeds dropped by several huge silver maples trees that tower over our headquarters. Leaves wash over the top of the gutters and fall to the ground while water follows the curved top, flowing into the gutters. After many years of having to



clean out gutters by hand twice a year, we couldn't be more pleased. The cost was about 30% more than conventional gutters. **Mark Newhall, Editor & Publisher, FARM SHOW.**

garden tractor."

Robert Johnson, Irvington, Ky.: "I'm happy with my **Remington** Powerlite chain saw which I bought new in 1993 for \$40. I used it right up until last year and it never failed to start. It was loud, but hands down it was the best saw I've ever owned."

On the "worst buy" side, he lists his 1998 **Chevrolet** K1500 4-WD pickup. "During the first 12,000 miles the EGR valve went out, a seat latch broke, and the anti-lock brake sensor fried. Before the pickup even had 36,000 miles on it the seals went out of the

rear end, saturating the rear brake shoes. The dealer installed new seals, but when I got it back there was no oil in it. At 39,000 miles the U-joints went out because they didn't put any grease in the cups at the factory. At 43,000 miles the second EGR valve went out. When the third EGR valve went out at 64,000 miles, I installed a stainless steel gasket between the valve and intake. The pickup now has about 80,000 miles on it and is still going. I've got my fingers crossed hoping that nothing more will go wrong."