

Farmers Nominate Best & Worst Buys

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baat that I had been using. The rats only seemed to get fat on it.”

Carl Kappedal, Fosston, Minn.: Carl’s impressed with his 2012 **Deere** 5045D tractor equipped with a **Deere** 512 front-end loader. “I use this tractor all year long, with a snowblower in the winter and to do mowing, grading and other jobs the rest of the year. It’s a great tractor. All the controls are conveniently located, and the 3-cyl., 45 hp. diesel engine has plenty of power and is fuel efficient. It’s a basic tractor with no computer junk.”

Arlan Yarrow, Sioux Falls, S. Dak.: “We’ve discovered a way to run our 1994 **Dodge** diesel pickup for only about 35 cents a gallon. We just mix 8 gal. of used motor oil with 2 gal. of gas. We first run the used motor

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oil through 3 filters to clean it. The pickup gets about 18 mpg with this mixture and also has extra power. We’ve been doing this for 4 years. The pickup now has about 260,000 miles on it and is still going strong.”

Sharon Schutt, Cleveland, Ga.: “I raise donkeys and, because I’m 73 years old, I have some issues getting around in my fields. I don’t know what I’d do without my dependable **Kawasaki** Mule 610 utility vehicle. It never lets me down and gets me wherever I need to go, with ample room for feed and supplies. I love it.

“I’ve had problems with my **Mighty Mule** 350 gate opener. The motherboard on it kept malfunctioning and parts stopped working, so now the gate won’t open even though I’ve replaced the battery, solar panels, and control board. I disconnected the opener and now have to open the gate by hand. It’s a very heavy gate for me to handle. I wouldn’t recommend this product to anyone. Help!”

Bill Medlin, Shingletown, Calif.: “My 2006 **Deere** 110 backhoe works exceptionally well and does everything I want it to.

“Six months after I bought my **Sears Craftsman** 2000 LT lawn tractor it started shutting off for no reason. A Sears rep came out to look at it 6 different times, and finally 1 1/2 years later it was repaired.”

Marlin Mullins, Terry, Miss.: “I’m happy with my **Land Pride** loader-mounted post hole digger. Using a loader to push the auger down in hard ground allows you to easily reverse the auger if it gets hung up on tree roots. Also, you get a much better view of the auger.”

John L. Kennedy, Seligman, Arizona: “I’ve already used my 2014 **Jonsered** 2255 chainsaw to cut about 2 cords of firewood. The primer bulb and compression release makes it easy to start. It also cuts good. Some of the wood that I cut is full of dirt and rat nests, which is hard on saws. My old **Jonsered** lasted for about 15 years, and I hope this one does, too.”

Alvin Yoder, Lamar, Mo.: “We like the **O’Briens** 3:1 geared poly wire electric fence reels we use to roll up temporary fencing (ph 800 536-2683; www.kencove.com). We use these reels almost every day in our intensive grazing system. They’re durable, well-balanced and save us a lot of time and fatigue.”

Larry Bultman, Okawville, Ill.: “I use my **E-Z Go** electric golf cart all around our farm to get mail, haul tools, and check fields, etc. It’s a really handy vehicle for senior citizens. “I use a bedroom baby monitor in the

entrance door to my shop, which I never lock. The monitor lets me watch anyone entering the shop right from the kitchen in my house. It works great. The same monitor can be used for other jobs such as observing fuel barrels and keeping an eye on varmints such as skunks, opossums and raccoons.”

Byron Clayton, Van Wert, Ohio: “It does a superior job of mowing,” says Byron about his 2012 **Deere** X345 all-wheel-steer 48-in. riding mower. “My wife loves it and now does almost all the mowing on our 3 acres.”

Kenny Jefferson, Burlington, N.C.: “Two years ago I bought a used **Farni** 3-pt. mounted winch that runs off a tractor’s pto. This winch has more pulling power than my Ford 3000 tractor can handle, so I’m sure it would work even better on a bigger tractor. I use it to pull firewood out of hills and gullies where a tractor can’t go. I’ve also used it to pull out stuck tractors that a big tractor can’t reach. The winch has about 150 ft. of cable on it and really comes in handy when I need it.”

Phillip Krywosa, Boonville, Nevada: “My **Harbor Freight** sliding chop saw sat on our porch for 3 years exposed to rain and snow, but it still runs good and cuts accurately.”

On the negative side, “I had to replace 4 front wheel bearings on my 2007 **Chevrolet** truck with less than 50,000 miles on it. The ball bearings they use don’t last, and at \$150 per bearing it gets expensive.”

David Houle, New London, Wis.: “My 1997 **Toyota** Camry has more than 290,000 miles on it, yet it still doesn’t burn any oil and gets 33 mpg. And I still have a quiet, rattle-free car. I’d travel anywhere with it.

“My 1974 **Dodge** D200 pickup equipped with a 318 cu. in. engine and automatic transmission always starts and has never failed me. It’s a great pickup.”

Ron Reeves, Port Charlotte, Fla.: “I’ve wanted a good woodworker’s bench for a long time, but couldn’t justify spending \$500 to \$900 for one. **Harbor Freight** has a 60-in. hardwood bench equipped with 4 drawers and a bench vise on one end that sold for \$139. I thought I’d give it a try and it’s great. I did add a brace under the bottom shelf and installed another vise at the other end of the bench.

“This is a pretty heavy bench, so in order to move it around my shop I made a pair of ‘roller skates’ for the bench’s feet by making a box that fits each foot and mounting 2 locking caster wheels on each box. The boxes slip over the feet and are held on by one bolt. I can roll the unit anywhere. I now have a sturdy bench for less than half the cost of the ones advertised in woodworking catalogs.”

Denny Overcast, Chinook, Mont.: “My **Lincoln** 12-volt grease gun has good pressure and long-lasting charges, and I like the no hassle refill system.

“My new **La Crosse** indoor-outdoor digital thermometer shows inaccurate outdoor temperatures. We have an old-fashioned outdoor thermometer we’ve used for 60 years that’s more accurate. I think I’ve discovered the reason for global warming – digital thermometers.”

Neil L. Dunagan, Spokane Valley, Wash.: “I like my 2004 **Dodge** D-3500 pickup equipped with a Cummins diesel engine and automatic transmission. Over the years I’ve owned 6 different Dodge pickups, with the last 2 being 2000 and 2004 diesel-powered models. They ride good, even when pulling trailers with gross weights up to 28,600 lbs. They’re also fairly fuel-efficient.

“One time I was driving the 2004 model on a narrow 2-lane road with no shoulder, on a curve above a gully, when the serpentine belt broke due to a seized idler bearing. I had no power steering or brakes and went down

into the gully at 30 mph. I think all those engine components should be gear-driven instead of belt-driven.”

Barry Williams, Humboldt, Ill.: “We like our **Dyson** 41 ‘animal’ vacuum cleaner. It has plenty of suction for picking up all kinds of pet hair, and maneuvers as well as advertised. The vacuum came with a 5-year guarantee, which came in handy when a plastic piece broke. The dealer arranged to have the vacuum picked up and returned to me in 7 days, at no cost. I’ll buy another **Dyson** if this one ever wears out.”

Keith Greenup, Rochester, N.Y.: “My 2006 **Chevrolet** Silverado 3500 dually pickup equipped with a diesel engine needed some repair work at about 91,000 miles, but otherwise has been reliable. My dad and I drove a 1982 **Chevrolet** LUV pickup equipped with an Isuzu diesel engine. It had few problems and averaged more than 30 mpg. It was a great little pickup.”

Allen Hunter, Torrington, Wyo.: “Twelve years ago we purchased an embroidery business with 5 large 300-lb. machines that cost about \$20,000 apiece. The machines have many working parts. The first 5 years we used the factory-recommended machine oil, but the machines ran slow and frequently broke down. With tech service 3 hours away it took an entire day and sometimes 2 to get them fixed, and we were spending thousands of dollars a year.

“Hearing about the problem, my dad recommended I try using **G96** gun spray lubricant (ph 973 684-4050; www.g96.com). He has used this lubricant for years, not only on his expensive gun collection but also in his automotive restoration business. He says it’s a pure and powerful lubricant that works better than harsh solvents, which can damage non-metal parts.

“So 5 years ago I started using **G96**. My machines now run 30 percent faster, and we’ve only seen the service tech once during that time.”

Jes Olson, Connor Twp., Maine: Jes is the satisfied owner of a 1989 **Massey Ferguson** 1020 4-WD diesel tractor equipped with a hydrostatic transmission, pto, and front-end loader. “I use this tractor to do landscaping work and to make my property much more friendly to mowing, planting, and control of surface water runoff. It runs great and is reliable.”

Floyd Rutherford, Belfry, Ky.: “A few years ago we bought a **New Holland** 35 hp. tractor. Lately we’ve added various attachments including a tiller, bush hog, and post hole auger and they all work perfect.”

George Barce, Rollings, Mont.: “I’ve had good luck with a bear-resistant, 95-gal. garbage can made by **Kodiak Products** that’s



designed to secure garbage from wildlife (ph 928 636-9298; www.kodiak-products.com).

It’s built strong enough to resist the force and weight of a grizzly bear. It’s designed for pickup by automated grabber-style garbage trucks, so workers can empty it without having to leave the vehicle. When the truck grabs the container it unlatches a couple of paddles to free up the lid. After the truck empties the container and sets it back down, the lid automatically relatches.”

Vernon Byler, Whiteville, Tenn.: Vernon nominates his 2002 **Chevrolet** 1500 2-WD pickup as his “best buy”. “It had about 6,000 miles when I bought it and now has more than 380,000 miles. It has required only routine maintenance and still doesn’t use any oil. I’m hoping to get 500,000 miles out of this Old Faithful.”

Daniel Farrand, Long Valley, N.J.: “My worst buy is any 3/4-ton pickup built since 2000. When did auto makers decide to make everything a monster truck? I’m 5 ft. 10 in. tall and the sides on most pickup beds are at shoulder height so I can’t even pick up a hammer on the bed floor. Steps are needed to get into the cab and that gets old after a day spent climbing in and out. I’m totally frustrated. My 2000 **GM** 2500 pickup is wearing out and I want to buy a new one. However, nothing on the market meets my needs.”

Peter Klees, Burlington, Iowa: “My **Case IH** 1688 combine has a lot of capacity and doesn’t have as many electronics as newer models to cause problems.”

On the other hand, he’s had problems with his **AGCO Massey Ferguson** tractors. “We met with the company’s district rep to tell him about the 27 things that were wrong with our 2625 model. We finally traded it for a 2660, which we later traded for a new **Farmall** 95. The 2660 was absolutely dependable and broke down almost every time we tried to use it. Fortunately, the **Farmall** works 100 percent better, but it lacks the quality of **Farmalls** built in the 1960’s and 1970’s.”

John Otts, Canastota, N.Y.: “We own several different **Stihl** chainsaw models, from the 023 to an old 090, and they always start and are ready to go to work. They’re kind of like the Mack truck of saws. The 090 is a 1965 model – a working life of 49 years isn’t too shabby.”

Gary Miller, Perrysville, Ohio: “It’s the nicest handling pickup I’ve ever owned,” says Gary about his 2012 **Ford** F-350 1-ton model. “This pickup is an animal for power and can pull an 8 to 10-ton load on my 9,000-lb., 24-ft. gooseneck trailer. It also has a tight turning radius and a tough 6-speed transmission. I installed a 9-ft. 4-in. **Eby** aluminum dump bed on the chassis and love it (ph 800 292-4752; www.mheby.com).”

Jayke Yahnl, Loudon, Tenn.: “I’ve worn my **Georgia Boot** Mud Dogs for more than a year and they’ve held up good so far (ph 866 442-4908; www.georgiaboot.com).

“On the negative side, my **Hi-Tec** hiking boots started coming apart at the seams less than a month after I bought them, and my **Carhartt** work boots started coming apart within 3 months.”

Cameron Messinger, Hummelstown, Penn.: Cameron likes **Star Brite** Star Tron enzyme gasoline fuel treatment (ph 954 587-6280; www.mystarfuel.com/startron/). “This product is unbelievable. My grandpa had a 1990’s Ford pickup that wouldn’t start due to fuel problems. He put **Star Tron** in it, and the next day it fired right up. Our neighbor had a practically brand new sidewalk edger that wouldn’t start until I put some **Star Tron** in it. It’s an awesome product that really works.”

He also likes his 1986 **Sears Craftsman** II lawn tractor equipped with an 11 hp. Briggs & Stratton engine and a 40-in. deck. “I was given this tractor about 2 years ago