

BUYING TIPS YOU CAN USE

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

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Tony Berry, Olmstead, Ky.: Tony’s disappointed with his 2009 **New Holland** 7090 round baler. “We used this machine to make about 200 bales before the belts on the outer sides of the baler started flipping over, and it was difficult to turn them back over into their normal position. To prevent the problem, we had to slow down our ground speed and move from side to side as fast as we could in order to keep the belts from flipping over. “Later on we were told the outside belts had stretched more than the inside belts, which caused the slip clutch to slip when baling somewhat moist hay. When that happened we had to dump the bale even though it wasn’t tied. After two years I finally traded for a **Deere** 568 baler and am well satisfied with it.”

Robert Thompson, Tonasket, Wash.: “My 1995 **Kubota** L35 equipped with a loader and backhoe has been almost trouble-free and is extremely maneuverable. It’s rated at 35 hp but does the work of a much bigger machine.”

Dale Kreitzer, Cresco, Iowa: “I’ve found that **Voltman Batteries** does an excellent job of rebuilding power tool battery packs (ph 877 816-7728; www.voltmanbatteries.com).

Ernest F. Gribi, Mineral City, Ohio: “In December 2011 I bought a used 2008 **Toyota** 4-WD, 4-door CrewMax pickup with about 71,000 miles. It handles and rides nice and is quieter than a car. I’ve owned several American-made pickups in the past, and there’s no comparison. This pickup is well built and sturdy. It’s rated as a 1/2-ton pickup but has some of the same specifications found on American-made, 3/4-ton models.”



Jim Cook, Zearing, Iowa: Jim’s vintage 8300 **Deere** grain drill still gets the job done on his Iowa farm. He made a couple improvements to improve performance. “I added a large hydraulic cylinder to improve depth control. It mounts between the tongue and a bracket on the front of the drill so we can apply extra down pressure. I also mounted a hitch stand on the tongue to make it easier to hitch and unhitch.”



“We often use this drill to overseed or fertilize alfalfa fields. When we do, we pull three harrow sections behind it to work the seed or fertilizer into the ground. Works great.”

James Logsdon, Mount Sterling, Ill.: “I recently bought an inverted skidsteer log splitter from **Split-Fire**, and I was so impressed that I ordered a self-contained unit as well as a 3-pt. mounted model, and then became a dealer (ph 877 548-3473; www.split-fire.com). These machines come with a 2-way splitting system that splits on both the forward and reverse stroke. It greatly reduces the amount of time you spend splitting wood.

“These splitters offer unrivaled safety due to a ‘log stop’ that prevents the wood from flying out. They have a low friction slider system that’s self-lubricating and highly resistant to abrasion along all four sides. Many useful options are available, such as log lifters that lift the wood up from the ground to the splitting bed; extended stroke lengths of 24, 30, 36 or 48 in.; and an extended splitting knife that adds 3 in. to knife height. These splitters are used quite often by rental companies because of their safety features and long life.”

Jim Cuddeback, Washington, Iowa: “I continue to find new uses around the farm for our 2011 **Deere** Gator 825i utility vehicle. I built a 10-ft. spray boom for it that mounts on the rear bumper and mounted a 65-gal. barrel in the bed. I use the boom to spray weeds along fence rows and field edges, and also to spray weeds in my CRP acreage.”

Melvin Braun, Mooresburg, Tenn.: “My 1998 **Valtra** Velmet 70 hp, 4-WD turbocharged tractor and 2006 **Kioti** CK30 30 hp, 4-WD tractor both work great. For years I had an old **Deere** 430 2-cyl. tractor and I loved it, but then the pto on it broke while I was bush hogging. I traded the tractor in after looking for parts for almost two years without success. The tractor itself still ran good.”

Jim Bartels, Rochester, Minn.: “We purchased **CinchChix** nets that fit over round hay bales, allowing us to ‘slow feed’ our horses. Instead of feeding the horses twice a day, now we can just set a bale out every 10 days (ph 651 277-2449; www.cinchchix.com).”

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:
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com). I sent in two 19.2-volt Sears Craftsman batteries for rebuilding, and they work great. The company has a quick turn-around time. The cost was not much less than buying new battery packs, but at least the batteries aren’t going into the landfill.”

L. Don Shumaker, Richfield, Ohio: “My **Paslode** cordless framing nail gun is one of the best tools I own (ph 800 222-6990; www.paslode.com). I’ve used it to help construct small buildings and to repair wooden horse fences. It speeds up the building process and is a tough, reliable tool. It’s more versatile than air compressor-powered nailers.”

Jake Wakefield, DeSoto, Iowa: “My **Cleary** building is a best buy (ph 800 373-5550; www.clearybuilding.com). I get a lot of use out of this building and use it for woodworking, welding, painting and horseshoeing, and also to restore antique trucks. I even have a ‘hideout’ area inside the building that’s heated with a wood stove. It’s a well constructed, sturdy building. One of my favorite things about it is that the trusses are ‘saddled’ in triple 2 by 6 columns, which results in extra space for overhead storage.

“I couldn’t be happier with my **Kubota** 3130 loader tractor. I bought it after reading a “best buy” report in FARM SHOW. This tractor does everything I want it to. It runs great and always starts in cold weather.”

Michael C. Burns, Glen, Miss.: “Four years ago I bought a **TroyBilt** pole chainsaw attachment at Lowe’s for \$100. If I want I can use this attachment with different weedeater brands. It cuts through big branches as well as small ones. That makes it easy to cut field edges and yard trees without having to use a ladder and chainsaw, which takes longer and isn’t as safe. For lower branches it’s easier to use without the extra extension pole. The shoulder strap is handy.”