

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

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Farmers Nominate Best, Worst Buys

OPINION

Tell Us About Your “Best or Worst” Buy
Send your nominations to:
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Lakeville, Minn. 55044, or use
the survey form on our website at
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Lynn Dorsey, Anita, Iowa: “I bought a Deere Buck ATV used at an auction with about 1,600 miles on it. Deere only made them from 2005 to 2007. The engine ran rough so my Deere dealer installed a new carburetor kit, which didn’t help. The engine had to be overhauled. I wasn’t able to put two miles on the rebuilt machine before the engine started blowing oil out and died. It took two weeks to put in a new head gasket, which cost a lot of money. We got it running but the transmission was terribly hard to shift.

“Then at 2,014 miles the engine started running rough again and died. The dealer has had this machine more than I have, and the company won’t stand behind its defective product.”

Paulie McDaniel, Philippi, W. Va.: “It just doesn’t know when to stop,” says Paulie about his 2007 Kubota B7510 tractor equipped with a front-end loader and backhoe. “I’ve used this tractor to move tons of dirt and to dig several ditches for neighbors. I can’t say enough good things about it. I had been using a Ford 1210 that I bought used, but I had to replace the seals, gears, and main shaft inside the transmission and spent almost as much on repairs as what

of these tools and they take care of me. They all start easy, no matter how long they’ve sat idle.”

Ben Nygaard, Maple, Wis.: “My Deere 990 4-WD tractor, equipped with a fuel-sipping Yanmar diesel engine, works great. This tractor is light enough not to sink in the woods, yet has enough power to handle anything. I bought it with a front-end loader, brush mower, blade, and Woods landscaping rack.

“I like my 1994 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 extended cab 4-WD pickup equipped with a 350 cu. in. engine. I put about 270,000 miles on this pickup before I bought a new Chevy model in 2011. It’s the same color and equipped the same, and now has about 30,000 miles on it with no problems.”

Michael Kanney, Buffalo Lake, Minn.: Michael likes his 1984 Allis Chalmers 919 garden tractor that he bought used with about 1,100 hrs. “This tractor now has about 1,755 hrs. with few repairs. I use it every year to rototill 10 to 30 gardens and yards in my area. It’s equipped with a Kohler 19 hp engine, which has plenty of power. The entire machine is built heavy.”

Gary Marketon, Buffalo, Minn.: “I’ve had good luck with my 1991 Toro 521 snowblower. The only repairs have been for a new fuel line and filter and a new belt. I’ve also replaced three pairs of skid shoes and a scraper blade. This snowblower always starts easy.”

Gene Welty, Big Sandy, Mont.: “My 2010 Keystone Hornet Hideout camping trailer is well designed, but the material isn’t the best quality and the workmanship poor. After we bought this trailer and pulled it home about 100 miles, we found some of the fixtures inside had already fallen off.

“We’ve only used the camper a few times, but every time we use it something breaks or comes loose. The dealer is willing to fix the problems, but that means each time we have to drive 200 miles round trip. Over the years I’ve owned five other campers and two motorhomes, but this one is by far the worst.”

Larry Floyd, Langley, Okla.: “I bought a used Ford 641 tractor in non-running condition for \$1,500. I also bought a used Ford 8N tractor for \$1,000. Once I got it running, I like the 641 better because it has a live 3-pt. hitch. The 3-pt.’s lower lift arms are set low, making it easy to bush hog under trees, and the tractor is real stable on hills. Two years ago we got slammed with 26 in. of snow, and by using a tilt angle blade I was able to do enough snowplowing work to pay for both tractors.”

James Dirks, Alva, Wyo.: “My Sears Craftsman 19.2-volt, 1/2-in. impact wrench puts out 200 ft. lbs. of torque and is really handy to use. My Sears Craftsman Nextec 12-volt right angle impact driver also works hard. I can drive a 4-in. screw with a Phillips head without slipping once.

“I’m disappointed with my 2005 Sterling truck equipped with a 12-liter, 60 series Detroit diesel engine. The engine lacks power when pulling uphill and sometimes smokes, even when going downhill. I’ve taken the truck to the dealer several times, but they can’t find any fault codes in the computer and told me the vehicle is running as good as it ever will. When I told them the truck smokes going downhill, they just shrugged and told me they had no idea what would cause that. This truck struggles to get 4 mpg.”

Loren Jacobson, Dundas, Minn.: “I’m still using my 1970 Sears HydroTrac 12 hp garden tractor equipped with a 48-in. mower and 42-in. snowblower. It’s a great tractor.”

Ross R. Wilkinson, Thompson Falls, Mont.: “The pour spouts found on most plastic fuel cans are glaring examples of what’s wrong with America today. They were designed by trial lawyers representing stupid

I paid for it.

“I made bucket-mounted forks that I use to move logs onto my small chainsaw sawmill. The forks are made from the springs off a 3/4-ton pickup. I cut and welded the springs together and then bolted them to both sides of the bucket. The forks have a second leaf that extends back under the bucket, which adds strength when lifting heavy logs.”

Una Sutton, Arifton, Ala.: “I like my 2010 Continental Contitrac P265-70R17 SUV tires, which are original equipment on Ford Expedition cars and Ford F-150 pickups (www.continentaltire.com). These tires will last 100,000 miles when kept properly rotated and inflated. I’ve only had one separation on 10 tires, and the dealer took care of the problem under warranty.”

Jimmy R. Offutt, Stamping Ground, Ky.: “I bought it in 2003 from someone who thought it was worn out. But I’ve used it to mow a lot of hay over the past 9 years with no problems except when I tried to cut through a rock,” says Jimmy about his New Holland 616 disc mower.

Joseph Mastalski, Valparaiso, Ind.: “My Kioti LB1914 diesel tractor equipped with a front-end loader starts easy and is reliable. I use it to do a variety of chores.”

He’s disappointed with his 2005 Husqvarna 26 hp lawn tractor. “It has a weak steering system. I had to replace all the steering components only two years after I bought it. The mower deck is made of heavy gauge material but is poorly designed and plugs up constantly. Also, the drive belts and pulleys break often.”

David Osbeck, Arlington, S. Dak.: “I own four pieces of Stihl equipment including a 1984 038 AV chainsaw, MM55 rototiller, FS55R weedeater, and BG85 leaf blower. The rototiller, weedeater and leaf blower were all purchased in the last 2 1/2 years. I take care