

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:
**FARM SHOW, P.O. Box 1029,
Lakeville, Minn. 55044, or use
the survey form on our website at
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Jim Holt, Cincinnati, Ohio: “Our **Kiotti CK 27 HST** tractor with loader will be 2 1/2 years old this spring. What has impressed us most is how heavy it is for how little it cost and how wide its industrial tires are. It weighs nearly 4,000 lbs. and is always ready to work. I had a thing or two to learn, however, about the tradeoffs between a stick shifter like our old 1995 Ford New Holland and the Kiotti’s hydro drive. The old Ford seemed more powerful with less horsepower. I have to shift the Kiotti to a lower range before I start pulling to have good power. We can live with that now that we understand the difference between the two drive systems. I like the extra safety of the hydro when I’m working near the pond because it stops on a dime, preventing possible accidents. It would have cost us \$5,000 more to get a tractor this nice if we’d bought the other orange brand of the same size. Kiottis are made by the same Korean company that makes Bobcat skid steer loaders.”

Mike Sorenson, Ross, N. Dak.: “Our 2011 **Claas Lexion 770** combine is easy to operate and produces a clean grain sample with minimal losses. However, there have been constant mechanical failures; everything

from major shafts breaking to just about every belt. The cylinder bearing bolts came out, and there have been minor to major electrical component failures. We can rarely operate this machine for a full day without serious problems.

“Whenever the machine is parked, mice enter the cab and tear up the cab filter. Both fuel tanks started leaking the first year. I expected better from this machine.”

“Rusty” Lanier A. Warwick, Concord, N.C.: Rusty’s impressed with his 2014 **Ariens A20VA** riding mower equipped with a 46-in. deck and automatic transmission. “After spending countless months researching lawn tractors, I read an article in Lawn and Garden Tractor Magazine that described how Ariens has been in business for 80 years. I was sold.”

Dan Coit, Chunky, Miss.: “My 2014 **Ford F-150** extended cab pickup is dependable and fuel efficient. However, I don’t like the Sync GPS Navigation Radio on it.

“I like my **Kawasaki Mule 2500** utility vehicle equipped with a diesel engine. It has an aluminum top and a plexiglass windshield.”

Tom Johnston, Marietta, Penn.: “It’s really handy and saves me a lot of steps going from barn to barn and farm to farm,” says Tom about his 2011 **Honda Big Red MUV700 4-WD** utility vehicle. “It’s equipped with a small 1,000-lb. capacity dump bed, which I really like. We also use a winch and a snowplow with it. The dump bed holds a lot of tools, firewood, and other stuff.”

Norman Wires, Albany, Ohio: “No problems with my 2006 **Kubota MX5000** utility tractor. It’s easy on fuel and starts right up every time.”

Gayle McDonald, Holton, Kan.: “My 2006 30 by 40-ft. **Cleary** building is well constructed. I bought another 36 by 80-ft.

building from the company last fall, and it seems to be built just as good.”

Richard Ball, Post Falls, Idaho: “I like my 2002 **Metabo WE9-125 5-in.** angle grinder (ph 800 575-4401; www.braxton-bragg.com). We use this German-made grinder in our metal fabrication shop with no problems. It accepts regular 4 1/2-in. discs and you can change, adjust or remove and install the guard and discs without tools. It has a built-in clutch so if the grinder gets stuck, the clutch will slip before the blade breaks.”

Tony Tucker, Georgetown, Ind.: “My husband and I bought a 2013 **Polaris 800 Ranger** utility vehicle as a Christmas present to ourselves. It’s a joy to drive this vehicle around our farm with our dogs and grandchildren. My husband uses it weekly for cutting wood, fixing fences, and other chores. We love our Ranger.”

Doug Fedderke, Defiance, Ohio: “No problems with my 2013 **Deere 1023E** garden tractor. It’s equipped with a loader bucket, mower deck, and 3-pt. mounted blade. The blade really came in handy last winter with all the snow we had.”

Anthony Whitney, Roach, Mo.: “My 2014 **Dirty Hands 27-ton** horizontal/vertical log splitter works great. I really appreciate it now that I’m too old to stand around and swing a splitting maul (ph 877 487-8275; www.dirtyhandtools.com). The only problem is that the stickers indicating ‘choke’ and ‘run’ are reversed, and of course the engine will start a lot better with the lever in the proper position! I should have taken the time to contact the company about this problem, but I didn’t. Maybe they’ll read this.”

Wyman and Mary Scheetz, Center, N. Dak.: They like their 2014 **Deines 60-in.** zero turn riding mower (ph 800 624-6774; www.marty-j.com). “We use this mower on our 3 1/2 acres of lawn about 15 times a year. The deck is out front so we can cut close around anything. When we need to sharpen or change the blades, the deck tilts up so we don’t have to lay on the ground. The blades attach with one 5/8-in. bolt. No problems. We’d recommend this mower to anyone.”

Delbert Hayes, Norwalk, Iowa: “I like the **Mr. Heater** portable forced air propane heater I bought at Northern Tool (ph 800 251-0001; www.mrheater.com). It’s lightweight, produces a lot of heat, and runs quiet. It delivers 125,000 to 170,000 btu’s per hour. I use it for many different jobs, such as heating the oil and engine on my log splitter or ATV. I just plug it into a 110-volt outlet and turn on the LP, and it goes to work.

“I like to use rebuilt batteries from **Interstate Battery** in my cordless tools (ph 866 842-5368; www.interstatebatteries.com).”

Wade Mason, Waynesboro, Penn.: Wade likes the **S107G** remote-controlled mini helicopter he bought from **Gyroscopes Systems** (www.miniinthebox.com/popular/gyroscopes-systems-helicopter.html). “This mini helicopter is the best one I’ve ever used. It’ll go forward, backward, left, or right like nothing else I’ve seen. It’s made mostly of metal so it’s very sturdy.”

Myron D. Yoder, Topeka, Ind.: “I’ve found that **Stori Enterprises** horse stalls and box stalls are easy to set up and even easier to use (ph 574 642-5183; www.stori-enterprises-in.hub.biz). They’re also reasonably priced. I bought 2 front panels and 2 side panels for my box stalls, as well as 3 dividers, for about \$2,500. The box stalls come with flip-out feeders and sliding doors. They can be set up portable or permanent and come with many different options.”

Marvin Sebranek, Hillsboro, Wis.: “My best buy is my **Gilson 42-in.** riding mower equipped with an 18 hp engine and hydrostatic drive transmission. I bought it used in 1994 and use it on my one-acre lawn.