

Farmers Nominate Best & Worst Buys

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"My 2010 **Frigidaire** dishwasher is my worst buy. The pump on it has gone out twice already, and the machine is so noisy I don't want to run it when I'm home. Yet the advertising for it said we'd be surprised at how quiet it would be."

Mike Rice, Lakeview, Ore.: "I use my 2010 **Polaris** Ranger 800 XP 6-WD utility vehicle every day to patrol a gas pipeline



construction project, where I'm often driving in mud up to the machine's belly pan. It has a soft canvas cab with doors and windshield, which I installed last fall. Even at outdoor temperatures of well below zero I stayed warm and comfortable. It'll climb hills far in excess of the manufacturer's suggested limits."

Burdell Bohn, Bristol, S. Dak.: "My best buy is the **Case 800 Case-O-Matic** diesel tractor I bought used in 1971. I used this tractor for farm work, the last 20 years with a hydraulic-operated loader. Other than a rebuilt diesel pump the tractor has been trouble-free. It's still going strong."

John Emerson, Cape Fair, Mo.: John's the satisfied owner of a 2004 **Dodge 3500** pickup that's equipped with a 24-valve 5.9-liter Cummins diesel engine and 6-speed manual transmission, dual wheels and 8-ft. bed. "This pickup has good low-end torque for pulling a 35-ft. hay trailer and a 24-ft. livestock trailer. It gets 17 1/2 to 18 mpg empty. The fuel injection pump was replaced under warranty, and that has been the only repair required in about 45,000 miles."

"My **Belarus 4-WD** tractor had a lot of electrical problems. It went through 2 starters and an ignition switch. The rubber lines used to connect the oil cooler were always leaking, and the fuel injection pump had to be rebuilt twice. This tractor is crudely machined and parts are expensive. However, once you get going it does pull good. The harder I work this tractor the better I like it."

Edward Tomlinson, Marion, Va.: "My 2003 **Deere 5220 4-WD** tractor handles great. I'm impressed with the power and how it handles on hills."

"No problems with my **Ford New Holland 3930** and **4630 4-WD** tractors. The 4630 handles better, but the 3930 uses less fuel."

Chuck Springer, Byron, Ill.: "I've got more than 206,000 miles on my 2001 **Ford F-350** crew cab dually 4-WD pickup, which is equipped with a 7.3-liter diesel engine. I use it to pull a 5-horse trailer and farm wagons. I've even used it to pull two 350-bu. wagons with a gross weight of more than 57,000 lbs. I had problems with the transmission at about 90,000 miles, but I've abused the pickup regularly since then and it has held up well. The pickup still uses only a half pint of oil between changes."

"I've got more than 150,000 miles on my 1998 **Sooner** 5 horse trailer equipped with living quarters. My main complaint is with the trailer's aluminum window frames and side compartment doors, which started pitting after about 4 years. I complained to the company but they referred me to their supplier instead of standing by their product. Of course, by the time I got around to doing something about it the warranty had expired. Also, the rear door hinges are poorly designed

and had to be replaced."

Wayne Dick, Hutchinson, Kan.: "I bought a used 1980 **Case 2390** tractor 5 years ago with about 4,500 hours on it, and now it has more than 7,000 hours. It has required only routine maintenance."

He's disappointed with his 2008 **Case IH JX80** front wheel assist tractor. "I've had numerous electrical and hydraulic problems with this tractor from day one, and it has been in the shop more than in the field. My dealer got tired of working on it."

Roberta MacAuley, Oregon, Ill.: "We use our **Deere Gator 4** by 2 utility vehicle every day on our farm. It has more than 3,100 hours on it."

Marvin Hammer, Bartow, Fla.: "My **Husqvarna** chainsaw quit working and I needed something in a hurry to cut up a fallen tree. So I bought a 2010 **Sears Pro 18-in., 42cc** model on sale for \$150. The easy-adjust feature on this saw allows you to adjust the chain in only about 30 seconds, which greatly extends bar life. I was so impressed with the saw that I immediately bought a spare in case the company discontinues them."

Bill McLaren, Maidstone, Sask.: "I bought my first **Volvo** new in 1979 and my fifth one - a used 2007 **XC90** model - last October. No other car comes close to the Volvo for performance."

"My 1980 **Steiger Bearcat** tractor has almost 6,000 hours on it. I use it to pull a 40-ft. Conservapak seeder equipped with a liquid caddy. It burns less than 6 gal. per hour."

"During harvest I use my 1955 **Deere 70** tractor with a 51-ft. swing-away auger. This tractor is also easy on fuel."

Andy McGregor, New Glasgow, Wis.: Andy's impressed with his 2008 **Deere 2305** compact tractor. "I use this tractor for cutting grass, moving snow, tilling gardens, grading driveways, and so forth. Deere's rear Quick-Hitch, quick connect front-end loader, and mower deck were all easy to install. This is a well-engineered tractor. The only negative is the paint on the wheels is cracking and the seat is rusting, even though I store the tractor inside a heated garage."

Gerald Palmer, Ward, Ark.: "My 2005 **Ford Super Duty F-250** pickup is my worst

"Fuel efficiency dropped by 6 to 8 mpg because of their work and it still doesn't run right."

buy. I started having problems with the engine with only 5 miles on the pickup, and since then it has been back to the dealer 6 or 7 times. They said they replaced all the engine computers. Whatever they did, fuel efficiency dropped by 6 to 8 mpg and it still doesn't run right."

"The problem is that when I'm pulling my 15,000-lb. camper and going up a long hill, the engine wants to race freely. The engine blower kicks in, and then after I top the hill the truck doesn't want to slow down. Instead, it just wants to run faster and I have a hard time getting slowing it down."

"I told Ford that someone is going to get hurt or even killed because of this problem. Now my pickup is out of warranty and I'm out of luck."

Dorothy Sonsalla, Baraboo, Wis.: "One lazy wintery Sunday afternoon, as my husband sat in his Lazy Boy watching football, I turned on the kitchen TV. There was Jack LeLaine selling his **Juicer**. We had an abundance of apples and I had used them in as many ways as I could think of. Off I went to Farm and Fleet to buy this juicer.

The grandkids and I had fun trying different berries and veggies, but it took about 6 apples to make 1 cup of juice. When I took the machine apart I found a lot of juicy mush under the lid. Lots of juice lost. My Juicer now sits in the basement and I just eat the apples instead."

Leonard B. Gilbreath, Meridian, Texas: "My **Kubota 2009 MX5000** tractor is the best I've ever owned. I'm done with Massey Ferguson tractors, as there's no place to get parts within a hundred miles."

Fred Diedrich, Pepin, Wis.: "My 2002 **MTD Yard Machine 21-in.** push mower is equipped with a 5 hp Tecumseh engine that doesn't burn oil. I liked it so much I replaced it with a nearly identical 2010 model."

"My 1985 **Deere 314** garden tractor looks like heck but it's still as tough as a bull and always starts."

Harvey Fischer, Giddings, Texas: "A 2010 40 by 100-ft. metal barn put up by **WD Metal Buildings** of Pleasanton, Texas, is my best buy. The company was easy to work with and their subcontractors took real pride in the building's fit and finish. It was constructed exactly to my specs. Excellent quality materials, exceptional workmanship, and on-time completion. A great value."

"My 2008 **Zetor 8441** tractor is powerful, fuel efficient, and comfortable to operate. It's equipped with an on-board air compressor that I use with a Rohrer air-powered T-post driver. I attach the air supply to a small air tank that I carry in the tractor's bucket and attach the T-post driver to the air outlet on the tank. Then I load up the bucket with T-posts and off we go."

"The **Rohrer** air-powered T-post driver is well built and easy to operate. It's an amazing labor saver and is also a best buy (ph 800 980-7599; www.rohrermfg.com)."

Ernest B. Copley, Portland, Tenn.: "I like my 2006 **Ford F-250 XLT Super Duty** extended cab pickup equipped with a 5.4-liter gas engine and automatic transmission. It has about 22,000 miles on it. It came with a B&W Hide-A-Ball and tow package and has no trouble handling our travel trailer and gooseneck trailer."

"I like my 1997 **New Holland 3930 4-WD** loader tractor equipped with a diesel engine and shuttle shift transmission. I use it with a Woods 5-ft. tiller and 6-ft. rotary cutter. The tractor's original battery lasted 13 years."

"My 2007 **Husqvarna 350** chainsaw had a fuel line leak and a fuel tank leak from the factory. I had to pay the labor for the repair work because a year had passed before I took it in. The saw works good now."

"I like my 2009 **Dixon** zero turn riding mower equipped with a 26 hp Briggs & Stratton engine and a 50-in. deck. I show this machine no mercy but it's built strong. My wife can operate it better than I can."

William Bierman, Riga, Mich.: "I've used my 2004 **Stihl MS440** chainsaw to cut 200 to 300 trees into firewood which I use in my outside wood burning stove. It starts right up and idles perfectly between cuts."

Joseph Widmann, Eagleville, Penn.: "My **Cub Cadet 2165** riding mower has 232 hours on it, most of which have been troublesome. The Briggs & Stratton V-2 engine went through three sets of plugs in less than 52 hours. The carburetor and fuel pump often malfunction; the ignition module failed twice; and the electric deck power switch has been replaced four times. Finally I took the machine to another dealer 26 miles away who replaced the switch and another ignition module. Now it's working okay."

"My 2000 **Chevy Silverado** pickup is a worst buy. The camshaft timing sensor failed and the brakes are constant trouble - the front discs and pads have been replaced three times

and the rear ones twice with only 63,000 miles on the pickup. The transmission coolant lines have rusted through, as well as the brake lines. I've replaced them one or two at a time. Local mechanics blame these problems on salt brine that's spread on roads during the winter."

"Next, the alternator bearings gave out with a loud squeal when I was 40 miles from home. The original General tires developed soft and worn sidewalls and had to be replaced before 33,000 miles. This pickup can't haul much more than a garden tractor or a dozen sheets of plywood, which is hardly a heavy load. It does ride and handle nicely, but I'm going back to Dodge."

Clarence Macdonald, Pittston, Maine: A 1993 **Toyota T-100** pickup rates as Clarence's "best buy". "After I bought this pickup it underwent a company recall for faulty head gaskets, which was botched by the dealer. A local garage reset the valves and the engine hasn't been touched since. This pickup now has more than 242,000 miles on it and is still going strong."

Rick Bodenhamer, Gillette, Wyo.: "I'm happy with my 2007 **Deere X340** riding mower equipped with a 54-in. deck. I use it to mow about 5 acres on our place. It'll mow everything from range land grass to sage brush and even a rock or two."

"My 2008 **Can-Am** Outlander 800 4-wheeler has more than 2,000 miles on it and does everything I want (ph 877 469-7433; www.can-am.brp.com). It pulls a wagon and hauls a load of fence posts and other fencing materials. After the work is done I take it to the Big Horn mountains and play. It'll crawl over just about any rock as well as push water up to its headlights. Mud is no problem for it - the deeper the better. It has plenty of power. There's nothing like a good ride after mowing and building fence."

Mel Durr, Hilda, Alberta: "My 2009 **Toyota Tacoma** pickup equipped with a 6-cyl. engine has more than 150,000 miles with no problems."

"The transmission has been replaced twice on my 2001 **Dodge 3/4-ton** diesel pickup, but the engine still runs great. The pickup's steering arm fell off while I was pulling a livestock trailer on the highway. I called the company but they told me the warranty had expired and that they couldn't help. I was 5 min. from sure death, as I had just come through some winding roads with oncoming traffic."

Harry D. Hedin, Blackfoot, Idaho: "I bought a used 2010 **Deere** tractor equipped with a 4-cyl. diesel engine and am happy with it. It came equipped with a heavy duty front-end loader and power steering. I installed a block heater, and also bought a backhoe to use with it for cleaning out irrigation ditches."

Jerry Nash, St. Ansgar, Iowa: "My **Grasshopper 616** and **718** riding mowers are best buys. Both are equipped with Briggs Vanguard engines and have about 1,300 hours on them with only a few minor repairs. Neither one uses any oil."

Robert C. Erickson, Williamstown, Vt.: "My 2002 **Kubota 2600 4-WD** loader tractor always starts, even at 20 degrees below zero. Thanks to the wheel differential lock I've always been able to avoid getting stuck."

Cleveland Fogleman, Carboro, N.C.: "I bought a used **Troy-Bilt** walk-behind mulching mower that starts good and is easy to drive and service. It does a good job of mulching grass and leaves. And, it has grease fittings everywhere to keep the wheel bearings and blade spindles in good shape."

Kendall Kasten, Oostburg, Wis.: "Last year I bought a used 1991 **Deere STX 38** garden tractor equipped with a 12 1/2 hp Kohler engine and a grass catcher, and it has