

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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Richard Furmanick, Sterling, Mass.: “I’m a retired mechanic and dairy farmer and the owner of **Ford 2N** and **8N** tractors. I’ve never replaced the 10-spline clutch disc on either of these tractors. They were among Henry’s best creations! However, I bought a new **Kubota 3130** tractor and, at 320 hrs., the 19-spline clutch disc center hub wore smooth with no wear on the facings. Kubota won’t stand behind their poor engineering and compensate for the repairs.”

Larry Hilliard, Sandy, Ore.: “One of my best buys of all time is my **Eagle** wood-electric furnace made in Palisade, Minn. (www.yukon-eagle.com; ph 800 358-0060). I bought it over 30 years ago and it has always been my primary source of heat. The only repairs I’ve had over the years were to replace a blower motor and door gaskets. I like that it has an ash pan so there’s no need to remove the fire to clean out the ashes. They’re sold dealer-direct so there’s no store markup, and they also have wood-oil and wood-gas furnaces as well as a wood-coal furnace that you can add to an existing furnace. A couple of my friends bought them and are really satisfied.”

“This unit installs with a 4-bolt bracket which can stay on the bucket, and then you attach it with a 1 by 6-in. pin and two hydraulic hoses that hook up to the tractor outlets. The auger makes use of the loader’s down pressure and has its own 2-way hydraulic unit. I’ve used it in my heavy clay soil to dig more than 500 holes, without a single broken shear pin. It’s a great piece of equipment. It cost \$2,000 but was well worth the money.”

Robert McBreen, Concord, Mass.: Robert’s impressed with a 3-pt. quick-change attachment sold by **Northern Tool & Equipment** (www.northerntool.com). They fit over the end of the 3-pt.’s lift arms to convert them from a standard ball hitch to a



hook system. They allow you to attach heavy implements to the tractor with no lifting. The top link stays flexible for mowers, bush hogs, and other implements.

Bud Walsh, Berthoud, Colo.: “I bought a used 2003 **Dodge 3/4-ton SLT** pickup equipped with a Cummins diesel engine from my father-in-law, who bought the pickup new. This pickup is a dream to drive and does a great job pulling my 3-horse gooseneck trailer. It has a lot of power and a 4:10 differential that works great in our mountains. It gets about 15 mpg.”

Larry Gruenke, Bonanza, Alberta: “My 1972 **Case 1470 Traction King 4-WD** tractor is easy on fuel. Pulling a 32-ft. field cultivator it uses about 4 1/2 gal. of fuel per hour. Also, it has a lot of power for its size. It’s equipped with a standard transmission and starts good – I never have to use ether to start it. It’s also an easy tractor to work on. I did the heads on the engine and installed new fuel injectors. This tractor just keeps on running.”

Richard Sweetin, Flora, Ill.: “I’m disappointed with the disc-type **Meg-Mo** lawn mower blades I bought for my **Deere 316** riding mower. They cut good but pull hard, which slows me down a lot. I returned the blades but it took six months to get a refund.”

Karl Wikane, Kingston, N.Y.: “I’ve used it to remove rust from all kinds of parts, both delicate and heavy-duty,” says Karl, who’s impressed with **Safest Rust Remover** rust remover (www.ridrust.com; ph 877 743-7878). It’s a water-based, non-acid type rust remover. It dissolves all the rust gradually at the bonding point of contact so it can safely separate the rust from the original surface and let it fall off. It has no effect on paint, wood, rubber or other non-ferrous components, so you don’t need to isolate areas from this product for fear of damage as required with other products.

Safest rust remover comes in 1 and 5-gal. containers and 55-gal. drums.

Jack Prier, Spring Creek, Nevada: Jack’s impressed with his 2009 **Makita DCS6401** chainsaw. “Over the years I’ve owned more than 20 saws from many different manufacturers. This saw is a real joy to use. It’s dependable, easy to start and run, powerful, smooth, and has great balance at all angles.”

David Hahn, Chaffee, Mo.: “I like my 1997 **Deere 8300 2-WD** tractor, which has about 2,700 hours on it. Electric-over-hydraulic controls make it a real pleasure to drive. With my left hand on the steering wheel, all I need is three fingers on the controls to operate it. Talk about comfort farming.”

Norm Zimmerman, Goodville, Penn.: “We bought our 1998 **Chevrolet 2500** pickup with about 129,000 miles on it and did a lot of heavy towing with it. At about 190,000 miles

Titus J. Swartzentruber, Wellman, Iowa: “One of my best buys is a **Case IH 7140** tractor. I grew up with ‘green’ equipment and still have that preference but Case built a good tractor when it made this one. It’s rather expensive to work on but has been a good tractor for me.”

Eric Smith, Wayne, Neb.: “Fuel savings are incredible since I installed a set of 4 **Hydro Star** hydrogen generators on my 2003 **Kenworth**. I’m getting 7.8 mpg compared to between 6 and 6.3 without them.

“I also have more power, which means I don’t have to shift down as much on the hills. It used to take me 6 hrs. to cross Iowa on I-80. I had to shift down on almost every hill. The last run I made, I only shifted down 3 times, and I made it across the state in 4 1/2 hrs.

“I ordered the set of 4 generators from Andrew Herold (ph 240 715-5000; aheroldsr@yahoo.com), and put them in just after the first of the year. In the first month after installing them, I ran about 7,000 miles. Conservatively, I saved about 200 gal. of fuel at about \$3.50 per gal. They work really great.”

David Phipps, Plano, Ill.: “I like my **Deere 4600** tractor equipped with a 460 front-end loader, which I bought used with 350 hours on it. A landscaper had used this tractor so I installed new ag tires on it. So far, I’ve used it to move more than 2,000 cubic yards of sand and snow with no problems.

“My 2000 **Mantis** rototiller runs great and has required only one tune-up since I bought it.”

Wilson Smith, Bel Air, Md.: Wilson’s happy with his **Land Pride** hydraulic-operated post auger, which mounts on his tractor’s loader bucket (www.landpride.com). “I bought this auger after trying a couple other models that didn’t work out, including a **Ford 12-in. dia.** auger and a **Shaver** post hole driver.