

Farmers Nominate Best & Worst Buys

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talked three times and he said he'd call back, but he never did. I had the Better Business Bureau of Illinois send him a letter but he wouldn't accept it. Now my pond is solid green, and I'd like a refund."

Wardell Schoff, Hamilton, Mo.: "A bad storm blew away a building on our farm. All that was left was the concrete slab. I contacted **Morton Buildings** to put up a



new 30 by 40-ft. cattle shed. They checked out the site and said it would be no problem even though the slab was not quite level.

"The building they put up is fine except that there's an 8-in gap around the bottom on two sides. At the time they finished it I was busy so I just okayed the job and made the final payment. After noticing the gap along the bottom, I contacted the company and they said there was nothing they could do because they had put up everything delivered with our building kit. All it would have taken was another row of boards around the bottom but they couldn't be bothered. I'm just doing it myself. No more Morton for me."

Ben Koebberling, Loretto, Tenn.: "I bought a **Wagner Power Painter** with 1,800 psi to paint my barn, because after watching the TV commercials I was sure that was the sprayer I needed. I also bought an adapter for it that's supposed to siphon paint out of a 5-gal. bucket. However, I couldn't get it to work so I called the company's toll-free phone number. I got a recorded message that said 'all lines are busy, please call back another day'. I did call again, three times at 2-day intervals, but I always got the same message. Finally I decided their customer assistance didn't exist and I didn't call any more.

"This sprayer worked to a fashion but wouldn't hold the selected spray pattern. I had to constantly adjust the spray nozzle."

On the positive side, "Several years ago I bought a used **International Harvester 574** tractor equipped with a front-end loader. This tractor works great and always starts. It wants to work all the time. In fact, if the tractor sits idles too long the engine tends to 'sputter' for a while. I can live with that. I really like this tractor."

Carolyn Lane, Muskogee, Okla.: "My 2005 **Kubota Z28 ATR** mower works amazingly well. Not only does it mow right through tall, thick grass at low rpm's, it'll also cut small saplings like a bush hog. It's very dependable and fuel-efficient. I use it to mow 8 to 10 acres per week in prime season."

Larry Flesla, Ridgeville, Ind.: A 2010 **New Holland 6050** front wheel assist loader tractor rates as Larry's "best buy". "I like the fact that it doesn't have much in the way of electronics - just the push button on the powershift transmission and the reverser. It's a smooth-running, comfortable tractor for its size. So far, so good."

Ron Theroux, St. Claude, Manitoba: Ron's impressed with the **QVB Enterprises** haybine reverser kit he bought for his **MacDon 5020** haybine (ph 306 745-3720; www.qvbenterprises.com). The universal kit allows you to reverse the flow of oil to any haybine by flipping a switch in the tractor cab. Once the machine is plugged you simply shut it off, flip the switch from inside the cab, start it up, and the whole machine reverses.

"It works great and eliminates the need

to get off the tractor. Takes only about 15 seconds to unplug everything," says Theroux.

Gary Townsend, Rea, Mo.: Gary owns three **Deere 4020** diesel tractors and says they're all "best buys". His 1966 and 1969 models are equipped with syncromesh transmissions, while his 1970 model has a powershift transmission. "They're the most complete tractors in every way. I use them to do light-to-heavy work and refer to them as icons. The three tractors have about 16,000 hours between them, with no problems that I couldn't fix by myself. There's not a tractor out there that will resell like these models. When new they sold for \$7,000 to \$8,000, but I can get \$15,000 to \$20,000 for them today.

"My 1968 **Deere 6600** combine equipped with a diesel engine is still the sharpest combine in our area. It's equipped with a 329 cu. in. diesel engine that's easy on fuel. I painted the combine to like-new condition in 2007 and applied chip guard over some



painted spots to keep the paint from wearing off. The combine is equipped with a 213 flex head and a 4-row corn head that's set for 38-in. rows. They don't build combines like this any more, and I like being able to do any repair work that needs to be done. No computers on this machine."

Donald Tarolli, Red Creek, N.Y.: Donald's disappointed with his 2009 **Poulan** Pro chainsaw. "This saw has never run more than two or three minutes without breaking down. I no longer use it because I can't depend on it to finish the job. I had an earlier model that was just as bad. I'll never buy a Poulan product again."

Harley Beachy, Richmond, Mo.: "The 1979 **Deutz 30-06** tractor I bought used four years ago is fuel efficient. It runs 3 hrs. on a gallon of diesel fuel when pulling a hay rake, and 1 1/2 to 2 hrs. per gallon when pulling a 6-ft. bush hog or a disk. It always starts right up.

"My 2009 **Hobart Handler 187** wire feed welder works great. No problems. It cost a lot less than other name brand welders.

"My 2008 **Troybilt Pony CRT** rototiller is my worst buy. The counter rotating tines cancel out the drive tires so the machine could hardly move. We sold it and bought a new **Troybilt Horse** model with forward rotating tines. It works much better."

Claude W. Reeson, Spring Grove, Va.: Claude's happy with his **Superior Wall** foundation system for houses (ph 800 452-9255; www.superiorwalls.com). The foundation uses insulated, precast concrete wall panels that are formed in a factory-controlled setting and delivered to the job site, where the panels are lifted into position with a crane and carefully bolted together and sealed. The walls are custom designed and built to virtually any architectural style, complete with window and door openings.

"This wall system is better than a conventional foundation because it's less costly, more secure, energy efficient, and drier. It can also be used above ground for whole house construction," says Reeson.

Lee Lehrer, Iola, Wis.: "My 2006 **Deere X485** garden tractor equipped with a 54C deck is my best buy. My wife and I use it to cut about 2 1/2 acres of lawn with no problems. In 2008, we added a no. 47 quick hitch snowblower to the unit. I can move more snow faster and farther with this setup

David Wagoner, Carlisle, Ky.: "My wife and I make most of our income from two acres of creek bottom where we do intensive market gardening 32 weeks a year. Our 853 **BCS** two-wheel tractor has played a vital role in our operation for the past 6 years.

"It's our only tractor on our 200 acres of mostly woods with some pasture, hay ground and garden beds. We plant all our vegetables in 3 to 4-ft. wide beds on a winding creek bed with 3 to 4 replantings throughout the season.

"The tractor is very versatile with a range of implements. With the quick-connect, it's easy to go from one to another. I can break sod with the rotary plow and work up a fine planting bed with the tiller. I use the rough-cut mower to maintain trails and clearings in the woods. It will grind up any sapling it can push over, generally up to 1 1/2-in. dia. trunks.

"The sicklebar mower is handy on tall grasses and light weeds and for cutting hay for our family cow and a small herd of goats. I rake the hay with the BCS rake attachment, fork it into my pickup and store it loose in our old tobacco barn.

"Previous to buying it, I had another brand of two wheel tractor. The BCS is more versatile and reliable, lighter weight and more manageable. I'm not much of a gear head, but I can troubleshoot most problems on the BCS. It's really easy to work on, and the 13-hp Honda engine never quits. If I can't figure out the problem, my BCS dealer, **Earth Day Tools**, Owenton, Ky. (www.earthtoolsbcs.com), can usually solve it in a few seconds

over the phone. They'll have parts delivered the next day.

"Because it's so good at breaking sod, I use it to help groups set up community gardens in the Lexington, Ky. area. I can bring it into spots where you couldn't go with a 4-WD tractor and plow. They get a garden, and I earn a little more income with my BCS tractor."

than I can with a 60 hp tractor equipped with a front-end loader and rear-mounted blade."

Cecil Phelps, Ocean Island Beach, N.C.: Cecil's had problems with his 2003 **Deere L100**, 17 hp riding mower equipped with a 42-in. deck. "The deck's drive belt wouldn't stay on even when the mower was new. I made three trips to different dealers, but the

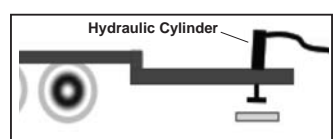
problem still exists. As a result, I have to raise the deck 1/2 in. higher than I wanted to.

"I also had a problem with the starter. When cranking the engine, at times the starter would bog down and stop. Then I have to turn the engine by hand until compression starts down from top dead center. Eventually the starter got ruined and I had to replace it at my expense.

"After about five years the mower's seat started cracking and splitting apart.

"On the positive side, the engine has a lot of power and doesn't use any oil. And there's plenty of leg room on this mower."

Durwin Weatherald, Wawota, Sask.: "My **Towner 20-ft.** breaking disk is a very heavy machine equipped with a heavy-duty



hitch. I welded together a bracket to mount a hydraulic cylinder on the hitch in a vertical position. I attached a 'foot' to the end of the cylinder's push rod. When hooking up to the disk I simply hook up hydraulic hoses to the cylinder and raise or lower the hitch to drawbar height. It eliminates the need to use tongue jacks."

Lawrence Kanaphus, McCallsburg, Iowa: Lawrence nominates his 1965 **Deere 4020** tractor as his "best buy". "I've never



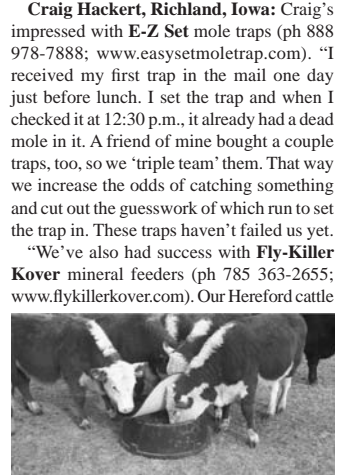
BCS tractor fitted with mower (above) and breaking sod with rotary plow (below).



had a wrench on the engine nor has it ever been overhauled. A couple of fuel injectors were replaced. It has 5,980 hours on it but still runs good."

Craig Hackert, Richland, Iowa: Craig's impressed with **E-Z Set** mole traps (ph 888 978-7888; www.easysetmoletrap.com). "I received my first trap in the mail one day just before lunch. I set the trap and when I checked it at 12:30 p.m., it already had a dead mole in it. A friend of mine bought a couple traps, too, so we 'triple team' them. That way we increase the odds of catching something and cut out the guesswork of which run to set the trap in. These traps haven't failed us yet.

"We've also had success with **Fly-Killer Kover** mineral feeders (ph 785 363-2655; www.flykillerkover.com). Our Hereford cattle



have had serious pink-eye problems over the years. We bought a few **Fly-Killer Kovers** and it completely solved the problem. It consists of a 38-in. dia. urethane weathershield, with a 1/4-in. thick polypropylene felt disc bonded to the underside. Mineral in the feeder entices livestock to nose under the cover and thus the face, head area and shoulder contact the insecticide-saturated felt, so they self-treat themselves almost daily.

"It's available as a complete unit including kover, reservoir, mounting hardware and mineral feeder. Adapter kits are also available for various brands of 3-compartment, poly, mineral feeders."

Gary C. Brown, Reconditioned Farm Tractors, Byron, Ga.: "My best buy is **Kimball Midwest Paint** (ph 800 233-1294; www.kimballmidwest.com). We rebuild tractors and implements and were happily surprised when a young lady came by our shop several years back to demonstrate some spray paint.

"We were absolutely amazed. It covers so well, even an amateur can do professional