

Farmers Nominate Best & Worst Buys

as advertised. Because of the heavy use that I give this rig I have to resharpen the blades regularly. However, to do that the blades have to be unscrewed from the flywheel using tools that I made myself. It's a 2-hour job from start to finish."

Leonard and LaVonne Nygaard, Scranton, N. Dak.: "Our 2009 **Polaris** Ranger side-by-side utility vehicle is a best buy. Our entire family uses it every day."

Travis Buhe, Rib Lake, Wis.: Travis likes his 2010 **New Holland** CR9000 series Twin Rotor combine. "The twin rotor design results in faster threshing and separating, and the combine has a roomy, quiet cab. The new IntelliView Plus II color touch-screen display on my combine has a 10.4-in. diagonal screen. It allows me to monitor the combine's rotor speed, header height, engine rpm's, percent of engine load, sieve performance, grain loss, returns, and self-leveling cleaning system."

Marvin Jay Wagler, Montgomery, Ind.: "My **Yanmar** YMG 1800 tractor uses very little fuel. No problems."

Paul Oligschlaegar, Mexico, Mo.: "It's a wonderful, user-friendly tractor with plenty of power," says Paul about his 2010 **Deere** 5095 M.

Richard Miller, Bloomfield, Iowa: Richard likes **Amsoil** motor oil. "We ran a new stationary engine on break-in oil for about 85 hrs., then installed a bypass oil filter system and switched to using Amsoil 15W40 diesel and marine oil. Since then we've put more than 2,500 hrs. on the engine without an oil change, but every 300 hrs. we do change two filters and add some replacement oil. Every 600 to 900 hrs. we have the oil analyzed, and it always shows very little wear. The use of Amsoil also resulted in a cooler running engine and easier starting in cold weather. We also use Amsoil in our small motors with good success. I'm not a dealer, just a satisfied customer."

"We tried using a Hydro Fuel Maximizer made by **Advanced Hydrogen Technology**, but it didn't work for us. It's an electrolysis unit that uses 15 to 40 amps to break water down into oxygen and hydrogen and slowly releases the gases into the combustion air intake. It's supposed to enhance combustion of petroleum fuel."

"We bought it to save diesel fuel on our stationary engine and installed it following the company's directions. We saw no decrease in fuel consumption. If anyone has had more success with this unit we'd like to hear from them."

Robert Kussman, Dalton, Mo.: "My **Massey Ferguson** 283 tractor is fuel efficient and highly maneuverable. I use it to operate a pecan harvester and couldn't be happier with it."

Cornie Vanlant, Chandler, Minn.: "I'm happy with my 2009 **McCormick Farmall** 80 front wheel assist tractor, which is

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equipped with an IH 730 front-end loader and a 12-speed forward and reverse, shuttle shift transmission. It also has a cab with air conditioning and heater."

Kevin R. Pfautsch, Dunkerton, Iowa: "Our 2008 **Jeep** Patriot has exceeded our expectations. The fit and finish on it are excellent. We bought this vehicle mainly for its fuel efficiency and it has performed as well as the salesman said it would."

"The only problem with the Jeep is the

Goodyear Conquest TSI series tires on it. After only about 29,000 miles we've already had to replace three of the tires. The tires start separating in the center of the tread, and then the steel belting starts to protrude. We've gone to two local Goodyear dealers with no satisfaction. No more Goodyear products for us."

James C. Walker, Pinewood, Minn.: "In 2003 we bought a used 2002 **Toyota** Sienna van with about 20,000 miles on it. Now it has more than 230,000 miles. Everything on the van is original except for parts that were replaced on a scheduled maintenance program. The battery is still going strong. I can't find anything negative to say about this van."

"I have a problem with using modern gas in older engines. For example, I have a 1946 **Allis Chalmers** WD tractor that I've used for 25 years. It wouldn't pull or idle well on the new gas until I started adding a quart of automatic transmission fluid to each 5 gal. of gas. I also installed electronic ignition and one-step-hotter spark plugs. Now the tractor runs great."

Ken Barlau, Delano, Minn.: A used 1999 **Bobcat** skid loader equipped with a Kubota diesel engine rates as Ken's "best buy". "This is a powerful machine that has made cattle farming much easier for us. I use it to load manure, push snow, and dig trenches with a backhoe that we made for tiling cropland. This skid loader has been trouble-free, and I'll buy another if this one ever wears out."

Billy Anglin, Olive Branch, Miss.: Billy's happy with his 2009 **King Cutter** 6-ft. rotary tiller. "It tills up a garden like a dream and turns hard, cloddy soil into powder. This tiller was well worth the money."

He's disappointed with his 2008 **Ryobi** weed trimmer equipped with an "expand-it" limb saw. "I've already had to replace the trim head on this machine twice."

Steven Scheer, Lowden, Iowa: "Five years ago we paid \$850 for a used 1984 **Ford** F-350 pickup equipped with an 11-ft. flatbed. We used the pickup for two years to haul four tons of sand for our sandblasting outfit across a 3-state area. Since then, this pickup has made countless trips out of our woods, loaded with firewood. The pickup is equipped with an-line, 6-cyl. engine and 4-speed transmission. It has required only routine maintenance and doesn't use any oil."

"It's old enough to vote and is really ugly. But I figure that for every four loads of wood that it hauls, it pays for itself one more time. I've put almost 30,000 miles on it."

Scott Werling, Decatur, Ind.: "My 2003 **Skag** Turf Tiger zero turn riding mower, equipped with a 27 hp Kawasaki engine, is a best buy. It's comparable in quality to **Exmark** mowers, which I've also owned. I did have one problem with the Skag a couple weeks after I bought it. I was mowing next to a heavy rubber mat, which accidentally got sucked up into the deck. The machine stopped dead in its tracks. The engine was running at top speed, and I was sure I had broken the crankshaft. But luckily all that broke was a lower pulley on the mower deck, and it was covered by the warranty. The dealer sent a replacement pulley to my house so I could fix it myself. I love this machine."

"Last December I bought a **Hobart** 210 wire welder. I haven't yet tapped into the full potential of this machine, even though I've already used it to weld thick metals. It's a good welder."

William J. Rappe, Ipswich, S. Dak.: "I've purchased a number of products from **Rubbermaid**, including sawhorses and garbage cans, and have always been impressed by the quality and durability of



Jim Ruen, Lanesboro, Minn.: "My Earthquake dirt auger is a handy ATV attachment. It'll never replace a full-size auger, but mounted on the hydraulic loader on my 500cc Honda, it does a good job for its size. The 8-in. auger is just the right size for smaller posts and creates a good pilot hole for larger posts. I've even used it for planting raspberries. I just went down the row, digging 1-ft. deep holes every 3 ft. It only took a few minutes dropping the starters in, and I had 180 ft. of raspberries ready to grow."

The 2-hp Tecumseh engine that powers it is a little lightweight, but does a decent job in most soils. Mounted on the hydraulic Groundhog loader, it self-centers, and I have down pressure. If I am on a slope, I do need to either be directly up hill or down from the hole site for a straight hole. It's not perfect, but mounted on the ATV, it gets in a lot of spots where a larger rig couldn't go. Even if I have to enlarge the hole some by hand, the Earthquake makes a good start."

their products. The company stands behind everything they make and offers great customer service."

Ted Luckenbaugh, Abbottstown, Penn.: "I'm impressed with **Grizzly** wood working equipment (ph 800 523-4777 or 360 647-0801; www.grizzly.com). I own a Grizzly table saw, band saw, and jointer and they all work well. These products are built to last a long time. Great company service."

Don Bulechek, Iowa City, Iowa: "My 2010 **Polaris** 550 4-WD ATV has electronic power steering and works great. We raise beef cattle on rough pasture and artificially inseminate the cows, so we do a lot of slow speed driving. We put about 1,000 miles per year on this ATV just for farm work. We've owned seven Polaris ATV's since 1988."

Richard Johnson, LaCrescent, Minn.: "I like my **New Holland** 900 forage chopper equipped with a processor and 2-row corn head. I've used it for many years with very few problems. The corn head works excellent and the gathering chains on it are still good."

Lyndon Dunbar, Brighton, Iowa: "My 2008 **Case** 430 skid loader has a low profile that lets me get into low clearance buildings. The operator's compartment is roomy for my long legs and arms. I use it to stack large round bales on end 3-high in my barn, and it's very stable doing this. I bought it with the high-speed transport option, which reduces my travel time between farmsteads by half. I also use the foot throttle option a lot."

David A. Lizotte, Sprucehead, Maine: "My 2006 **Deere** 4710 48-hp tractor is the perfect size for my needs. I actually bought this tractor in 2008 with 123 hours on it. It had been loaned by Deere to the Kansas City Chiefs as a field tractor, and then sold to a local dealer here in Maine. This tractor works well in confined wooded areas. It's low to the ground and is equipped with turf tires which provide excellent traction. No problems. I also own another 4710 model that I bought in 2005. Both tractors are powered by excellent Yanmar 4-cyl. diesel engines that run smooth and quiet."

On the negative side, "My 2007 **Deere** 4320 tractor was noisy and leaked diesel fuel. Sometimes the turbocharger caused the tractor to accelerate by surprise and if I hit a bump loads of firewood would spill out. I traded it in favor of the 4710."

Ken Wasserzieher, Aitkin, Minn.: "In 2007 I bought a new **Kubota** L5240 tractor

which is my worst buy. A pin on the 3-pt. lift arm broke. If the arm ends were a yoke I feel it wouldn't have been a problem. Also, the 3-pt. lift doesn't operate smoothly. From start to shutdown the tractor squeaks and squeals constantly. After about 250 hours of use the fuel gauge quit working and the dealer couldn't fix it. It's also hard on fuel. This tractor must have been cobbled together on a Monday or a Friday. I plan to trade it off."

"In 2005 my son and I bought a **Valtra** 6350HT tractor equipped with a **Quickie** Q1060 front-end loader. It's economical and has a lot of power and traction. It's a great tractor."

"We use all three of these tractors to harvest firewood and gather maple sap and to do other chores, so we don't put a lot of hours on any of them."

Chuck Smith, Dunkirk, N.Y.: "My best buy is **Ultra-Cut Gold Stick** which is a drill and cutting lubricant (Kimball Midwest, ph 800 233-1294). If you start out with a sharp drill bit and use this product according to the company's directions, the bits stay sharp and cut easily."

Perry Eide, International Falls, Minn.: "My **Bombardier** 330 Outlander 4-wheeler ATV is my worst buy. I used it very little the first year. The next year the high temperature alarm went on, even though the motor wasn't hot. I took it to the dealer who knew right away that the problem was a bad temperature sensor. But the warranty had expired, and neither he nor the company would help."

Lawrence Bannerman, Holly, Mich.: Lawrence is disappointed with his 2008 **Hesston** 1120 haybine. "When the haybine was delivered it wasn't completely put together and the dealer wouldn't do anything about it. I used the machine to cut about five acres of hay and it shook so bad the knife broke. The dealer took it back and said he fixed it, but the next year it didn't work any better. I took the haybine back to the dealer for repair and when I went to pick it up the dealer said the warranty had expired and I had to pay \$500 to get the machine back. Since then I've cut only about 50 acres with it and have spent \$1,000 on repairs."

"My 1979 **New Holland** 489 haybine was able to cut about 5,000 acres of hay before it broke down and I had to spend \$900 on a new gearbox. But since I bought the Hesston model I've cut 600 acres of hay with the old New Holland model and only about 50 acres with the Hesston."