

## Randomly selected farmers “tell it like it is” in nominating their “best” and “worst” buys.

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**Mike Brockway, Corfu, N.Y.:** “I’m pleased with my 2005 **Massey Ferguson** 451 tractor which is equipped with a front-end loader and backhoe. I’ve used this tractor to dig out a lot of tree stumps and to clean out ditches and dig ponds. I do have issues with the pto switch – I’ve gone through two of them. The first switch went out right after I bought the tractor, and I bypassed it for 2 years before I bought a new switch. This tractor has had other minor electrical problems. Overall, though, I’ve worked it hard and it has held up well.”

**Albert Patterson, Taft, Tenn.:** “I own three **Honda** HR214 riding mowers and haven’t had a minute of trouble from any of them. They’re all at least 20 years old. These mowers are easy to maintain and fun to operate. Honda would do well to start making these mowers again.”

**Dan F. Egan, Homer, La.:** “I like my 2007 **Toro** Z420 riding mower. I use it about every 10 days on my 4-acre property. It does a great job of cutting grass and is easy on fuel.

“I use my 2004 **Yamaha** Grizzly 4-wheeler every day around the farm and for hunting during the winter. It has never let me down.”

**Greg Meyer, Grove City, Minn.:** Greg’s

material discharges in front of the cut and will fly up to 100 ft. away. Dogs take off every time they see me coming with this saw.”

**Kay Foster, Freer, Texas:** A 2004 **Ford** F-350 4-WD pickup equipped with a 6-liter diesel engine rates as Kay’s “worst buy”. “The circuit board went out at about 40,000 miles. At about 80,000 miles the intake manifold failed, and the EGR valve went out. The fuel injectors also failed. It cost more than \$3,000 to fix. We have a 1995 diesel-powered Ford F-350 with about 280,000 miles, and a 1996 diesel Ford F-350 with about 320,000 miles, so we were pleased with our first two Ford pickups. But after this problem with the 2004 model, we’re done buying Fords.”

**William Taylor, New Madrid, Mo.:** William likes his 2004 **Melroe** Spra Coupe 4640 self-propelled sprayer, which he bought used. “This sprayer is a huge step up from my Deere 6500 model. I used to dread every day that I had to spray with the Deere because my back, head, shoulders and everything hurt by the end of the day. This machine makes spraying fun.

“My 2009 **Powermate** 6800W generator is my worst buy. I used this generator to provide power at home during an ice storm, but it worked for only a couple of hours before it broke down. The next time I used the generator it quit after only 20 minutes.”

**Dale Duke, Grand Saline, Texas:** “My son and I both have 2007 **Dodge** Ram 3500 trucks equipped with flat beds and the Cummins 6.7-liter diesel engine. My son’s truck got some water in the fuel so we took it to the local Dodge dealer, who estimated repair costs for six fuel injectors plus some other lines, at \$12,600. Instead, I had the truck handled to a local fuel injection repair shop, and they replaced the injectors and lines at a cost of \$4,925, installing new Bosch injectors.

“I was told this truck model was factory supplied with an 8-micron filter, even though the fuel injection system has 2-micron clearance. I believe this is still the case when you buy the Dodge filter. I believe it’s the same for the 2008 and 2009 models, too.

“The fuel injection repair shop installed a Racor brand (Parker) filter/coalescer in-line on the inside of the left frame rail, just behind the cab, which protects down to two microns. It also has water absorption capabilities as well as a clear bowl on the bottom, so I can visually check on it. It cost \$198 installed.

“In the midst of this situation I found out that some insurance companies will cover damage caused by contaminated fuel. Unfortunately, when our insurance investigator came to the repair shop, I’m told he pulled a sample from fuel that had been pulled days earlier. Water is heavier than diesel so, guess what? The insurance sample tested insignificant for water content.

“To summarize, if you own a similar truck, consider getting an in-line filter that will actually protect your engine. Buy your fuel from a reputable source. Know exactly where and when you took on fuel. Find out what your insurance covers and how to preserve the evidence.”

**Ken Wilkes, Rosalia, Wash.:** Ken nominates his 2006 **Mahindra** 2615 tractor equipped with a front-end loader as his “best buy”. “We bought this small tractor to mow, till, and move dirt around our 3-acre property. We use multiple attachments on it including a backhoe. The tractor runs well and does a nice job handling the attachments. We’re well pleased with it.”

**James L. Laster, Kathleen, Ga.:** James has had problems with his 2000 **Deere** 4110 tractor. “The electronic dash control indicator has gone out twice. The park position gave out, which required work on the transmission, and the brakes locked up. A 1-way valve had to be installed in the fuel line to make

# Farmers Nominate Best, Worst Buys

## OPINION

**Tell Us About Your “Best or Worst” Buy**  
Send your nominations to:  
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Lakeville, Minn. 55044, or use  
the survey form on our website at  
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Editor@FARMSHOW.com**

impressed with his **DeWalt** 18-volt cordless impact wrench equipped with a 1/2-in. drive. “I can’t believe how much torque this tool has. I use it everywhere, including installing dual wheels on my tractor. It’s an amazing tool.”

He’s disappointed with his **Polaris** 400 Sportsman 4-wheeler. “The day we picked this ATV up it overheated and we had to take it back to the dealer. The problem turned out to be a bad sensor. Since then, the machine has been back to the dealer about every three months. I bought a Polaris because everyone said they were indestructible. But this is the last one I’ll ever own.”

**Glenn Bartell, Saint Cloud, Minn.:** “My **Deere** G110 garden tractor has been trouble-free. In the past we used many other brands, but they couldn’t hold up to all the mowing we do.”

**Mike Fitchett, Westminster, Md.:** “I haven’t had any problems with my 2007 **Kubota** L3400 tractor, which is equipped with an LA463 front-end loader. This tractor always starts, even in the coldest weather, and it steers and handles well. It’ll handle a 5-ft. Bush Hog mower with no problem. We use it mainly for handling manure and mulch.”

**Jeff Daugherty, Oak Harbor, Wash.:** “It’s built to last, and a lot of thought and craftsmanship went into it,” says Jeff about his 2006 **Timber King** B-20 band sawmill equipped with a Kohler 30 hp engine. “The hydraulic features on this sawmill make it basically a one-man operation. It’ll handle everything from a 36-in. dia., 20-ft. log to a piece of firewood.

“My 2009 **Omni Dual** saw – a handheld tool with 2 circular blades – started out working fine, but now the motor has given up and the blades are dull after minimal use. It’s not an easy tool to handle and has some potential hazards. For example, the cut metal