

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

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J.A. Williamson, Brandon, Manitoba: “I’ve been impressed for a long time with my 1980 **Deere 4440** tractor. We used it to do all our fieldwork for the first 10 to 12 years. When my son bought a bigger tractor I mounted a Deere 740 front-end loader on the 4440 and used it that way for about 10 years. Now the 4440 has about 26,500 hours on it, yet the engine has never been touched. We use this tractor to do all our baling and over the years have worn out 3 sets of tires on it.”

Paul J. Spurgeon, Bloomfield, Iowa: “Over the years I’ve converted three older IH gas-fueled tractors to 12-volt electronic ignition. I bought the electronic ignition kits

snow and to drill hundreds of post holes without spending a dime, except for routine maintenance.

“My 2007 **Chevrolet 2500 Duramax** diesel pickup is my worst buy. It has a lot of power but has had several ‘won’t run’ problems. The dealer has made many excuses and has been less than honest in many ways. This pickup gets only 14 to 16 mpg and has a 25-gal. fuel tank so it has a very short driving range. This may be our last GM pickup.”

Rocky Fowler, Tiffin, Ohio: A 1975 **Allis Chalmers 7580 4-WD** tractor rates as Rocky’s “best buy”. “I bought this tractor with 800 hours on it in 1999 for \$9,000 from an Allis Chalmers dealer. It now has more than 4,300 hours. I haven’t had to do anything to it. It’ll pull 25-ft. implements just fine and is also easy on fuel. I farm only 300 acres – this tractor gets my work done fast.”

Jeff Tracy, Fair Grove, Mo.: Jeff nominates his **Harbor Freight** battery-powered grease gun as his “best buy”. “This grease gun has never failed me. The battery on it lasts much longer than I expected, and the gun itself has plenty of pressure to push through plugged-up grease fittings. The only problem is that I stripped the threads on the cartridge cylinder, which was totally my fault because I tightened the cylinder way too tight. The problem was easily solved by borrowing the cartridge from an old grease gun. This grease gun sells for \$59, which is a lot less than the \$250 battery-powered grease guns sold by other companies.”

On the minus side, he lists **Harbor Freight** self-adjusting wire strippers. “They’re the cheapest wire strippers I’ve ever seen. I was able to use them only three times before they broke and flew apart.

“Harbor Freight has some good products and some not so good.”

Thomas McCune, Winchendon, Mass.: “My **Kubota BX23** tractor is my best buy. I previously owned a Cub Cadet that had a lot of problems. Now that I have the Kubota the Cub Cadet doesn’t even get used.”

Glen Teel, Hays, Kansas: “My 1989 **Honda Civic** wagon is dependable and gets about 38 mpg on the highway.”

Larry Cooper, Hamilton, Ala.: A 2009 **Stihl MS660** Magnum chainsaw equipped with a 36-in. bar is my best buy. It’s easy to start and handles well with plenty of power for felling large trees. I’d recommend this chainsaw to anyone.”

Lyle Scott, Dickinson, N. Dak.: Lyle likes his 2000 **Kubota B7100 4-WD** diesel tractor equipped with a hydrostatic transmission and front-end loader. “This is a handy tractor in many ways. You’d think it would have to be twice as big to do the work it does. I replaced the battery once, but otherwise it has required only routine maintenance.”

On the “worst buy” side, he lists his **Chicago** portable winch. “The first time I used it I tried to pull a small Deere tractor onto a flatbed trailer. The tractor wasn’t running but luckily it had a charged battery, because the only way I could get it loaded was to assist the winch by putting the tractor in first gear. The way this winch is made you have to use a wrench to loosen a nut on one side and pull out the cable, and then tighten the nut again. Unfortunately, while using the wrench I rounded off the nut and ruined the threads. Now the winch is unusable.”

Kyle Wyckoff, Carlisle, Iowa: “My 2006 **Case IH JX55 2-WD** tractor works great. I use it to mow and rake hay and to operate a small square baler. However, it can easily handle big bales, too. It starts quickly and has required only routine maintenance. It’s a great tractor.

“In April 1998 I bought a new **Toro S20XI** garden tractor which is hands down my best buy ever. I use it with a 52-in. mower deck, end loader, rototiller, and dozer blade. I

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
www.FARMSHOW.com,
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from **PerTronix, Inc.** (ph 909 599-5955; www.pertronix.com).

“I made the first conversion about 15 years ago on my 1970 IH 756, and later converted my 1952 Super C and 1977 766 models. The Super C has a 4-cyl. engine, while the other two models are 6-cyl.

“I made the conversions because I got tired of always having to adjust the points. With electronic ignition there are no points or condensers. Also, the spark plugs last longer and the tractors start better and run smoother. The cost wasn’t prohibitive, and the parts were relatively simple to install.”



Ray Sheets, Helena, Ohio: “We like our **Monolithic** dome house (ph 972 483-7423; www.monolithic.com). It measures 50 ft. in dia. and 25 ft. high at the center and has a concrete floor with 300 ft. of water lines under it. An outside boiler sends hot water through the floor, which makes the house easy to heat and cool. It stays 72 degrees inside all year long. The building has two doors, 11 windows and four skylights. It works well. Recycled materials were used everywhere except the kitchen.”

Jack Smith, Des Moines, Iowa: “My 1981 **Massey Ferguson 205-4 4-WD** compact tractor has performed beyond my expectations. I bought it used, equipped with a factory front-end loader and rear-mounted blade. I’ve used this tractor to move