

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,  
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our website at [www.FARMSHOW.com](http://www.FARMSHOW.com),  
or E-mail your comments to: [Editor@FARMSHOW.com](mailto:Editor@FARMSHOW.com)

**Elton Bly, Norton, Ohio:** “I got ripped off by a company featured in the last issue of FARM SHOW. After reading the article on the **GMAX350** hydrogen home heater, I got in touch with the Minnesota company and ordered their book of do-it-yourself plans. It cost \$99 and was a total waste. It’s only about 20 pages and the first 8 pages are general information about using hydrogen. The rest is about how to build the cabinet. There’s nothing in there about how to build the electrolysis unit itself. When I called the company, I got the run-around. He sent some more information, which was worthless and not even relevant. Now I just want to caution other readers so no one else gets burned.”

**William Hurd, Meriden, Iowa:** “My Chinese-made **Foton 824**, 82 hp tractor is my worst buy. I bought it because I have owned 6 Massey tractors and 2 Massey combines with the same series Perkins engines. However, this tractor vibrates so bad that the first time we used it the 3-pt. top link fell off, and it put both my hands to sleep.

“The tractor is very noisy. My wife can hear me coming from ¾-mile away. We also had problems with the air conditioner, which kept going on and off. In summer if I loaded

It has a cutting mode for use with a torch or plasma cutter, a grind mode for grinding work, and variable shades for welding work. Before I bought this welding helmet I did some checking around, and I found this is the only one that can be used outside without the sun interfering with it. I couldn’t be more pleased with it.”

**Tim Hanson, Indianapolis, Ind.:** “I like my 2007 **White** Outdoors 54-in. riding mower equipped with a 22 hp Kohler engine. It has a lot of power and leaves my lawn looking great. I’m completely satisfied with it.

“I really like **CRC** multi-purpose precision lubricant (ph 800 272-4620, [www.crcindustries.com](http://www.crcindustries.com)). This lubricant comes in a 6-oz. pressure can and works great for electric problems. I’ve used it to repair six different switches on cars, lawn mowers, and tractors. It works on any piece of equipment that’s exposed to the weather. If you have a switch that doesn’t work, just spray CRC into it. It’ll clean the switch contacts so they’ll function again. CRC is sold by many marine and boating supply outlets. It also works great on equipment that’s exposed to saltwater. I’ve used it for more than 20 years.”

**Junior Summers, Bruceton Mills, W. Va.:** “On January 17, 2008 I bought a **Hitzer** Energy Wise Home Heating Furnace, which supposedly is built with the finest Amish craftsmanship available. I got the 82FA model, and it was horrible. The furnace was built way too light, and not long after using the furnace I had to replace the bricks and retainer on it because everything was burned out inside the furnace.”

**Rick Wattleworth, Yale, Ill.:** Rick nominates his 2000 **Dodge** Dakota 4-WD pickup as his “best buy”. “I had this truck for two years and really liked it. When gas hit \$4 plus per gallon I traded for a 2003 **GMC** Sonoma pickup equipped with a 4-cyl. engine and 5-speed transmission. But all kinds of things went wrong with the GMC model so I lost more than I saved. I should have kept the Dodge.”

**Dave Linstad, Porterfield, Wis.:** Dave is impressed with his **K-Line** pod irrigators (ph 866 665-5463; [www.k-linen.com](http://www.k-linen.com)). “After



five droughty summers in a row, I bought the K-Line pod irrigator system in 2007. It paid for itself the first summer and every year after that. Now irrigated pasture is the only good pasture we have.”

He’s disappointed with his **Meyers** box manure spreader. “It works okay and the poly floor works good in cold weather, but the spreader is built from such thin material that it jiggles like mad. The paint job on it is very poor. It started to flake off right away. They didn’t even use any primer on it. This machine won’t last long. I had expected way better from a Wisconsin-made product.”

**Michael Vanskike, Shelbyville, Mo.:** “I bought five fast growing **Empress Splendor** trees, but three of the trees died and the other two didn’t grow even one inch. That’s no exaggeration. I was told to cut the tree off short and then they would grow fast the following year. However, I didn’t buy these trees to watch them grow the next year. The company also sent me three more trees but they weren’t the same size as the ones I had purchased, and I had to pay for the shipping.”

the tractor to capacity the radiator would get so hot that it would boil over. In winter I’d have to run the tractor 45 minutes before the cab got warm. The dealer couldn’t fix any of these problems even though he had the tractor for 5 months. We only put 300 hours on it in two years. I finally told him I didn’t want the tractor back unless they could fix it right. He eventually bought it back from me but I lost money on the deal.

“My son recently bought a **McCormick** 105 tractor equipped with the same engine, and it runs great.”

**Donald Eliason, Centerville, Ind.:** “My **Great Plains** 1500 no-till grain drill is my worst buy. The inside bearings on the gauge wheel assembly were never greased when they built this machine. As a result, the bearing grooved the axles. The parts to fix the problem cost \$200 but the company wouldn’t help out because they said the 1-year warranty had expired. We use this drill only a few days each year.”

**Kevin Borglin, New Buffalo, Mich.:** Kevin likes his **S.A.E.F.** “infinitely adjustable” jack stand filled with steel shot (ph 479 736-4659). It uses steel shot instead of pins to set the height so there’s no danger of a pin shearing. It also makes it easy to set the stand at exactly the right height.

The jack stands consist of a chrome “neck” inside a hollow steel cylinder. As you lift the neck up to the desired position, shot flows from the neck into the base, forming a solid mass of steel under the neck. To reset the jack stand, you simply turn it upside down so shot flows back into the neck. “It’s an amazingly simple idea but it works. It’s far superior to any other jackstand on the market, and also safer,” says Borglin.

**Jacob Coffelt, Sr., Garfield, Ark.:** “I’m pleased with my **Miller** digital Elite welding helmet. It’s a little pricey but it’s very handy.