

## BUYING TIPS YOU CAN USE

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

By: Mark Newhall  
Editor

Bill Gergen  
Senior Editor

**Rufus Barker, Corinne, Utah:** “I bought a **Toby** Waste Oil Processor a couple of years ago and it paid for itself in less than three months. Now I have a smaller biofuel processor that’s perfect for trips and cuts my cost for diesel fuel in half by using a 50-50 oil-diesel mix. Anyone with a diesel engine is losing a lot of money if they don’t have one of these units. It’s an infinitely safer, easier, faster, and cheaper way to make better fuel with higher btu’s than using biodiesel methods. No city, county or state rules, laws or regulations to worry about. No records to keep or fuel taxes to pay.

“I’ve found easy ways to pre-filter the oil before putting it into the processor, therefore making the bead pod and on-board filters of the processor last much longer. More information on how and what I do for filters can be found at [www.archersfriend.com/alternative-diesel-fuel.html](http://www.archersfriend.com/alternative-diesel-fuel.html). Or, you can call me at 435 275-8900 or 801 726-1551.”

On the “worst buy” side, he lists the small **Gordon** LED flashlights he bought from Harbor Freight. “These little flashlights use common batteries and their low price makes them seem like a great deal. However, their light is so poor that you

**Elmer Crum, Wyoming, Ill.:** “My **Minneapolis Moline** Super 670 tractor has been trouble-free and pulls like a mule. If she ever pops her cork I’ll buy another Super 670.

“My **PUMA** air compressor had a small leak when I bought it three years ago. I repaired a tube that leads from the tank to the regulator and thought my problems were solved. Then a leak developed where the dome top is welded to the side of the tank. Apparently the company did a poor job of placing the bead on the seam. I contacted the company and was told I could buy a new tank for \$400. Perhaps they should hire an inspector to check their work. I welded it up myself, and so far so good.”

**Roger Harrs, Arnett, Okla.:** Roger likes his **2007 Hustler Z** 60-in. zero turn riding mower. “We mow a lot of grass, and with this model we can cut as fast as the mower will go – up to 17 mph.”

On the negative side, he lists his **2008 Dodge** 1-ton 4-door pickup. “I started having trouble with this pickup right away and called the salesman, who told me to go ahead and drive it anyway. I took it to the shop at about 6,000 miles. Now the pickup has about 22,000 miles on it but has already been in the shop 15 different times. There have been problems with the steering, radio, computer, and more. I’ve owned nine different Dodges over the years, but I won’t buy another one.”

**Brian Donnelly, Newark, N.Y.:** Brian’s impressed with his **Scotts AccuGreen** 1000 Drop Spreader. “I bought it new at a hardware store. The box appeared to have been opened at one time but had then been taped up, and the spreader’s handle assembly was missing. I called the company’s toll free customer service number and they were very friendly and helpful. They apologized for the missing handle and shipped me a new one at no expense to me, even though I think someone at the store had taken it. The wrong handle arrived so I called the company back. They apologized again and sent out the right handle this time and didn’t even ask me to return the wrong one. I was well pleased with the entire experience.

“The recoil mechanism on my **Bolens** BL150 2-cycle gas trimmer has worn out three times in less than two years, and as a result the trimmer has spent more time in the shop than in actual use. The trimmer is hard enough to start, let alone having a recoil that wore out and often doesn’t retract. It was difficult to actually get someone on the phone from the company and when I finally did, they weren’t helpful or friendly. They said the trimmer was out of warranty and that I needed to buy new parts and gave me another toll-free number to call. I ended up throwing the trimmer away.”

**Pat Anderson, Newaygo, Mich.:** Pat’s the satisfied owner of a 2006 **Polaris** Sportsman 400 ATV. “It’s a great workhorse on my farm and just keeps on going with no breakdowns. I’d recommend this machine to anyone.”

On the minus side, he lists his 2006 **Husky** 46-in. zero turn riding mower equipped with a 23 hp engine. “When I got the mower home it wouldn’t run. I had to call Tractor Supply Company’s corporate office to get it exchanged, as the local manager wouldn’t do anything about the problem. Six months after I started using it, it developed a high pitched whine in the rear end. I couldn’t fix it and the dealer wouldn’t do anything about it. I hated this machine.”

**Trevor Bruntlett, Chelan, Wash.:** “I’m satisfied with my 2000 **Poulan** Wild Thing chainsaw equipped with an 18-in. bar. We use it to cut five to six cords of wood per year and the only problem I’ve had was when the oiler quit working, but that was easy to fix. I’ve had spark plugs on it last 1/2 to 3 years.”

# 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, Minn. 55044, or use  
the survey form on our website at  
[www.FARMSHOW.com](http://www.FARMSHOW.com),  
or E-mail your comments to:  
[Editor@FARMSHOW.com](mailto:Editor@FARMSHOW.com)**

can stare straight into them and not be bothered. They’re totally useless. In total darkness, they don’t provide enough light for you to walk inside your own home.”

**Mark Humphreville, Aiken County, S. C.:** “I got into the hay business with my nephew several years ago and had been borrowing a mower from a friend while we looked for one of our own. I found a used **Reese 2070W** drum mower, which is the most amazing piece of equipment I’ve used in a long time (**Tigerco** Distributing Co., ph 800 432-4020; [www.tigercoinc.com](http://www.tigercoinc.com)).

“This mower is made in New Zealand and cuts as well as my Honda lawn mower. The owner had a wreck two years ago and couldn’t work his 85 acres of hay so the unit sat outside all that time. I figured there were going to be some seized pieces here and there and that the grease would be dried up, etc. But when I started going over it I could find absolutely no signs of wear. For all practical purposes this mower is still in ‘like new’ condition, except for the faded paint and some corrosion from being stored outside. The mower was ordered with a tedder, and even though it’s directly exposed to the weather there’s no play in the driveshaft either.

“If there ever was an over engineered piece of equipment, this is it. I’d recommend this mower to anyone. I only wish I had found it several years ago.”

**Edwin Burtness, Orfordville, Wis.:** “I like my **Maxi-Dump** trailer ([www.maxidump.com](http://www.maxidump.com)) except for the Towmaster tires on it. These tires are made in India. They were so out of round that the trailer hopped up and down the road like a rabbit, and the side walls split and lost air. I replaced them with Carlisle tires. Problem solved.”