

BUYING TIPS YOU CAN USE

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

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Rudolph Lee, Waynesboro, Miss.: “I ordered 150 trees from **Wonder Earth Partners** in Myrtle Creek, Oregon, for \$1,226. After I received the trees in September, 2007, I ordered another 100 trees for \$975, scheduled to be delivered in the spring of 2008. We planted the first order of trees like we were instructed to do. Out of 150 trees, 35 put on green leaves and grew about 6 in. before first frost. In the spring of 2008, just 13 trees out of the 150 survived and we never received the other 100 trees we ordered. They sent us a refund of \$750 on the second order but did not reimburse us for the first order of defective trees.”

Jeff Lang, Newport News, Va.: “My all-time best buy is a nut and bolt loosener and rust penetrant called **Open & Shut** made by Drummond American and sold by Lawson Products (ph 804 241-9541; www.Lawsonproducts.com). I work in a tractor trailer repair shop where there’s a need for such a product every day. I’m really impressed



with a V-8 engine has about 90,000 miles, but already it burns about one quart of oil per 1,000 miles. Also, the chrome on the hood has peeled off.”

Andy Petersen, Fraser, Colo.: Andy’s pleased with his **Bosch** 18-volt cordless drill. “It lasts a long time on one charge, has a lot of torque, and has the best warranty of any tool I’ve owned. The batteries take only about 30 minutes to recharge, and I can also use them to operate my stereo for about eight hours.”

“My 1997 **Chevrolet** Suburban 2500 LS is my worst buy. If you’ve ever owned a Suburban, you know all about replacing fuel pumps. I went through 6 pumps in 4 1/2 years. When I went to sell the vehicle, I only got 1/6 of what I paid for it because of the mileage and the fuel pump problem.”

Dan Miles, Dalton, Neb.: Dan isn’t happy with his **AgriFab** garden wagon. “While this garden wagon is functional and seems sturdy, the assembly and finish are poor. I had to drill additional holes in order to make parts align properly. The hardware provided is of low quality, and in less than a year most of the paint has come off in sheets. It’s worth half what I paid for it.”

Pat Warren, Grass Range, Montana: Pat isn’t happy with **Primecell**, a company that specializes in rebuilding batteries. “I sent three 14.4-volt batteries to the company. One battery lasted less than a year. The clips on two of the batteries wouldn’t hold the battery in the drill. Now I have one battery left. When the company rebuilt the batteries, they didn’t do any work on the clips.”

Skip Besler, White River Junction, Vermont: A **Deere** 2755 4-WD tractor equipped with a model 245 front-end loader rates as Skip’s “best buy”. “I use this tractor all year long and it always runs great. It’s easy on fuel and the heating and air conditioning systems work fine. I use this tractor to bale about 5,000 bales a year and to plow snow during the winter.”

Alvin Theriault, Stacyville, Maine: “I use my **DR** brush mower constantly to cut pastures and overgrown areas. It can pull itself on fairly steep slopes and does a good job on uneven ground.”

“My 25 hp **Toro** snowblower arrived with a faulty oil line that hadn’t been properly adjusted by the dealer. This machine doesn’t work well in cold weather - I have to heat it first to start it. Even with weights and tire chains it has poor traction, and doesn’t work well on uneven ground.”

John D. Gebhart, Watertown, S. Dak.: “I’ve driven almost nothing but **Toyota** vehicles since 1974, and they’ve all been best buys. The first model was a 1974 pickup followed by a 1974 sedan. Then I bought Toyota pickups in 1980, 1985, 1987, 1989, and 1991, followed by a 1987 sedan, a 1999 van, and a 2000 van. All the pickups and the first sedan had more than 200,000 miles on them, yet I never spent more than \$300 on repair bills for any vehicle. The 1987 sedan had about 168,000 miles on it when I traded it. The 1999 van has more than 130,000 miles but has required just one repair, which was for a valve cover gasket.

“All these vehicles were bought used, and I’m still driving the 1985 and 1991 pickups and both vans. Every wheeled thing on my place would be labeled Toyota if that were possible. I operate a light freight business with two trucks on the road, and in more than 10 years I’ve never missed a pickup or delivery because of mechanical problems with my vehicles. All the trucks went about 130,000 miles before requiring muffler changes, and they went about 145,000 miles before needing brake maintenance. I’ve got weigh scale tickets for the 1980 1/2-ton pickup showing I hauled 50 bu. of barley and 2,240 lbs. of shelled corn on the truck. I’ve hauled 1,500

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,
or E-mail your comments to:
Editor@FARMSHOW.com**

with it. P.B. Blaster is a good penetrant, but Open & Shut works five times better at penetrating rust.

“For a good demonstration of how fast this product works, fill two Styrofoam coffee cups half full of water, then spray a little Open & Shut in one cup and P.B. Blaster in the other. Open & Shut will penetrate the water and go through the cup before P.B. Blaster does every time. It’s not at all corrosive to metals or to your hands should you accidentally get any on your skin. I’d recommend this product to anyone.”

“My **Sears Craftsman** electric cultivator/tiller works great. I bought it to use in my raised bed vegetable garden but I’ve also used it to work up a 20 by 30-ft. section of lawn. It worked well for that, too.”

David C. Prause, China Spring, Texas: “With today’s gas, any engine that sits more than a week or two without **Sta-bil** fuel stabilizer in the fuel tank will have problems. Fuel companies blame ethanol, but it’s not the problem.”

Donald White, Smithfield, Ill.: “My **Troy Bilt** rototiller equipped with a 7 hp Tecumseh engine has problems. I change the oil regularly and use a good quality oil, and I always give the engine time to warm up and then to cool down before shutting it off. However, the engine threw a rod right out the side of the block. I’ve heard these small Tecumseh engines are known for doing that. I replaced it with a 5 hp Honda model that does a much better job of powering our rototiller.”

George Schneider, Pioneer, Calif.: “My **Echo** chainsaw equipped with a 14-in. bar is lightweight and cuts through most trees. It starts hard but runs great. It’s wonderful for an old man because it’s so light and easy to handle.

“My 2001 **Dodge** 2500 pickup equipped