

Farmers Nominate Best & Worst Buys

2004. They finally delivered it in June, after refusing to refund my money in May. Unfortunately, the chair I received was incomplete. The following December they finally sent replacement parts and I had my first chance to try it out. The first problem was that it wouldn't fully recline and when I tried to go up the slight incline to my garage, it tipped backward onto its anti-tip wheels. In addition, I had to change the batteries every 10 days or they would go dead.

"New York state has a wheelchair lemon law. We went to arbitration court and the company was ordered to refund my money but still refused. I still have the chair, which originally listed for \$27,995. I advertised it for \$5,000 but no takers. So I advertised it for free. One couple was interested but their therapist decided it was too heavy and unstable. Despite everything, Redman still runs full page advertising in some magazines. They're also known as Medi-Chair."

Bob Linge, Washington, Iowa: Bob's had problems with a hydraulic outlet on his **Deere 4710** compact tractor, which he bought in October of 2003. "I ordered this tractor with a hydraulic outlet on back so that I could use a remote cylinder. However, whenever the remote cylinder is supporting a load, the cylinder leaks off about one inch every 10 minutes. I disconnected the hoses to the cylinder and it didn't leak off any, so the problem has to be with the tractor."

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"I talked to my dealer and to the Deere communication center (as directed in the owners manual), and each told me that a cylinder leaking off one inch in 10 minutes is within tolerance. I don't think a remote cylinder should leak at all."

Junior Yoder, Millersburg, Ohio: "After reading about new Pulstar spark plugs (www.pulstar.com; 888 800-6700) which are supposed to improve fuel economy 12 percent and boost torque up to 10.5 percent, I decided to try them in my Ventrac wheelchair-compatible garden tractor. I use the tractor a lot, from mowing to grading the driveway to moving snow. After installing the plugs last January, I turned the key and it was almost unbelievable. The engine started immediately, where usually it would turn over 12 to 15 times and need to be choked, especially in cold weather.

"The tractor now has much more torque doing heavy work, such as digging or towing, and I'm using 10 to 15 percent less gas. I put the spark plugs in every gas engine on my place, including a 7000-watt Honda generator that runs 12 to 14 hours a day on natural gas, powering a gift store on our farm. In the past, the plugs would foul up in only about four weeks of constant use. However, I've had the current set of plugs in the generator for nearly six months and they're still running strong.

"I've been so impressed with these plugs we started selling them in our store (ph 330 674-5603). They sell for about \$25 apiece. My customers have been as pleased with the plugs as I have been."

Randy Schweitzer, Newcomerstown, Ohio: "I bought a 2003 **Deere** Gator 6 by 4 for my wife to use. I didn't think we'd use it much, but it turns out to be the handiest ma-

chine on our farm. It serves as a truck, tractor, pickup and more."

Marlyn Hefti, Marshall, Minn.: "My 2006 **McCormack** MC 115 tractor has about 200 trouble-free hours on it. An excellent machine."

Harold Schudlach, Montello, Wis.: Harold's pleased with his 2006 **Kawasaki** Mule utility vehicle equipped with a diesel engine and automatic transmission. "I like having a low-range setting on the automatic transmission because it lets me pull heavy loads without damaging the transmission. The diesel engine starts well. I like the pre-herator."

On the "worst buy" side, he lists his 2005 **Land Pride** 4-wheeler RV equipped with a Honda engine. "This machine didn't start or run well in cold weather. I had very few hours on it when I traded it off. It ran better during the summer."

Mel Sporrer, Portsmouth, Iowa: "A few months ago there was a report in FARM SHOW about someone from Wisconsin who had a problem with a 5 hp **Tecumseh** engine. I had the same problem but found a solution. At the bottom of the carburetor is a bolt that holds the float bowl on. It also is the needle valve that controls the amount of gas going to the engine. I removed the bolt but was careful not to remove the bowl. Using a set of small drill bits I increased the size four times, testing it after each increase. Now it works great."

Butch Soule, Kent, Ct.: "My 2005 **Woodmaster** 4400 wood burning furnace works great. It can burn practically any kind of wood. But if I burn good, seasoned hardwood I can cut my heating fuel bill down to almost nothing."

Allen K. Ewald, Fairgrove, Mich.: "My 2002 **Oldsmobile** Silhouette is my worst buy. I had to spend \$400 for a new wheel bearing, \$800 for a new intake manifold gasket, and \$400 for a new heat exchanger/air conditioner condenser. Also, there have been problems with both of the car's seat heaters, the tie rod failed, and the air shocks are leaking. All these problems happened at 90,000 miles and weren't covered by the warranty."

Charles W. Smith, Rutherfordton, N.C.: "It's the most poorly designed piece of equipment I've ever owned," says Charles about his 2007 **Deere** 757 zero turn riding mower. "I ordered it with a hard bagger on back for picking up leaves. The bagger fits so poorly that I get covered with dust while operating it. One day the chute and bagger both fell off."

Rickey J. Couvillion, Lafayette, La.: "My 2008 **Dodge** 2500 pickup equipped with a 6.7-liter diesel engine is my worst buy. This pickup has only about 5,000 miles but already it has been in the shop eight times because the 'check engine' light keeps coming on. It's supposed to let you know about problems concerning add-on equipment such as the particulate filter, catalytic converter, and so forth."

John Kruse, Emily, Minn.: "I'm impressed with my 2006 **DR** leaf and lawn vacuum. It has more vacuum power than I expected. The vacuum hose lets me get into hard-to-reach places and is awesome."

Kim D. Jones, Peace, Arizona: Kim likes his **Black & Decker** Firestorm 18-volt powered Multi-Tools, which include an impact wrench, 6 1/2-in. saw, and drill driver. "I bought these tools at Lowes to use in my shop, but ended up using them to construct a 2,400 sq. ft. metal barn. They worked great. They don't hold a charge as long as DeWalt Pro tools do, but they hold a charge longer than the **Kawasaki** drill driver that we previously had. Even when these tools get hot they keep on going."

Clay Engel, Hays, Kansas: "My **Sears Craftsman** industrial reciprocating saw is the best tool in my toolbox.

"My worst buy was a **Pagsta** 49 cc motor-cycle made in China. What a piece of junk."

Michael W. Carrico, Mackville, Ky.: "My 2000 **New Holland** TC 35D 4-WD tractor is an electrical nightmare. It had just 17 hours on it when the entire instrument panel, including the tachometer, went out. It took the dealer two weeks to fix the problem. Then the tractor went back for a recall because of a problem with the hydrostatic transmission and because the 4-WD wasn't engaging. That problem took two months to get fixed.

"When I finally got the tractor back, I found the cover sleeve on the front driveshaft was bent so I called the dealer to get the sleeve replaced. They wanted \$700 to pick up the tractor, fix it, and deliver it back to me. I told them the tractor was still under warranty and that it was their fault so I wasn't going to pay. I called the company and talked to a customer rep. The tractor was then fixed at no charge.

"At 200 hours the turn signals and emergency flashers quit working. I called the dealer again to get those problems fixed and found out the original recall work hadn't been done. Since then I've never gone back to the dealer and never will, and I'll never buy a New Holland tractor again. This is the only tractor I own so I'm constantly working on it."

Daryl Treadway, Roy, Wash.: "I go everywhere with my 2006 **Kubota** 900 4-WD utility vehicle. It consumes about a half gallon of fuel per hour. The most difficult task was obtaining a Washington state license plate due to the vehicle's off-road design.

"I've been badgering the **Jeep** sales people for several years now to put their diesel engine in the Wrangler series. So far they haven't done that which I think is missing the mark. The **Jeep** Liberty and top end **Jeep** Cherokee have this engine. Volkswagen will be restarting production of their Jetta line with diesel engines this August. Hopefully, **Jeep** will see the light before then. If not I'll be buying a Volkswagen. The Jetta gets an estimated 60 mpg."

Steve Minarick, Morse Bluff, Neb.: "We like our 2007 **Gehl** CTL 60 compact track loader. We use it in our sand and gravel pit and on small excavation projects, hauling it behind a 3/4-ton pickup. This track loader will go in places where I can't even walk. We trade machines every 500 hours but always go back to the same brand and model because of their power, ergonomic controls, and room. So we've owned the previous 2004 and 2005 models with similar results."

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Kim Hinson, Monroe, N.C.: "At work we use a **McCormick** MTX 150 tractor. It recently caught fire due to a leak in the tractor's hydraulic system. I was wondering if anyone else has had this problem?"

Raymond Bartle, Brown City, Mich.: "My 1977 **Toyota** Corolla was my best buy. It had about 250,000 miles on it when the frame rusted so bad that the steering box fell off. At the time it was still going more than 2,000 miles on a quart of oil and still had the original exhaust system."

David Gunlock, Manor, Texas: "My 2002 **Kubota** L3010 tractor equipped with a front-

end loader is my best buy. I've moved tons of gravel with it and have also used it with a mower and to haul round bales. It has more than 400 hours with no problems.

"We use our 2000 **E-Z-Go** electric golf cart constantly as a utility vehicle to do everything from hauling tools to stringing barbed wire. It has never failed us. I've replaced the batteries only once."

Calvin D. Beechy, Kenton, Ohio: "I've found that **Honda** engines start easy, are fuel efficient, and last a long time. For example, about 16 years ago I bought a 5 1/2 hp **Honda** engine and used it every day to pump water. I sold it at an auction years later for almost as much as I paid for it."

Colin McCoy, Eagle Point, Oregon: Colin's happy with his **Woods** 7500 tractor-mounted backhoe. "We've used this backhoe on our **Kubota** 2500 tractor for more than seven years and it works great. It hooks directly to the tractor instead of the 3-pt. arms and attaches and detaches easily. We've used it for trenching, planting trees, stump removal, and many other jobs. I'd recommend it to anyone who wants a light duty backhoe."

Gordon Nelson, Ellsworth, Wis.: "I like my **Husqvarna** model 340, 350, and 65 chainsaws. They all work well."

Roy Hohman, Dexter, Kansas: "I like my 2005 **Kioti** DK 35 4-WD tractor equipped with a front-end loader and backhoe. I use it for moving ground, digging trenches, mowing, and landscaping work. It's easy on fuel and has good hydraulics for lifting."

Vernal Goertz, Canton, Minn.: "My 2004 **Makita** chop saw is my best buy. It gets used at least three days a week, and sometimes eight or ten times a day, but it just keeps on going."

Bob Martin, Linton, N. Dak.: "The **Sportsman Guide** catalog has very attractive prices, but I've found much of the products in it to be of inferior quality. Also the clothing, especially shoes, doesn't run true to size."

J. E. Bennett, Hickman, Calif.: "I still use my 1990 **Dodge** 2500 3/4-ton pickup equipped with a Cummins diesel engine every day. My other 1990 **Dodge**, a dually diesel 1-ton, had more than 300,000 miles on it when I gave it to my son. He still drives it every day and hauls equipment on a fifth wheel trailer.

"My 1993 **Mercury** Grand Marquis is also a best buy."

Tim Darr, Bigfork, Montana: Tim's impressed with his **Lincoln** SP 170T Mig welder. "It's a fantastic machine and can be used on small, delicate projects as well as to make repairs to an excavator bucket or loader bucket. I've used it for hours at a time under high heat settings and it always performs great. It has required only routine maintenance."

Charles Crossman, Ortonville, Mich.: "My 1994 **Deere** 9400 combine is a wonderful machine. It has 4-WD and a 6-row corn head. Big shots laugh at it, but I don't care. It really performs.

"I'm unhappy with the **Gearwrench** ratchets I bought at Sears. They lock up so I have to turn them backward to unlock them."

David Samson, Sully, Iowa: "My 2006 **Case IH** DX35 Hydro tractor equipped with a L160 front-end loader has performed beyond my expectations. The Hydro Tranny on it makes it easier to drive than a car. I use it to mow grassways and to cultivate my garden, and it came in handy when I relandscaped my yard. I also use it to operate my Westfield 10-in. dia., 81-ft. long auger"